PROPOSED TUITION HIKE FOR UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI SYSTEM WOULD MATCH INFLATION

By Tim Barker tbarker@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8350

The University of Missouri Board of Curators took its first steps toward a tuition increase for the fall of 2014.

Curators, meeting at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, were given a report by system officials that recommends an increase across the four campuses pegged to the nation's inflation rate.

The rate is based on the December Consumer Price Index, which won't be known until January, though budget projections expect it to be about 1.7 percent. The board could vote on the actual increase at its January meeting.

Though most tuition categories will be increased by the rate of inflation, there are a few exceptions.

At Mizzou, the undergraduate and graduate tuition for out-of-state students will be increased by 3 percent. And at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, the graduate nonresident rate would increase 6 percent.

Curators also listened to a proposal for a major upgrade of UMSL's College of Optometry. The school is proposing a three-phase plan that would start with a $17 million initiative to provide 35,000 square feet of clinic space for adult and child eye care, support space and 13,000 square feet of space that could be leased to other users.
The project would be funded by $5 million from campus reserves and a new student fee that would finance $12 million in bonds.

That fee would cost each optometry student $900 a semester or $1,800 a year.

As was the case with a recent decision to impose a student fee to fund a new recreation center, this issue was put to a student vote in September. UMSL Chancellor Thomas George said nearly 80 percent of optometry students voted in favor of a new fee for the clinic.

Among those in support was second-year student Laurie Thompson, who spoke to Curators Thursday.

Thompson credited the college’s faculty and staff for creating a school that drew students from around the country. But she said the college’s aging facilities left much to be desired.

“If you based it on buildings, we’d have no one here,” Thompson said. “I’m not sure how much longer we can cover up the holes in the walls.”

If the plan gains approval in January, construction could start next fall and be completed in summer of 2016.
UM System Curators discuss tentative tuition and fee increases, medical school expansion

Thursday, November 21, 2013 | 7:54 p.m. CST; updated 6:14 a.m. CST, Friday, November 22, 2013
BY T.J. THOMSON

COLUMBIA — In the same way that some college students live off ramen to make ends meet, the University of Missouri System is making its own sacrifices to pay the bills.

The system's leaders discussed some of these sacrifices, such as disproportionately low faculty and staff salaries, at Thursday's board of curators meeting in St. Louis.

The bulk of the system's funding is provided by state allocations plus student tuition and fees.

"Historically these sources have contributed 85 percent or more of the total resources for general operations," according to board documents presented during the finance committee's meeting. The amount of state funding has decreased in recent years, forcing the system to rely more on student funding.

The curators reviewed the system's preliminary tuition and fee recommendations for fiscal year 2015, which would go into effect in the 2014-15 academic year. The board plans to vote on them at its January meeting. The board also approved the MU School of Medicine's plan to hire an architect for a proposed expansion.

Sinking funding and growing enrollment

The UM System's enrollment has grown 34 percent since 2000. More students translate to more dollars but also mean more expenses as better infrastructure is needed.
"Record enrollments push against the capacity of our faculty, staff and facilities,"
according to board documents.

Employee compensation is one of the system's major expenses, accounting for 78 percent of the operations expenditure budget.

**In the last five years, curators have increased MU's undergraduate, in-state tuition by an annual average of 2.3 percent.**

Compared to institutions in the Association of American Universities, SEC, Big 12 and Big Ten, **MU has the lowest average tuition and required fees.**

"We are doing much more with the same amount of money; less money if you take into account inflation," one of the participants said.

State appropriations were $22 million less for fiscal year 2013 than they were in fiscal year 2001. This amounts to $168.5 million when adjusted for inflation.

"Is this a good thing because we've learned to operate much more efficiently? Or is this a bad thing because there are a lot of other things we could do if we would have kept in line with inflation?" Board of Curators Chairman Wayne Goode asked Tom Richards, UM System treasurer and interim vice president for finance.

Richards said it was both.

"It's just a factual statement of looking at the revenues and defining the challenge," he said. "The good news is we've been able to manage through the challenge. Are there things we'd like to be doing that we can't do? Absolutely, because we've had to make tough choices."

Curators usually raise resident undergraduate and graduate tuition by the rate of inflation on all campuses. The inflation rate is estimated at 1.7 percent but will be finalized in December.

**MU activity, facility and health fees for fiscal year 2015 are also tentatively set to increase at the rate of inflation.** Curators are considering raising housing costs by four percent and dining plan costs by two percent.
Campuses can request increases above the inflation rate, but they must be approved by the curators. **MU requested a three percent tuition increase for out-of-state undergraduate and graduate students, rather than the CPI default.**

"Students are contributing more than ever to the cost of their education as the state provides less funding support," according to board materials. "Continued increases in tuition and fees to offset cuts in state appropriations are problematic due to legislative restrictions as well as access and affordability concerns."

**Tough choices**

Board members said they needed to hope for the best and plan for the worst.

"The low-hanging fruit of eliminating waste; we've done that," one participant said. "We've been cutting into the bone the past several years. One of the bones that we're cutting into is our faculty salaries."

**Campus facilities, too, have been negatively affected by declining revenues.**

One way the UM System has balanced the budget is by deferring maintenance, Richards said, but this isn't a sustainable solution. According to board documents, costs for deferred maintenance, repairs that were not accomplished as part of normal maintenance, total nearly $626 million.

"The problem is most of the dollars we have are allocated to emergency issues," Richards said. "We're not able to spend resources on preventative maintenance."

**Medical expansion**

In other business, the curators took the first step to advance a medical campus expansion proposed for MU. The curators approved a $1,950,500 contract with an architect that will oversee the project's design.

The project calls for expanding the Medical Science Addition's current structure from four to seven floors and adding a new seven-story addition to the west.

"This provides a compact yet efficient expansion of space in close proximity to the many existing facets of the MU SOM (School of Medicine), and preserves adjacent land reserves for future further expansion," according to board materials.
The project also includes a new main entrance for the School of Medicine to replace the current entrance, which, according to board materials, is "hidden and difficult for visitors to locate."

MU's School of Medicine plans to increase its annual class size from 96 to 128 medical students and is requesting the expansion to meet the demands for more students.

The full expansion project has a $35 million budget and will be voted on at the board's next meeting, Jan. 30 and 31, in Columbia.
University of Missouri tuition likely to rise

Undergraduate resident tuition at the University of Missouri's four campuses would rise 1.7 percent in the 2014-2015 academic year under projections shown to the system's Board of Curators Thursday.

The figure was an estimate, according to the St. Louis Beacon. A final vote in January will determine the tuition rate.

If that increase is approved, average yearly tuition at the four campuses would be $9,464, according to the Beacon
MU seeks more than $21 million in state matching funds

BY KARYN SPORY

Wine was a topic of debate during the University of Missouri Board of Curators meeting on Thursday as curators heard a university wishlist of projects that would use state matching funds.

During the Board of Curators meeting held at the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus, MU officials sought board approval to send a $21,133,000 request to the Higher Education Fund, a 50/50 matching program for fiscal year 2015.

MU requested matching grants for four construction projects, including a teaching winery within the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. The $3 million project would be a two-story, free standing facility. MU is requesting $1.5 million from the state for the winery.

Curator John Philips of Kansas City asked if these projects, specifically the teaching winery, are part of the campus’ strategic plan or if MU is asking the state for matching funds simply because a family involved in wine and grapes decided to donate the money.

Phillips said he wasn’t against the project, but he wanted to make sure the system and campuses weren’t going to submit funding requests to the state every time someone has a match and desire to donate.

Curator Don Downing of Webster Groves said he doesn’t want to discourage donors who are providing substantial funds to “help us out” but added that construction needs to be strategic.

Vice Provost Ken Dean said the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources has been expanding its wine program. “This has been a long standing project that they’ve been trying to find” funding “for a facility that would enable them to do the research and teaching they need to do,” Dean said.

Dean said all projects on the request are part of MU’s strategic plan.
Tom Richards, interim vice president for finance and treasurer for the University of Missouri System, reminded the board that at this point the university is not asking to move forward with any of the listed projects, but simply seeking permission to submit its requests to the state. “If these projects were to be funded, we would come back to the board for discussion and approval in terms of the overall plan, just like with any facilities project,” Richards said.

Richards said the other three campuses within the system have already received approval from the board and submitted their state capital appropriation requests. The board unanimously approved MU’s request.

Other capital projects include renovations to Lafferre Hall, or Engineering Building East, as it’s also known. This renovation project would be the second phase to address critical facility needs. The first phase was done in 2009, replacing the underutilized footprint of a 1920s addition with a new 60,000 square-foot portion. The second phase, according to board documents, would renovate another part of the building, and is currently ranked at the top of MU’s capital state appropriations request.

The total construction cost is estimated at $12.19 million. MU will put up almost $6.1 million, and is asking the state for the remaining amount.

The second of the four proposed projects is improving the Fine and Performing Arts Facility in the College of Arts and Science. The School of Music is currently spread across five buildings; part of this project would be building a new facility to house the program, which would free up nearly 31,000 square feet of building space to be used for other disciplines. According to board documents, the new School of Music would be 100,000 square feet and use MU property and facilitate the demolition of the Fine Arts Annex. The existing Fine Arts building would be renovated and expanded.

The estimated cost of both projects is $71.3 million, with additional operating costs expected to be $1 million to $1.4 million annually.

Right now, MU is requesting $2,766,000 from the state.

The third project is constructing the 232,000-square-foot Trulaske College of Business Applied Learning Center near Cornell Hall. The project, which according to board documents is estimated at $77.5 million, will help the college expand enrollment — officials are looking to increase future enrollment by 6,000, according to board documents.

MU has raised $21,133,000 and is seeking $21,133,000 from the state in matching grants.

MU’s portion of these funds has come from donations and fundraising efforts.
If you haven’t spent a lot of time thinking about our university’s latest strategic plan, don’t feel bad. After all, we’ve had a lot of plans — most recently "One Mizzou," subtitled "2020 Vision for Excellence" — with little appreciable effect on the institution. Remember "Role and Scope"?

Our university, like most others, has generally followed what Sir Isaac Newton might have called the First Law of Institutional Inertia: A campus in slow motion tends to remain in slow motion unless acted on by an outside force.

Despite that history, but without much enthusiasm, I joined about 30 faculty colleagues in a dimly lit room in Memorial Union on Monday afternoon to hear a presentation of MUSOP, the unfortunate acronym for the new MU Strategic Operating Plan.

An hour and a half later, I left thinking that this one just might make a difference. I think that because of the cryptic response to a question I posed to a senior campus administrator after the session.

I asked whether it would be fair to assume that the latest version of this plan, which was rewritten in a hurry after University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe expressed his displeasure with the first draft, reflects the president’s insistence on shaking up and speeding up the university system’s flagship campus.

The administrator responded that my assumption was "not unreasonable." Being fairly fluent in bureaucrat-speak, I took that for a "Yes."

Evidence of the outside force’s influence shows up throughout the document. Here’s an example of the difference between pre-Wolfe and post-Wolfe versions of the plan:
Objective 3.7 of the Vision for Excellence reads, "**Ensure that, even as MU targets some resources toward the Mizzou Advantage, all programs that provide the core academic quality of MU are sustained at levels worthy of a major research university.**"

The new plan, by contrast, makes clear that there will be winners and losers. Beginning next year, each academic unit will lose at least 2 percent and as much as 5 percent of its base budget, with the money being redirected to the hiring of "high-impact" faculty and the development of "high-impact" programs. In future years, reallocation may take different percentages from various units.

**Impact will be measured by such metrics as citations in top scholarly journals of articles by MU faculty (74 per tenure-track faculty member now; 100 by 2018), number of national academy members (nine now; 12 by 2018) and federal research dollars per faculty member ($92,139 now; $110,000 by 2018).**

In my experience, numbers have a weight that rhetoric lacks. The new plan, unlike its predecessors, is heavy with numbers. One number that’s certain to be noticed is 15 percent. That’s the proportion of faculty who will be deemed worthy this year of consideration for mid-year raises.

Maybe the most eyebrow-raising figures are the totals to be invested in more and better faculty, more and better students and the infrastructure to support them. **Over the five years, the plan envisions spending $162 million on an upgraded faculty.**

That investment in the current fiscal year is a little more than $55 million. Over five years, it totals $300,811,637. Most of it will be carved out of existing programs by reallocation. The state is being counted on, despite recent reality, to supply nearly $35 million over five years for "strategic investment." Another $78 million is projected to come from student fees as enrollment continues to grow. Private gifts are expected to yield $4 million.

Also telling is the rocky road that led from "One Mizzou" to MUSOP. That journey began, we were told Monday, in June 2012 when a committee of faculty and staff began trying to "operationalize" the platitudes of the vision. **Deputy Provost Ken Dean noted that President Wolfe found the product so unsatisfactory that he awarded MU only $2.9 million of a $12 million reallocation pot. This despite**
the fact that MU constitutes half the four-campus system. (The only campus to present a satisfactorily quantitative plan, Dean said, was Rolla.)

The computer company executive who now leads us objected that MU’s plan lacked both focus and specifics. **Outgoing Chancellor Brady Deaton gave Dean and budget director Rhonda Gibler two weeks to try again.** As Dean recalled that fortnight, they "tweaked" the original mission statement and did a "complete rewrite" of the details.

In the rewrite, two points under the heading of "Implementation" suggest how this plan is different.

"We will not invest in low-demand (non-strategic) programming or hiring." And, "We will not follow the budget model that has been used for years — in short, no more historical, incremental budgeting."

Those lines could almost be taken for a business plan. Call it One Mizzou.

George Kennedy is a former managing editor at the Missourian and professor emeritus at the Missouri School of Journalism. He writes a weekly column for the Missourian.
COLUMBIA, Mo. — **Grieving pet owners can now receive counseling through a new University of Missouri program.**

Clients of the university's **Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital** can get free counseling through the program, which is called Together in Grief, Easing Recovery, or TIGER after the school mascot.

The program builds on work by **the MU Research Center for Human-Animal Interaction.**
KWMU/BEACON MERGER GOES TO UM CURATORS FRIDAY

By Joe Holleman jholleman@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8254

Two nonprofit St. Louis news organizations are close to becoming one.

Friday morning, the University of Missouri Board of Curators is expected to approve a merger of St. Louis Public Radio (KWMU 90.7 FM) and the St. Louis Beacon.

KWMU, owned by the University of Missouri-St. Louis and the local National Public Radio affiliate, is supported by taxes and private donations. The Beacon, an online news site started in 2008 by former Post-Dispatch editors and reporters, is funded by private contributors.

One aspect of the proposal would be historic: For the first time, the University of Missouri’s School of Journalism in Columbia would enter into a formal partnership with UMSL.

The collaboration aims for the two universities to jointly offer journalism and media classes at UMSL, as well as to place more students in internships at KWMU/Beacon.

“We’re ecstatic,” UMSL Chancellor Tom George said. “We have been developing emerging media classes through our fine arts and communications programs, and the (journalism) school has been looking at establishing an urban presence for quite some time.”

The two sides began talks in October 2012. An initial hurdle was finding $3 million to cover a funding gap that a consultants’ study said would occur in the first five years of the merged operation.

University officials say about $2.5 million now has been pledged, by both KWMU and Beacon donors, to cover the gap. They expect the $500,000 balance to be raised in the next five years.

George plans to tell curators today that the new entity will not require any new university resources.

The Beacon has operated in a deficit for two of the first four years of its five-year life, according to Internal Revenue Service filings. In the most recent year of the filings, the shortfall was about $890,000. The Beacon holds about $2.5 million in surplus funds.

As negotiations wound down to the original target date of July 1, George sent the plan back to the two sides, saying he wanted academic benefits for students — something not mentioned in the consultants plan, but a condition George called “crucial” for approval.
The merger also appears to have support from other high-ranking officials. P. Wayne Goode, chairman of the university system’s Board of Curators, and Timothy M. Wolfe, system president, applauded the proposal in a letter to Beacon and KWMU supporters in September.

Other provisions are:

• The new entity would have about 55-60 employees and an annual budget of about $7 million.

• The 16 Beacon staffers would become state employees, eligible for the university retirement system. Because employees can pick different contribution levels, additional pension costs can’t yet be determined, officials said.

• KWMU general manager Tim Eby would be in charge of the entire operation; Beacon editor Margaret Wolf Freivogel would head the news department.

• It would work under one name, which has not been determined.

• The Beacon staff will move one door to the east, into the KWMU facilities at 3651 Olive Street, but no specific date for the move has been set.
In 1973, a Volkswagen with an incubator connected to its cigarette lighter carried children in critical condition across mid-Missouri.

Forty years later, a specialized team of 26 nurses and a state-of-the-art ambulance still serve the same purpose.

**MU’s Children’s Hospital’s critical care transport system celebrated its 40th anniversary Nov. 11.**

“I think the way to look at the children’s transport service is that, with an ambulance, you get a 911 call, you pick up a patient and you bring them to an ICU,” said transport team coordinator Judy Bildner. “But when you call for the children’s service, our transport team actually takes that intensive care out to the patient.”

The Children’s Hospital is the largest of its kind in mid-Missouri. Bildner said the hospital is the prime destination for children in critical condition.

Elizabeth James, founder of the Children’s Hospital Critical Care Transport Service, recognized this necessity. Starting the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in 1971, James began receiving calls from local doctors.

“She would drive herself to the hospital, stabilize the baby, put the baby in the incubator and then drive her and the baby back here, with the baby in the seat next to her,” said John Pardalos, the Children’s Hospital’s medical director.

Soon, places farther away began to call in for help, and James began using the highway patrol’s plane for transportation to doctors in places like Cape Girardeau.

“That put a seed in her mind of having a team that could do this because, as she got busier, she couldn’t leave the babies here for very long without a doctor,” Pardalos said.

The year 1973 marked the first year of James’ neonatal transport system. Initially just serving newborns, the service expanded in 1999 to include older children.
“Because we specialize in just children, studies have shown that these patients transported by pediatric disciplinal trained teams have a much better outcome than if you rely on adult service to bring the patient to the children’s hospital,” Pardalos said.

The biggest advancement in the service thus far has been the designing of an ambulance, Pardalos said. Rather than putting the patients in from the back, MU’s ambulance places the patients in from the side, allowing for two patients to be transported at once and the medics to sit in the middle.

“We’ve actually had several calls from around the United States asking about this ambulance because it is the very first built like this,” Bildner said.

Originally, the program transported only 50-100 patients per year, but now it serves more than 500.

Currently, the transport system incorporates three ambulances, a helicopter and a team of specialized practitioners. The transport team splits its time between working in the NICU and going out on the transport system.

“It’s always ongoing,” Bildner said. “We’re always giving education to the transport team members. They’re continuously learning new things, making sure their skills are tiptop.”

The Nov. 11 reception allowed for the service to look back on both its growth and evolution. Looking into the future, there appears no foreseeable change in the system that has served the area for 40 years, Pardalos said.
MU students raise money online to pay colleague's way home to Ghana

By James Gordon
November 20, 2013 | 9:43 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — The last person Ransford Pinto hugged before leaving Ghana was his brother Kennedy Kofi Acheampong, nicknamed Ashoa.

"He was the closest of my four brothers," Pinto said. "We shed tears of joy that I was moving on to the next level."

Pinto began this week devastated by the knowledge that he may never again lay eyes on his younger brother. But by Wednesday — with the help of his fellow students, MU faculty members and the online fundraising platform GoFundMe — Pinto has re-kindled hopes of returning home for the holiday break and helping his family give one last farewell to Ashoa.

A death in the family

Pinto, 30, has lacked the means to travel back to Ghana since moving to Columbia in August 2012 and enrolling in MU’s Truman School of Public Affairs. But nearly every Sunday, he and Ashoa talked on the phone. Ashoa was always interested in his older brother's progress in the master's program. Pinto wanted to keep tabs on Ashoa's son, 5-year-old Kwame.

On Nov. 12, Pinto noticed Ashoa had called him in the middle of the night, so Pinto texted Ashoa back, saying they could catch up at their usual time on Sunday.

The next call came on Sunday from Pinto's youngest brother, Michael: Ashoa had died. He was 28.
Ashoa had been battling sickle cell anemia since childhood. His last call was to let Pinto know he was having trouble breathing and was checking into the hospital. He was later diagnosed with pneumonia.

As the oldest male — his father died of a stroke 12 years ago — Pinto is expected to bear most of the financial responsibility for Ashoa's funeral and start providing for Kwame with what little money he's earned as a research assistant at MU's Institute of Public Policy.

**Crowdfunding the trip**

It looked unlikely that Pinto would make the trip back to Ghana before May 2014, when he expects to graduate. However, he desperately wished to see his brother one last time and say goodbye.

It apparently showed in his demeanor. Laura Thal picked up on something heading into the Monday night nonprofit budget management class she and Pinto attend. Thal is a second-year graduate student in MU's Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism and is also earning graduate certificates in public affairs and public health.

Thal asked Pinto what was happening in his life, so he told her about his loss. She couldn't believe he would have to spend the holiday break away from his grieving family.

Monday's class discussion focused on fundraising, and someone mentioned GoFundMe, a crowdfunding organization where users can ask for help funding major life events. That's when Thal got her idea.

The next day, Thal pulled Pinto aside to show him the GoFundMe campaign she had set up, with a goal of $2,500. By that point, Thal had already spoken with Charles Menifield, a professor in the school, who gave her indirect access to all of the Truman School's faculty and student email addresses. She just wanted Pinto's input and sign-off before publishing the campaign and pressing 'send.'

"She had already taken so many steps, I felt like I couldn't stop it," Pinto said.

**Getting to go home**
After the campaign went live around 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thal said she had to step away from the computer. Otherwise she feared she would drive herself crazy watching her monitor, waiting for the dollars to roll in.

When she checked back in a few hours later, more than $1,000 had been raised. In another 24 hours, $2,630 had been raised, exceeding the campaign's initial goal.

**Most of the 56 donors were other graduate students and faculty at the Truman School**, but a few came from people who presumably discovered the campaign through GoFundMe.com. The donations ranged from $5 to $150, with an average donation of $38.

"I'm really glad I could get the ball rolling and other people could step up and support him," Thal said.

Pinto said his brother's funeral has been delayed until Dec. 14 and he plans to leave for Ghana by Dec. 10.

Though the initial goal was surpassed, Pinto and Thal said they are keeping the campaign going in order to fully cover Pinto's airfare and the funeral costs.

"I really appreciate it," Pinto said. "I don't know how to say thank you to my classmates."

"At the end of the day, he's just got to get home to his family," Thal said.
Female philanthropist organization donates to MedZou

By Covey Eonyak Son

Mizzou Women Give has thrown its support behind MedZou to expand services for women.

“(MedZou) originally had hoped to buy a mammography unit, but because that was not feasible, they asked us if it was okay to use the funds for (women’s health services), and the Mizzou Women Give voting members approved,” said Ellen McLain, Mizzou Women Give spokeswoman.

The clinic had initially pursued a grant from Mizzou Women Give to purchase mammography equipment, hoping to fill a need in the community, said Ashley Kimberling, the student director of business administration at MedZou.

“We had a pretty short timeline (when applying for) the grant, so we didn’t have enough time to research what (we needed),” she said. “Once we got further into the process and did more research, we realized that mammography wasn’t really the biggest priority in Columbia. For the most part, women can find ways to get free mammography already.”

After MedZou submitted an adjusted proposal, Mizzou Women Give approved it and donated nearly $18,500 to expand the clinic’s services for women, McLain said.

At this time, the clinic has no immediate, specific plans for a new clinical program for women and is forming a committee of student directors at MedZou, attending physicians and a variety of community partners to determine how the money will be implemented.

“The first thing we will have to do is figure out where the biggest need is in terms of women’s services,” Kimberling said. “There’s a lot of different ways we can go with women’s services, so it’s important to figure out which one is the biggest priority in that area. We do know for sure that the donation money will be used for women’s health.”

Currently, MedZou offers primary care services, and diabetes, dermatology and musculoskeletal treatments for men and women.

The clinic will not provide any services geared toward women’s health until sometime in 2014, Kimberling said.
“We currently do not provide women’s services because we have to raise every dollar that we spend to operate MedZou through grants and fundraising,” she said. “By getting this grant, we’ll be able to offer new services that are currently not available in that area.”

The clinic’s proposal was chosen out of 11 other candidates, including Tiger Pantry and the Trulaske College of Business, McLain said.

“They came back with a women’s health initiative that was looking at the working poor, those persons who are just above the Medicaid level and other low income women, and addressing their needs from a preventative standpoint as well as responding to immediate illness,” said Anne Deaton, founder of Mizzou Women Give. “That was immediately appealing to a group of female philanthropists.”

However, it was no easy decision for Mizzou Women Give to make.

“All of the (proposals) were appealing,” Deaton said. “We didn’t have one of the 11 that was not meritorious; they were all meritorious. They were well crafted, but this one at this time, particularly with the great drive to get women involved in preventative health care and to address women’s needs, had received immediate attention.”

There are nearly 20,000 uninsured people with no access to healthcare in Boone County, which the clinic works to service, Kimberling said.

Deaton said MedZou’s proposal seeks to provide medical care for the poor.

“(MedZou’s proposal) is looking at the working poor, those persons who are just above the Medicaid level and other low income women, and addressing their needs from a preventative standpoint as well as responding to immediate illness,” Deaton said. “It addresses the medical concerns of women who might put themselves last given their financial situations.”
In 1908, Dale Carnegie began his career as an Armour Meat Co. salesman, hawking beef, pork and lard throughout the Dakota Badlands.

He earned $17.30 a week.

The sum amazed his parents, who — struggling on a series of Missouri farms near Maryville, Warrensburg and Belton — cleared $30 a month. Imagine their later dismay when their son turned down a supervisory position to study acting in New York.

What seemed a baffling turn actually was just one of several bold career decisions that, over the next quarter century, contributed to Carnegie’s breakthrough as a celebrated instructor of public speaking and father of the personal development department in contemporary bookstores. In 1936, Carnegie published “How to Win Friends and Influence People,” which would sell 30 million copies over the next 80 years.

As detailed in “Self-Help Messiah: Dale Carnegie and Success in Modern America,” Carnegie’s rise came not through one eureka moment but a series of smaller revelations.

Author Steven Watts, University of Missouri history professor, describes how Carnegie’s patched clothes and prominent ears had rendered him a rube among his counterparts on the campus of the State Normal School in Warrensburg, now the University of Central Missouri.

But that was when student orators merited the same status accorded athletes.

So Carnegie became an orator in the same way he later would become an actor, by sheer will. By the ’30s Carnegie had taken enough jobs — selling lard, used cars, correspondence courses — that he had codified sales strategies that included allowing potential clients to believe the funniest remark or the most compelling personal anecdote had been theirs.
“The big message that Carnegie puts out is to make other people feel good,” Watts said recently.

“Some critics thought it was snake oil,” Watts said. “Sinclair Lewis called him the ‘Bard of Babbitry,’” a reference to Lewis’ 1922 best-seller about a shallow businessman.

“But Carnegie was arguing that, in a modern bureaucratic society, it was a good personality and skilled human relations that were important.”
Columbia Public Schools offer benefits to domestic partners

Thursday, November 21, 2013 | 6:33 p.m. CST

BY CRYSTAL THOMAS

COLUMBIA — For the first time, Columbia Public Schools is offering health care benefits to the domestic partners of employees and retirees.

Linda Quinley, the district's chief financial officer and chairwoman of the Employee Benefits Committee, said employees will have coverage starting Jan. 1, when they have to make their first payment toward their health care plan. Enrollment closed Saturday.

The district employs 2,400 people in 36 buildings. Although not everyone qualifies, as of Wednesday, 2,200 were enrolled for health insurance.

Quinley said Thursday that she will not know how many people have requested health care for domestic partner benefits until all the requests have been processed.

"At this point, it doesn't look like it will be many," she said.

The district spends an average of $17 million annually on claims, Quinley said.

Columbia Public Schools isn't the first major city employer to offer domestic partner benefits. Quinley said she looked at Boone Hospital Center's benefits policy when rewriting the district's policy. The hospital has offered benefits to domestic partners since 2005.

The city of Columbia followed suit in 2007, said Carol Wilson, city benefits manager. And in June, the University of Missouri System Board of Curators approved same-sex domestic partner benefits for university employees.

Story continues with no further MU mention: