MISSOURI COLLEGES BATTLE TO KEEP STUDENTS FROM LEAVING STATE

22 hours ago • By Tim Barker tbarker@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8350

It’s early afternoon in the Pattonville High School gym, and several hundred juniors and seniors are trolling through rows of folding tables, festooned in college colors and covered with brochures and information sheets.

At the end of one row stands Nick Keller, a University of Minnesota recruiter, who’s nearing the end of a three-week swing through St. Louis.

He’s a sharply dressed fellow who chats easily with the steady stream of young faces dropping by his booth to learn more about life as a Golden Gopher.

Quick facts rattle off his tongue. He touts academic programs and campus traditions. No, it’s not as far away as you’d think. Just eight hours by car or a little over an hour by plane. And of course, he talks about scholarships.

“It’s the conversation everyone is having,” Keller said.

Certainly it’s on the minds of students such as Pattonville junior BriElle Ragland, who wants to pursue a career in real estate development. To get there, she knows she needs a school with a strong business program. She also wants to go somewhere with a variety of interesting clubs. But more than anything, she wants a good value. “It doesn’t matter where it is,” Ragland said.

That willingness to travel far from home is one of the reasons schools from across the nation are sending out squadrons of recruiters to Missouri and other states as they look to shore up enrollment in the face of a nationwide demographic shift that’s creating smaller classes of high school graduates.

It’s a trend that has some critics complaining about the priorities of school administrators trying to offset declining support from state governments.

“I’m hard-pressed to believe it has much to do with anything but income generation,” said William Tierney, professor of higher education at the University of Southern California.

HOME TURF
Populous states such as Illinois, California and Texas have long been the favored targets of recruiters. The University of Missouri-Columbia has fished heavily in those waters in recent years, with nearly 40 percent of its current freshman class coming from other states. The Chicago area alone is home to nearly one of every six new freshmen at Columbia this semester.

But Mizzou — like others in the state — now finds itself needing to spend more time and resources defending its home turf.

It’s one of the big reasons the school just created a new scholarship, the Chancellor’s Award, offering $6,500 a year to Missouri high school graduates with an ACT score of 31. At the same time, the school boosted its Mark Twain scholarship for out-of-state students, nearly doubling the top-end award to $10,000.

“We realized it’s been over 20 years since Mizzou made major changes to its scholarship offerings,” said Ann Korschgen, vice provost of enrollment management.

Helping to convince school officials of the need for change was a small drop in enrollment of Missouri kids identified as high-ability students — generally those with an ACT score of at least 28.

Korschgen attributes that to the fact that schools recruiting in other states tend to go after top students. They’ll offer scholarship packages that eliminate or heavily discount the extra tuition charged for nonresidents.

That makes it easier for Missouri’s brightest students to leave the state in favor of schools in Alabama, Mississippi, Minnesota and Arkansas.

And that may lead to other problems, suggests Tierney, the Southern California professor.

He fears public schools are neglecting students from their own states, while effectively subsidizing the education of nontaxpayers from other states — particularly when the emphasis is on courting the top performers. “It’s a good time to be that student,” Tierney said. “But for the students one or two tiers down, it’s not so good.”

Yet for those students who find themselves in demand, it’s easy to see the appeal of shopping around for better options.

Alissa Keller is a Pattonville High junior who’s wants to study engineering or math. She still has a lot of research to do, but her initial impression is that it may make sense to leave Missouri.

“It comes down to cost and how much they’re willing to give me,” Keller said. “It’s easier to get scholarships from out of state.”
It may also be getting easier to find scholarships at private schools such as St. Louis University, which has become increasingly aggressive in recruiting both locally and nationally.

SLU has added new full-time recruiters in several cities, including Los Angeles, Denver and Boston, as part of its effort to hold enrollment steady, said Jay Goff, vice president for enrollment and retention management.

“The schools that primarily rely on students from Missouri and Illinois are likely to see decreases in total enrollment,” Goff said. “The number of students available has simply gone down.”

SLU has poured more money into scholarships, helping to bring in the school’s brightest — based on an average ACT score of 27.6 — class of freshmen. The school also has recently launched a fundraising campaign to create 1,500 new scholarships of varying sizes for new and current students.

HARD TO PASS UP

As principal of St. John Vianney High School, Tim Dilg watches these recruiting battles play out almost daily on his campus.

The average week during the busy fall semester will see seven or more recruiters dropping by to make pitches to his students. The school’s annual college fair now draws more than 130 colleges and universities, up from 100 just three years ago.

Given the competition and the willingness of schools to offer merit aid to bright students, he’s not surprised when he sees kids leave the state. “It’s more affordable for our [top] students to attend the University of Arkansas,” Dilg said. “It’s hard to pass that up.”

Judging by Arkansas’ rapid enrollment growth over the past five years — up more than 30 percent — there are a lot of kids who feel the same way.

The Fayetteville campus has been particularly successful recruiting here, with 1,200 of last year’s 4,600 freshmen coming from Missouri. Certainly, some of that exodus can be attributed to the fact that for many of those kids, Arkansas is the closest flagship campus.

But the university has worked hard to attract outsiders, with full-time recruiters in Illinois, Texas, Oklahoma and California. Its top nonresident scholarship — targeting students with an ACT score of 26 or better — brings the cost of attendance to just $1,100 more than what state residents pay. It’s also roughly the same price as a year at Mizzou.
It’s part of an effort to grow the university and to bring in ideas and perspectives from other parts of the country, said Suzanne McCray, vice provost for enrollment management. “We like the diversity. We think it’s good for Arkansans,” McCray said.
Shutdown leads MU Extension to halt nutrition education program

By Karyn Spory

Friday, October 4, 2013 at 2:00 pm Comments (3)

University of Missouri Extension officials are suspending operation of a federally funded program because of the federal government shutdown, but Extension is covering salaries of the program's employees in the hopes funding resumes soon.

Jo Britt-Rankin, program director of Human Environmental Sciences, said the Family Nutrition Program, which provides nutrition and physical activity education to low-income Missourians, was suspended yesterday. The suspension will last until further notice.

The programs receive $10 million in federal funding from the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — SNAP — for Extension teaching and training. All SNAP educational programs, including classes, outreach efforts and other activities, have been suspended.

Britt-Rankin said SNAP is the former food stamps program, and the nutrition education program is SNAP’s educational counterpart.

According to a news release, the suspension will affect more than 100 Extension faculty and staff, as well as the clients they serve, including 260,000 K-12 students and 78,000 adults at more than 1,000 sites in the state.

Although the programs have been suspended until further notice, the employees who work with the program will continue to be paid until Oct. 21, Britt-Rankin said. She said it will cost about $350,000, and that money will come from Extension reserves. Employees are in Extension offices across the state.

"We're hopeful that this government shutdown is short term, and we want this program to resume as quickly as possible," Britt-Rankin said. She said to lay off the employees and then rehire them would be longer process and would increase costs of resuming family nutrition programs once funding is restored.

"If at all possible, we do not want to lose these employees and the investment we have made in them," Michael Ouart, vice provost and Extension director, said in a news release.
In a letter to faculty and staff, Ouart said it is important to realize there is a potential of similar impact on the Business Development Program, which also has significant federal funding.

Steve Devlin, program director and assistant dean of the Entrepreneurship, Small Business Development Center, said he hasn’t received any indication the program will be shutting down. He said funding was authorized and awarded before the shutdown.

This article was published in the Friday, October 4, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Shutdown causes MU Extension to stop program."
Military students who rely on federal funding to pay for college are facing headaches because of the government shutdown.

**University of Missouri-Columbia Veterans Center director Carol Fleisher says students who are in the reserves or the National Guard had their military tuition assistance halted as of Tuesday. She told the Columbia Missourian (http://is.gd/Td6xfZ) that if the shutdown continues, students who benefit from the GI Bill will have their tuition assistance stopped as of Oct. 31.**

**Fleisher says the University of Missouri will assist military students in the event the shutdown is extended.**

Columbia College says it will offer a six-month repayment plan to students who are eligible for military tuition assistance and who have applied for or have on file a current Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA.
Local Republicans place blame on Obama

Crowd opposes health care law.

By Rudi Keller

Saturday, October 5, 2013 at 2:00 am Comments (26)

The federal government shutdown, Ernie Phillips said last night as he waited for dinner at the Boone County Republicans Fall Barbecue, is President Barack Obama's fault.

The shutdown began Monday when Congress was unable to pass a bill to keep the government operating on a temporary basis. Republicans insisted that the bill include a provision stripping funding from the Affordable Care Act, better known by the name GOP leaders gave it soon after it passed in 2010: Obamacare.

"He seems to have an agenda and he's pushing his Obamacare and he is using this as a lever to get approval for it," Phillips said, explaining why he blames Obama.

Most of the people asked at the barbecue about the shutdown blamed Obama, Democratic Congressional leaders or the media. None blamed Congressional Republicans, although several said they are watching them closely.

"The Republican Party will take its lumps but No. 1 they better do the right thing if they are going to survive as a political party," said Russ Walker. The right thing, he said, "is to repeal Obamacare. That's the final end result."

The shutdown has closed national parks, shuttered U.S. Department of Agriculture offices, eliminated nutrition education for low income families by University of Missouri Extension, and cut off student aid to people in the military.

Dale Parmer said he didn't think the shutdown would change many minds politically. Republicans will remain Republicans and Democrats will remain Democrats. The strategy of using a government shutdown to gain leverage, he said, "is how government is supposed to work. Just because you pass a law doesn't mean it has to get funded. Isn't that what the sequester was all about? They decided some things, which are lawful, are not going to get funded."

If the shutdown damages the Republican Party, Lester Reschly said, it will be the fault of biased media. "Anything good the Republicans do, they don't put in the paper," he said. The state of
Arizona said they would pay to keep the Grand Canyon open and Obama said 'no.' A majority of the people in the media are liberal and biased."

The hard stance by Republicans was necessary, said Shirley Reschly. "I think our nation in the end will find out about Obamacare and what it has done. And the American people at this point in time have no idea. If you remember what Miss Pelosi said, they are still writing it and we don't know. It is going to be devastating."

Because enrollment began Tuesday for insurance policies that will take effect on Jan. 1, stopping the Affordable Care Act now was the only strategy available, she said. "We know when it does becomes law you are not going to get rid of it."

The reason the fight is so bitter, Reschly said, is because Democrats want to undermine the nation.
Washington shutdown ripples across the Kansas City area

By KEVIN COLLISON

The Kansas City Star

From scientists seeking research grants to poor mothers worried about feeding their babies and tourists turned away from the Truman Library, the Washington budget deadlock is spreading its woes deeper into the Kansas City region.

Beyond the misery of thousands of idled local federal workers, it is now starting to force other government workers off their jobs. The Kansas Department of Labor furloughed 66 employees Friday because of the federal shutdown.

The shutdown is similarly beginning to bite private sector workers elsewhere whose companies depend on federal contracts. Lockheed Martin announced Friday that it plans to furlough 3,000 workers across the nation beginning Monday. United Technologies Corp. has already idled 2,000 workers.

Most local institutions and businesses relying on the federal government for funding or work say they can last a while, but should the standoff continue past October, there are no guarantees.

For example, the Small Business Administration, a federal agency that administers and guarantees loans to a variety of local companies, is among the host of government agencies that have closed.
“Right now, nothing will be affected by a three-day or week delay, but if it goes on longer, people will realize how localized our federal government is,” said Pete Fullerton, president and CEO of the Kansas City Economic Development Corp.

Brenda Brewer, director of the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program at Truman Medical Center, said its 14,000 recipients will continue to be helped through the end of this month.

“We’re trying to be positive and optimistic things will be resolved and trying to get the word out things are normal for now,” she said. “We’re staying focused on what we do.”

While Leavenworth National Cemetery is continuing to bury the dead and welcome visitors, the Truman Library in Independence, the Eisenhower Library in Abilene and the National Archives at Kansas City are all closed.

Even weather watchers are being hampered. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website is closed down, although information is still available on the National Weather Service site.

And with the flu season coming up fast, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the agency that coordinates vaccine programs around the country, is off-duty for now.

“CDC would be unable to support the annual seasonal influenza program, outbreak detection and linking across state boundaries … and support to state and local partners for infectious disease surveillance,” the agency announced.

In another memo, the Food and Drug Administration said it was suspending “routine establishment inspections … and the majority of the laboratory research necessary to inform public health decision-making” until Washington approves a new budget.

Meat and poultry operations, however, will continue to be inspected by the Department of Agriculture.

Here’s a roundup of some of the hassles being created for people who rely on the federal government:

- While researchers at major local universities and the University of Kansas Medical Center have been able to continue working on previously authorized grants, the federal shutdown occurred at the busiest time of year to submit new proposals.
“At this point, the government is not processing new grant proposals, and this is generally a busy time for proposals to go in with the beginning of the federal budget year,” said Kevin Boatright, director of communications for the Office of Research and Graduate Studies at KU.

About 90 percent of the research at KU is funded by federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and the Department of Education. Scientists at the university have been told to continue preparing their grant applications with the hope the federal shutdown will end soon.

“At this point, however, we have no guidelines about whether deadlines have been extended or changed,” Boatright said. “Nobody is answering the phone.”

Paul Terranova, vice chancellor for research at KU Medical Center, said his institution gets $70 million annually in federal grants for research that includes cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, kidney disease and cardiology. The federal government generally reimburses weekly the money spent by researchers.

“If this goes on a long time the reimbursements will stop, and we’ll have to dip into our reserves,” Terranova said.

It’s not just scientists who seek grant funding from Washington.

Glenn Pribbenow, director of the Kansas Fire and Rescue Academy at KU, said his application for up to $300,000 to buy protective clothing for firefighters, equipment and vehicles is on hold until the feds reopen.

It’s the first year the academy has been eligible to participate in the program offered by the Department of Homeland Security.

“With the shutdown, it’s on indefinite hold, and we don’t know what will happen,” he said.

• Area school leaders worry that federally funded services such as student breakfast and lunch, special education support, E-Rate technology support and Title I dollars that serve low-income students could dry up.

In most cases, though, the federal money for schools is already budgeted, at least through October. The situation probably would worsen if it continued into November.

The federally funded Head Start pre-kindergarten programming in the Kansas City area is in the same situation — for this month anyway.
Small difficulties have come up, such as for Lone Jack students who were scheduled this week to take an aptitude test that is used by the military branches and some skilled labor employers. Since the exam is administered by U.S. military personnel, the students’ tests were canceled.

**The University of Missouri Extension Service has had to suspend a nutrition education program that it provides to 260,000 students across the state as well as 78,000 adults. The 100 people employed by the nutrition program will be able to remain on the job through October, but there are no guarantees after that.**

- The Women, Infants and Children nutrition program continues to be funded through October, and Brewer, the director at Truman Medical Center, is thrilled with that bit of good news.

“We see 14,000 people at five locations throughout Jackson County, and we’re the largest provider in the state,” she said.

The WIC program helps expecting mothers learn about good nutrition, supplies formula and breast-feeding support to those with newborns, and provides money to women with young children to buy wholesome food such as milk, eggs and peanut butter.

There is concern at Catholic Charities, which has 215 people receiving WIC benefits, about what will happen after October. The agency issued an “urgent call” Friday for baby formula.

“Moms are nervous about running out of vouchers,” said Lisa Tulp, a spokeswoman for Catholic Charities. “We’re trying to get ahead of this and have money for formula.

“Veterans also are anxious about their benefits. As a social service agency, we want to ... figure out how to have services in place.”

- Those in the private sector who do a lot of business with the federal government also are saying they’re OK for now, but if the standoff continues that may change. The region’s biggest engineering firms, Burns & McDonnell and Black & Veatch, say their current government contracts are not in jeopardy.

“We have a number of federal projects underway, primarily with the Department of Defense,” said Roger Dick, a spokesman for Burns & McDonnell. “We have not seen any disruptions with any project since the shutdown began because these are all long-term projects that have already been funded.

“However, if the shutdown goes beyond more than a few days, into several weeks’ duration, we could see problems with government staff on furlough who would not be able to review
technical drawings and other materials before we could proceed. At that point, we would become quite concerned.”

Operations at the nuclear weapons parts plant operated by Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies for the Department of Energy continue as usual. The operation, which employs 2,100 people, is being transferred from the Bannister Federal Complex to a new campus at Missouri 150 and Botts Road.

“The only thing we do know is if it goes a long time, it could cause problems,” said Joe Capra, business agent for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local 778, which represents many of the Honeywell workers.

• Smaller companies that benefit from loan programs through the Small Business Administration are OK if they’re already approved, but new loans will have to await the reopening of the agency.

“The SBA program is offline,” Fullerton said. “There’s no problems right now, but if this continues to go on, that pipeline of projects could have some challenges.”

Commerce Bank, a preferred lender in the SBA program, is still processing loan applications but will be unable to issue loans without the agency’s final approval.

“It hasn’t put a halt to our work as a whole,” said Angela Wright-Jones, the assistant vice president at the bank managing the SBA program.

• Businesses and economic development officials who rely on federal agencies for data also are flying blind these days.

“I went to the Census Bureau and couldn’t get any data,” said Frank Lenk, director of research services for the Mid-America Regional Council. “And if you were expecting the employment report Friday, you didn’t get it. There’s a ton of data that’s not being produced.”

And that can hamper the ability of anyone involved in charting the economy from doing their jobs.

• Finally, the federal shutdown could sour some business at Boulevard Brewing if it continues too long. That’s because the federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau must sign off on many new recipes and labels the brewer decides to concoct.
“Right now we don’t have any applications pending, but if it stays shut down we likely will have some concerns,” said Payton Kelly, creative director at Boulevard. “We almost always have something in the running, but we’re several weeks away from needing to make a submission.

“If it happened a couple of weeks ago, it would be dicey.”

That’s because Boulevard wouldn’t have been able to release the latest offering in its Smokestack series, Reboot White IPA.

The Star’s Joe Robertson contributed to this report.
Government shutdown will not impact current financial aid

By Elizabeth Wilson

The federal government’s Oct. 1 shutdown should have limited effects on MU students’ federal financial aid.

Students who were scheduled to receive financial aid for the 2013-14 year will still receive their aid on schedule if they have not already received it, according to the Student Financial Aid office.

On Tuesday, the office tweeted, “We anticipate limited impact to Federal Student Aid delivery and repayment functions during the government #shutdown.”

Nick Prewett, director of Student Financial Aid, said students should not be worried because of the shutdown.

He said the shutdown came as a shock to some, but the financial aid office is more than prepared to make sure students get their aid.

“We got word three or four days before the shutdown that, should it happen, students would still receive the aid they are scheduled to receive, and those that had already received it would be fine,” Prewett said.

Some students worried their federal loans and grants would be in jeopardy.

Stephen Champion, a senior hospitality management major, said he was concerned about the federal loans he uses to pay for tuition and books.

“When I heard about the shutdown, my first concern was for my federal loans and grants,” he said. “I wasn’t sure if those would be affected or not, and it left me with lots of questions. I am hoping that Mizzou students will be able to get their loans and grants on time, even if the shutdown continues for a while.”

Prewett said the government shutdown will not affect this year’s scholarships.

“The way financial aid works is that it is funded under the previous year’s budget, so students shouldn’t see an impact for this school year,” Prewett said.
Prewett said losing the ability to contact the U.S. Department of Education with questions has been a hindrance.

“One challenge we have is that, because of the shutdown, if we do have any questions or concerns we are not able to contact the U.S. Department of Education for clarification because all of their staff is furloughed,” Prewett said.

Prewett said if the debt ceiling is not raised, it could become harder to obtain aid from the government.

Freshman Monique Kurz said she was worried that was the case.

“It wasn’t so much the shutdown that worried me about my aid, but the debt ceiling,” she said. “Being from a middle-class family, it is already hard for me to get federal aid, and I don’t get that much from the government. If the debt ceiling isn’t fixed, I worry I won’t be able to get that extra aid next year, and this shutdown could make it take even longer to fix it.”

While the shutdown will not have any effect on students who have aid for the 2013-14 year, it could make receiving aid for next fall harder if it continues.

As many as 4,000 student aid processors are on furlough as of now, and if the shutdown continues past a week, only about 6 percent of the department’s total employees would report to work, making Free Application for Federal Student Aid processing times longer, according to the U.S. Department of Education’s website.
Veterans to benefit from new MU law school clinic

Law school students to offer assistance at clinic.

By Karyn Spory

Friday, October 4, 2013 at 2:00 pm

University of Missouri law students are getting a chance to help veterans while earning class credit.

The MU School of Law Veterans Clinic has been established to give students experience and to help veterans secure disability benefits.

"Our government tells our troops, 'Go fight the war. Don't worry, we're going to give you benefits,'" said Angela Drake, an instructor at the MU School of Law who will serve as the supervising attorney for the clinic. "What the Veterans Clinic is going to do is help veterans … make sure they get the benefits they're promised."

Drake, like many involved in the effort, has a personal connection to the cause. Her father was killed in action during the Vietnam War.

"When the VA decides a claim, they are wrong 60 percent of the time," she said. "Fortunately, there are appellate processes veterans can go through. When lawyers help veterans through the appellate process, they have an 80 percent success rate."

Drake said the clinic will be staffed with six students, and each will receive three credit hours for participating. Drake said the clinic will receive case files from the Veterans Pro Bono Consortium Program in Washington, D.C., as well as through referrals from service organizations.

Drake said it is her hope that every student who works in the clinic will continue to help veterans in their private practice.

Gary Myers, dean of the MU School of Law, said the clinic will be a benefit for both students and veterans.
"This clinic will offer additional opportunities for live client contact for our law students," he said. "They will develop skills in interviewing, counseling, developing the medical records and other evidence necessary to establish a claim for veterans benefits."

Myers added the clinic also will serve as a good public service for those who have served this country and for their families who have served in their own way.

The idea was hatched two years ago by a group of first-year law students, said Scott Apking, a third-year law student and a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve.

"In November 2011, back when we were" first-year law students "and really had no idea what was going on, four of us got together on the top of the law school library stairs and decided we should start a group about veterans," Apking said. "We were all veterans and thought this would help the interest of veterans in our community."

Apking and his friends went to Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital and the local office of the Veteran's Justice Outreach Program and asked how they could help give legal aid. Apking said the goal was to set up a clinic for future students to work in, but it just happened that Myers also had been interested in establishing a clinic at MU.

Apking said the students and faculty came together, and he's proud they were able to open the clinic while he's still at MU. Apking will be applying to participate in the clinic in the spring.

This article was published in the Friday, October 4, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Veterans to benefit from MU program: Law school students to offer assistance at clinic."
The Tribune's View

The Museum District

Sure we can do it. Will we?

By Henry J. Waters III

Sunday, October 6, 2013 at 2:00 am Comments (2)

The rendition below was made by Herb Duncan, the consultant who prepared design concepts for the new State Historical Society of Missouri building, shown on the south half of the block bounded by Elm, Sixth, Locust and Seventh streets.

At the request of the society, he also showed buildings on the north half contemplated as eventual locations for the University of Missouri’s museums of Art and Archaeology and Anthropology. We on the society's board of trustees believe this concept is truly exciting, augmenting the presence of all three institutions and located ideally in transition between the Red Campus and downtown Columbia. MU officials have not yet decided where their two museums eventually will go.

For now they plan to move these collections to the former Ellis Fischel Cancer Center building on the Business Loop near Garth Avenue, a move they say is temporary. I know of nobody who wants the move to be permanent.

Many pray the Red Campus museums will soon be located synergistically alongside the historical society building, which is designed to properly display and tend for the society's world-class collection of art and artifacts. The three collections would work together beautifully, providing superior access and visitor appeal. The museum district would be a major tourist draw to the city and the campus.

Duncan points out the underground parking planned for the society building could be extended under the two adjacent museums, with direct access to each. Lovely ground-level space for pedestrian transit and outdoor gatherings would link the three. His design invites visitor attention extending south to Peace Park and north to downtown. The museums would at once be a part of the campus and downtown Columbia.
This is a wonderful concept. Logistically it depends on MU plans to relocate staff from the old Heinkel building currently located on the proposed museum site. I know of nobody who wants to keep Heinkel, but the administration will have to find other space for the employees working there.

How about putting them on the Business Loop and putting the museums back where they belong? A building shuffle is in the cards anyway. I hope MU will put this project in its immediate plans.

HJW III

Our lives would run a lot more smoothly if second thought came first.
MU leaders debate proposed fee

Arts & Science mulls change.

By Karyn Spory

Saturday, October 5, 2013 at 2:00 am Comments (5)

Currently, the College of Arts and Science at the University of Missouri is the only college or school that doesn't charge a supplemental fee. The MU Faculty Council would like to change that.

During the council's meeting on Thursday, a motion was brought forward recommending the Dean of the College of Arts and Science and the provost pursue the creation of a supplemental fee for the college. The College of Arts and Science currently only charges laboratory fees, but no supplementary fee.

"This fee would be initially modest and would be used for the support of the school in travel, scholarship and labs where students stand to benefit greatly," Sudarshan Loyalka, professor of nuclear engineering and chair of the fiscal affairs committee, said.

Supplemental fees, often on a per credit hour basis, are charged to support the educational experiences of the students. For example, the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources charges $46.20 per hour.

When asked why a fee had not been proposed sooner, Cooper Drury, associate professor of political science who helped draft the resolution, said it has, informally. "It has never been proposed any further up than" Dean Michael O'Brien "talking to the provost and Brian Foster doesn't like the idea," Drury said.

Harry Tyrer, professor of electrical and computer engineering, said one reason imposing supplemental fees has been opposed is because the Board of Curators and the General Assembly can interpret the fee as a tuition increase, which would limit the university's ability to increase tuition.

"At the direct determent of the arts and science majors," Drury said. "What you're saying is that everybody else can have these fees and all of the students majoring in arts and sciences cannot benefit from additional fees."
Doug Wakefield, professor and director of the Center for Health Care Quality, questioned if faculty council should wait until the dean makes a formal request. "Should we be talking about supporting the College of Arts and Science rather than being up ahead of them?" he asked.

Wakefield also felt suggesting deans take certain action, like creating supplemental fees, could be a slippery slope. "At what point does this council start going to other schools, other deans and recommend things where there hasn't been a clear process within the faculty of coming up through," Wakefield said.

Wakefield said the council needed to decide if they were trying to relate through the resolution that they felt every college and school should have the opportunity to charge a supplemental fee or if they were simply recommending to a singular dean to begin charging a fee.

Drury said he was acting on behalf of his college and that adding supplemental fees has been an ongoing conversation with faculty.

Loyalka said he would revise the resolution to better reflect that the fee request originated within the college. The council will vote on the measure next meeting.
Remarriages add complexity to dementia caregiving

By Kathleen Raven

NEW YORK | Fri Oct 4, 2013 11:40am EDT

(Reuters Health) - Negative relations with stepchildren can compound the burdens a wife feels while caring for her husband with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia, a new study suggests.

"We learned from women in the study that those with higher levels of care-related disagreements with stepfamily members felt a significantly greater burden and feelings of depression related to care," said lead author Carey Wexler Sherman of the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research in Ann Arbor.

Approximately one-third of all American marriages are remarriages for at least one partner, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Previous research has shown that divorce rates among adults 50 and older doubled between 1990 and 2010.

And currently nearly five percent of the U.S. population, more than 15 million Americans, cares for a dementia patient, according to the Alzheimer's Association, which helped to fund the new research.

For their study, Sherman and her colleagues focused only on wives in later-life remarriages that occurred after child-rearing years, and recruited 61 remarried wife caregivers from across the country.

Between 2008 and 2010, the participants, whose average age was 66, completed questionnaires about their social networks, their levels of depression and their caregiver burdens.

Most participants were white, middle-class and 85 percent of them had been divorced prior to remarriage; the rest were widows. The average length of the women's current marriages was 17 years, though one quarter of them had been remarried for 10 years or less.

Researchers had the women draw a diagram of their social networks and place their acquaintances into three categories, including "social network," "positive network," or "negative network," with little overlap.

The women's own family and friends dominated the social network and positive network categories. And more than half of the participants included one stepfamily member in their "positive" network.

But, at 35 percent, stepchildren comprised the largest proportion of what wives considered a "negative" group related to caretaking.
In two-thirds of the caregivers’ social network categories, stepchildren were completely absent. The remarried wives also reported that adult stepchildren and other stepfamily members were more likely to question care-related decisions, offer unwanted advice, interfere or criticize.

The most common complaints from women in the study included stepchildren not being present during the caregiving process or promising to help but never following through. Some participants reported substantial family conflicts with adult stepchildren and other stepfamily members over money, inheritance concerns and medical decisions.

When the researchers looked at what factors affected the caregivers' wellbeing, levels of family disagreement over caregiving issues had the strongest impact on the women's levels of depression and sense of caregiver burden.

"Stepfamilies in older age in general haven't been researched," Merrill Silverstein, the Cantor Professor of Aging Studies at Syracuse University in New York, told Reuters Health.

Silverstein invited Sherman's group to publish the study in a special stepfamily section of the Journal of Marriage and Family, but he was not involved in the research.

"Baby boomers are entering old age with complicated family structures - unlike their parents," Merrill said.

Generally, couples remarry less often with age and U.S. remarriage rates have declined over the past two decades, but co-habitation and other non-traditional arrangements are less studied, he said.

In 2010, the remarriage rate among men age 65 and older was 12 per 1,000 and among women the same age only 2 per 1,000, according to the National Center for Family & Marriage Research.

"When people remarry later in life, it means they may have relatively few opportunities to bond with adult stepchildren," said Lawrence Ganong, professor of human development and family studies at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

"One of the reasons children take care of their parents is that they feel they've been taken care of and feel obligated to return the favor," Ganong, who was not involved in the study, said.

"We are getting into a new era of older families and couples where unprecedented numbers of divorces and remarriages have happened," he added.

"The first intervention that everyone can do in their own life is discuss with family members how health issues and caregiving will be handled," Sherman said. She and her colleagues are working to develop tailored instructions designed for remarried spouses and stepfamily members.

Most people do not want to sit down and have these conversations because they are difficult, Ganong said.

The Georgia-based Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving offers evidence-based intervention options for dementia caregivers, including cognitive-behavioral therapy, communication training and online workshops.

The authors acknowledge that their study was small and suggest that future research should follow participants for a longer time and include caregivers more representative of the general population's diversity.

Despite her study's results, Sherman thinks this added burden on caregivers can be lightened. "It's important to note … that stepfamilies can do this successfully," she said.

Free flu shots available soon for MU students

By Carley Meiners

October 4, 2013 | 8:26 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The MU Student Health Center will not be charging students an additional fee to get flu shots this season.

In 2012, students were charged an additional $12.50 for the shots. This year, the vaccinations are being covered by the prepaid health fee students pay as part of their tuition.

"Not everyone is going to come in and get the shot," said Deneal Sullivan, MU's director of clinical services. "Last year we didn't get as many people as we would hope, but flu shots are pretty important."

The shots provided by the Student Health Center this year will cover influenza type B, which was the most common type of flu found in Missouri last year, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The health center is waiting to receive its flu shots because Novartis, the company that supplies the vaccine, has experienced a shortage. The company is supplying more vaccinations than usual this year, resulting in a delay in delivery, said Pam Roe, the health center's information specialist.

According to the MU Student Health Center website, the shots are expected to be delivered Wednesday. If the shots come in, there will be stations set up on campus next week to provide services that are "easily available to the students," Roe said.

The shots will be available at:

- Memorial Union, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday
- School of Nursing, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday
• College of Veterinary Medicine, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday

For more flu shot event information, go to the Student Health Center's website.

Students must bring their student identification to receive the free flu shot.

Columbia College students can also receive free flu shots at their school, and at Stephens College, flu shots are available to students for $10.

"The flu shot is important because people can get really sick and feel awful for days; it could last up to a week," Sullivan said. "Students can't afford to be out of classes for that long. By getting the flu shot, you are helping yourself stay healthy and successful as a student."

Supervising editor is Margaux Henquinet.
Academic Eating

October 7, 2013

BY

Jeff Rice

MU MENTION P. 2

Not all academics eat well. Often, I have found myself among a group of friends at the end of a conference, hungry for dinner, and, by some unknown force, our movement is directed toward an overpriced, chain steak house or fast food restaurant.

Conference hotels often house a Starbucks; each morning of my field’s main conference, a line of 30 people deep can be found before the day’s proceedings begin. Publisher-sponsored affairs are always a big hit. Cold shrimp served with ketchup-based sauce. Small cheese-stuffed pastry hors d’oeuvres. Toast with tomatoes on top. Cheese and crackers. Hummus. Crudités. Free food. Conference lunches can be less generous as colleagues grab day-old sandwiches -- made in some unknown factory -- at Starbucks. Or they push coins into a machine and grab a Milky Way.

Office microwaves are often messy with the remnants of frozen pizza, ramen noodles, or reheated hot dogs. Sometimes, when I am walking from the parking garage to my campus office, I spot colleagues at 8 in the morning leaving the nearby McDonald's with bags of fried something-or-other. One of my more astute colleagues, who works extensively in cultural criticism, has stood more than once across from me in our building’s elevator, a bag of Chick-fil-A in his hand. Academic cocktail parties, at the university or at a conference, usually offer $6 bottles of Bud and Miller Lite. The $7 Sam Adams is labeled “import.”

Our department meetings take place every other Tuesday during lunch time. It is not uncommon for me to eat a sandwich or salad during the meeting. Being at work makes me hungry no matter how large or small a breakfast I’ve had. When I taught community college night classes almost 20 years ago, I ate a salad before class started. Sometimes, I pack hard-boiled eggs in my salad so that the sulfuric odors permeate the room during meetings.

No matter where I’ve worked, campus catering coffee is always bad. Order a vegetarian meal for an event, and campus catering makes something heavy in starch (pasta drenched in a bland, unseasoned red sauce) or portobello mushrooms (grilled or raw). Across the street from our campus is a restaurant with the word “ass” in its title (“huge” is another word in its name). Across the street, one can also dine at a Korean restaurant, an African restaurant, a local pizza place with a good beer list, a Middle Eastern restaurant, a regional taco chain with the word "local" in its title, a fast food restaurant that specializes in
chicken fingers, and a McDonald’s. I entered the student union the other day and saw a 30-person deep line at the Subway.

While my wife and I are members of the local co-op, not all of our colleagues know that it is located three miles south of campus. Recently, I bought local paw paw at the coop and posted a picture to my Facebook profile; some people mistook it for rotten avocado. The possible outsourcing of campus dining to a private company has raised faculty and student concerns that the university’s spending of almost $800,000 per year on local food will vanish. During a tour of the campus dining food warehouse last year, I was informed that when the university purchases local cattle, the chefs sneak ox tail into stews served in student housing. While most, if not all, of us housed in the humanities support same sex marriage, the elevator in our building reeks of Chick fil-A - whose owner opposes such marriages - on any given day. Purchasing a University of Kentucky Dining Plan allows a student to eat at Chick fil-A and Subway in addition to campus dining facilities.

Every October, regardless of what I am teaching, I share with students my hatred of candy. "I work all year," I say to them, "to keep candy away from my kids, and two hours of walking around the neighborhood on October 31 ruins my hard work."

In the living-learning community I co-direct, we leave Tootsie Rolls and Milky Ways out in a bowl for students to snack on when they come in for academic or life advice. In the residential hall where the living-learning community is housed, for our weekly coffee chats with members of the local community or university, we provide factory-made cookies from the Kroger supermarket chain and Cheetos. The best way to get faculty or students to attend a meeting or event, common advice goes, is to serve pizza.

Several times I’ve taught a course with the word “Eating” in its title. When I was at the University of Missouri at Columbia, the course was called “Eating Missouri.” When I took a job at the University of Kentucky, the course became "Eating Kentucky." After reading Anthony Bourdain, Calvin Trillin, a profile of Whole Foods CEO John Mackey, and notable food critics and discussions, including exposés of the fast food industry and mass-produced food, students still came to class with chicken McNuggets, defrosted frozen pizzas, high-fructose corn syrup sweets, and Krispy Kreme donuts. At the four different universities that have employed me, a Subway has always been within walking distance.

Many colleagues drink 32-ounce sodas in the morning. Because of my reputation as someone who enjoys craft beer, when I’m visiting a campus for an invited talk, colleagues feel obligated to take me to a place that serves good beer. When I was on my campus visit at the University of Missouri seven years ago, colleagues took me to the local brewpub for dinner. After our last main conference in my field, I fretted over the long flight home from Las Vegas (beginning early in the morning and ending at night) and worried that I would not have time during the layover to purchase something to eat. To ease my fear of future hunger, I bought a vegetarian sandwich in the casino Subway.

I used to get excited about attending the dinners for guest speakers or job candidates. Free food. Free food at expensive restaurants. I’ve since grown tired of menus that offer only heavy meat dishes, overcooked lamb chops, bacon in everything, or scallops. The Chick-fil-A in our campus food court is "proudly" closed on Sundays. One Friday a month, the agriculture college hosts a food-related discussion for faculty and members of the community at 7:30 a.m. Local food is served for breakfast. Participants are encouraged to bring their own coffee mugs. I once gave a talk entitled "Menu Literacy" for the discussion.
I sometimes say that my casual conversational skills are limited to discussions of kids, food, and beer. My attempts to recruit job candidates often involve telling them how great the local farmer’s market is and what kind of beer they will be able to buy if they move here. For some reason, I can host a catered event with local vendors in one building on campus, but in the building next door, I must use campus catering. In my previous job, because of budget cuts, the office I directed was no longer allowed to order $15 worth of cookies from a local bakery for board meetings that took place twice a month. In my previous job, I angered campus catering by complaining about the low-quality food they served during a "Writing Across the Curriculum" event I hosted. Campus catering at my current university won’t allow me to invite a local Mexican food truck for a small event that would take place outside of the living-learning community residential hall.

I know I sound like a grump or food snob with these random observations. And I probably am as much of a food snob as I am a critic snob or rhetoric snob or teaching snob or snob of any other part of my professional life. Snobbery can simply mean valuing one thing over another to a significant, and sometimes hyperbolic, degree. I value eating. Snobbery is not alien to academic discussion; we place value on any number of things we admire or teach. I’ve often wondered how cultural snobbery, often expressed by colleagues in regard to art, literature, music, or film, does not extend to gastronomy. I’ve often wondered how astute cultural critics or critics of the university are poor food critics. By that, I don’t mean that we must decode every food representation we encounter in order to better understand ideology or power in the food industry. Instead, I wonder why, in our practices of everyday life, we succumb so easily to fast food, high-fructose corn syrup, chains, and other items instead of merely trying to eat outside of these problematic practices.

Pleasure, of course, is a powerful agent. Pleasure, of course, is at the heart of bad eating habits. And food writers such as Michael Pollan have demonstrated the ways fat, sugar, and salt compose and encourage a specific system of food pleasure, one encouraged by much of the fast food industry. None of us are beyond such pleasure, but that does not mean we must succumb to every instance that calls out to us.

Calvin Trillin’s best effort at food critique was to declare, "I wouldn’t throw rocks at it.” My food pleasure is not another’s food pleasure, I realize. And I have no desire to preach health-conscious food habits or mindful eating to my academic colleagues. I have no overall argument to make regarding what academics should or should not eat. I have no agenda to preach. My observations merely prompt me to ask: Why don’t some academics eat well?

In asking that question, I am sketching some observations that include me, too. Among these observations I highlight, I also note that I support the local food movement known as "Kentucky Proud,” and my wife and I try to buy most of our produce and meat from the Lexington Farmer’s Market. But when on the road or on campus without coffee, we succumb to Starbucks, too. Among our food purchases, we buy for our kids Arthur Pasta, dehydrated cheese and pasta shaped like the popular PBS character. We are not beyond the commercialization of food either.

Bruno Latour has warned of "purification narratives,” stories that try to portray some event, movement, or way of thinking as pure or without contradiction. Roland Barthes once noted that every text is made up of contradictions, what he referred to as the pleasure of the text. That I have ordered a coffee at Starbucks or bought a box of pasta named for a cartoon character might seem to be minor contradictions of my interest in local food or my series of somewhat critical observations. Minor or major, the contradictions no doubt reveal a larger crack in any kind of purification narrative of food I might want to portray. I’m sure there are more or larger cracks in my ideological stance. After all, even after he carefully decodes the industrial,

My point is only to trace a type of academic eating, a series of habits and practices that run counter, at times, to our professional practices and beliefs, that suggest an untapped pleasure of the text as we build elsewhere purification narratives regarding culture or texts. For good or for bad, many academic eating practices follow similar trajectories to one another as the banal and bland overpower the local and flavorful. Professionally, we are great critics: MOOCs, corporatization of education, adjunct labor, global conflict, a fiscal crisis here or there. What about bad eating?

One type of pleasure of the text might be the relentless critic who finds fault in every representation outside of the bag of Chick-fil-A in his hand. One might surmise from this lack of critical parallelism a lack, or crack, in the overall project of critique. French fries or diet soda, it seems, may be outside of critique, the behavior change that critique is meant to promote, or even basic awareness. Such an assumption goes far beyond my simple observations of eating in the university. I can only speculate in the meantime how critical practices might better shape food practices. Do you know what you are? Frank Zappa asked. You are what you is, he responded. Or, as the popular health saying goes, you are what you eat. Either way, not all academics eat well.

**BIO**

*Jeff Rice is Martha B. Reynolds Professor of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies at the University of Kentucky.*
It is a sign of the political times that even the Constitution is cause for partisan division. One thing revealed in the ongoing investigation into the Internal Revenue Service’s targeting of conservative and libertarian political organizations is that the agency since at least January 2012 singled out for scrutiny groups whose declared purpose involved “educating on the Constitution and Bill of Rights.”

“In their defense,” Jon Stewart commented sarcastically, “there is a good reason why people using the IRS to crackdown on political enemies would not want Americans educated about the Constitution.”

Stewart is no conservative, but he did see the scandal for what it is: a naked attempt by some in the IRS to use the agency to intimidate political foes.

But when did people who care about the Constitution become enemies of the IRS? The timing of the scandal suggests that it occurred only recently and only with the rising popularity of the tea party, a loose-knit group of individuals and organizations united mainly by concern about the size and scope of government.

The assumption made by some in the IRS — that “educating about the Constitution and Bill of Rights” is tantamount to stumping for partisan tea party causes — is wrong and dangerous. It is wrong because it overlooks the fact that there is much in the Constitution for the tea party to criticize, starting with the 16th Amendment, which gives Congress the power to “lay and collect taxes on incomes” (and, by extension, the power to create the IRS to do so).
It is dangerous because it risks equating the Constitution with one side in our bitterly divisive political debates. Yet the Constitution is not about ordinary politics.

It is a document that divides and distributes power, delineates governing procedures and provides a framework within which to create policy. To say it is conservative, liberal, libertarian or progressive — in the everyday sense of those terms — is disingenuous. It is something different altogether.

The Constitution is a form of higher law, a blueprint for the institutional apparatus by which we govern ourselves. It is the product of messy compromise, and yet it rests on real insights from history and political theory. When the drafters of the Constitution gathered in Philadelphia in 1787, they drew lessons from the experience of ancient republics, appealed to the inherited liberties of English subjects, and made use of the innovations of modern political thinkers such as Montesquieu and Locke.

The founders were well aware that they stood on the shoulders of giants. So do we today, and the maintenance of American constitutional government requires widespread education about the Constitution and its historical and philosophical underpinnings. Civic education is not a partisan endeavor, and it is vital to preserving and improving our government for the next generation.

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