Chancellor Loftin focuses on making MU a model land-grant university

Wednesday, February 26, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA — For a demonstration, MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin aligns the flaps of his "The problem with bow ties is that they're all different," Loftin says, winding the fabric around his fingers. "The material a bow tie is made out of is actually a problem. Sometimes the material you use is not the best."
In less than a minute, he has a tidy bow tie perched below his chin. He can tie a bow tie so efficiently because he has a vision for what it should look like and decades of practice in his fingers.

When Loftin talks about MU’s future, he is leaning on almost 40 years in higher education. He uses the word "vision" often. He can see in his mind a grander MU years, even decades, down the road — MU as a model land-grant university in the Association of American Universities.

"I think MU’s to be commended for saying pretty honestly to its faculty and its supporters, 'Here’s where we are and here’s where we want to be,'" Loftin said in an interview last week. "That, to me, is a very exciting thing to have, and a pretty clear goal in mind here. It helps you to energize everyone involved to move towards that goal."

Loftin, 64, has been MU’s chancellor since Feb. 1. He is the former president of Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, and has served as a professor at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., and chief executive officer of Texas A&M University at Galveston.

Loftin recently discussed building relationships with faculty and students, increasing the school’s AAU standing and fundraising. Here is the interview, with slight trims made for clarity:

**Last week, you told members of the MU Faculty Council that you plan to attend as many of their meetings as you can. What other specific ways do you plan to connect with staff at MU?**

Well, the main thing is to be where they are. I’m a member of the faculty myself. My department is physics. I’m hoping to find time to attend their faculty meetings as well.

I also intend to show up when there are events the faculty will be at. I’ve learned one thing about faculty: If you feed them, they’ll come. I intend to have a few events on campus from time to time and attract faculty to them, and they’ll have a chance to engage in a somewhat more informal way.
At Texas A&M, you oversaw a fundraising campaign that raised more than $1 billion between Jan. 1, 2012, and Jan. 1, 2014. How, specifically, will you try to translate what you did there to MU? What are your strategies?

It’s nothing magical. There are a couple things you have to do.

First of all, I need to become very, very familiar with Mizzou. Every day I spend time trying to learn more about the institution. Mizzou has many things in common with Texas A&M, but it’s also distinct. It’s older, there’s a lot of great history here, traditions. I’m still learning those things, so I’ve got to become really knowledgeable about this institution.

I already have a passion for the place. ... And you have to be able to have passion for what you’re trying to sell, which is the word, grossly here, so my job is to sell, promote, and advance the institution. You do that by having passion.

People can tell whether you’re genuine or not. If you’re talking about something you don’t believe in, they can tell right away, so they’ll walk away. I love this place already, I love you guys as students here, and I think that is in place right now and will only get deeper over time.

We also have to have a few more things here in place. We have to continue our process begun before my time here, which is to inventory the strengths this university has. No university, no matter how great it is, can be the best at everything. Stanford, Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Oxford or Cambridge are great places, but they can’t be good at everything.

In particular, at A&M, we were able to work on a project approach that was not about university needs A, B and C. But if you partner with the university, we can solve a very big societal problem. You can solve world hunger. A&M, as is Mizzou, has a great Ag school. So, think about the impact agriculture can have worldwide on developing nations, in particular.

You have the ability, literally, at a place like Mizzou to solve world hunger. That’s a noble cause, and you can imagine going to a donor and saying to them, 'Look, together we can do this great thing.' We’ve got to find a few thematic areas like that where the university can truly be impactful in every dimension, both locally and globally.
With that in hand, I think people can get excited about being able to partner with a university. Now once you have partnered and you become a fellow traveler in trying to move toward these noble goals, then you have to figure out how to get there.

That’s where the things come in, the needs come in. I need faculty, I need this, I need that, but starting with needs is the wrong answer today, I think. You want to start with a vision of where you want to go.

I think Missouri has some extraordinary things it can do already, and we’ll find more over time.

**You have some several key hires to make coming up — the dean of the Journalism School just announced his retirement a couple of weeks ago, vice chancellor of research and dean of the medical school just to name a few. How many of these jobs hinge on hiring a provost?**

The dean searches depend very much on that. We don’t need to delay starting a search for the dean of the J-School, for example, until we hire a provost, but we need to tie them in so that we identify a provost before we get to the final stages of a dean search for the J-School so the provost can weigh in on that decision, because the deans report to the provost.

It’d be very unfair to bring a dean in, you know, brand new, who would not know who his boss or her boss might be. ... A month or two is all we’ve got to deal with here. It’s not going to be a big problem to delay that enough to be sure we have these things matching up properly.

**MU and the entire University of Missouri System is in the midst of a strategic plan. What are your thoughts on the nature of plans and planning in the academic world?**

I think planning of that nature has a lot of commonality. I don’t think there’s anything strange about that. Obviously, the things you might focus on here might be very different than you might find in a corporate setting. I’m not wanting to increase sales, and in a corporate setting, that’s my goal, for example.
Here I might talk about our enrollment size. I might talk about our research productivity. These things are different of course, but they still fall under the same pattern, basically.

Right now, long before I got here, the leadership of the system really began moving all the institution system towards a long-range planning view. I’m very used to that, I’ve done many long-range plans.

Most recently at Texas A&M, we did one which was based on a five-year plan from 2011 to 2015. I left a little past midstream in that particular plan. So I’m very used to coming up with three- to five-year plans that are strategic in nature and provide you guidance towards investments you might make.

I’m also used to something we haven’t quite done yet, which I want to look at here at Mizzou, and that is looking out 20-25 years. It’s not a plan so much as a vision. Being able to look ahead and say, this is sort of fuzzy, but where do you want to be?

I was talking this morning (Feb. 20) to Sen. (Roy) Blunt, who was in the office here. I made a statement to him that I’ll make to you. I said, 'I can see Missouri becoming the model land-grant university of the second half of this century.'

So think about that. Think about around 2050 that Mizzou is acknowledged as a model land-grant in this century right now. It’s a great land-grant university, the first one west of the (Mississippi) River, we know all that. But there are other land grants out there. ... We would like to be, I think, here at Mizzou, if I’m allowed to think about this and project it, as the one that people aspire to be like.

**One of the strategic goals that this university states is for MU to raise its AAU standing by four places by 2018. What is your role in that, and what do you intend to do about it?**

There are four primary and four secondary criteria used in the AAU ranking scheme, and they’re well-known. So I’ll just deal with the primaries.
The primaries are your federal research expenditures derived from competitive grants divided by the number of tenure-earning faculty you have. That division gives you a normalization to allow large and small schools to be sort of ranked or measured relatively equally in terms of their expenditures. So that’s out there as your No. 1.

No. 2 is the number of National Academy memberships you have. We have eight right now. A ninth is on the way at this moment in time. We’re coming up a bit now, but we need to have many more.

The third is the other types of major recognitions, fellowships and learning societies, other various prestigious awards and such out there.

The last of those categories is citations, the research your faculty do and how important it is to be judged by their peers.

The other four secondaries are there, too, but are less influential on your rankings than those first four I named. When you know that, it’s pretty clear. The average AAU school has a medical school, as does Mizzou. But in the average AAU school, the medical school’s contributions to that first ranking number, the research expenditure number, is far more than ours is.

An immediate issue is to think in terms of the medical school’s contribution to this. We are right now in the final stages of searching for a new dean of the medical school, so it’s a logical thing to think about how that dean is going to be influencing this particular metric.

I talked to all three of the finalists, and I’m sure others did, too, in the same mode, and we talked about how they envisioned taking the medical school to another level in terms of its research expenditures and federally-awarded dollars.

I’m going to hire a dean who will work really for the provost, not for me. But the dean is going to have a major responsibility for that. We’re going to be moving to select very soon a vice chancellor for research that will have a role to play in this regard as well.

So this is a team effort. This is not Bowen Loftin. And it ultimately comes down to the faculty of the institution.
The faculty here are the ones who do the research, they’re the ones who get the recognition, they’re the ones who are cited by others who do research in their field, so they’re the ones we have to turn to here.

This university may be by itself among those in the bottom quartile of AAU rankings that has actually pretty openly talked about this.

I think MU’s to be commended for saying pretty honestly to its faculty and its supporters, 'Here’s where we are and here’s where we want to be.' It helps you to energize everyone involved to move towards that goal.

President Barack Obama cited statistics last month regarding sexual assault, saying that 1 in 5 women is sexually assaulted. He called upon a change in this culture on college campuses. So as chancellor, what do you think your role is in addressing the campus climate around sexual assault?

There are several things, and again, it’s not just Bowen Loftin, it’s a whole team effort here. There are several things we have to do very well, and right now we are in the middle of an assessment requested by the president of our system to really review all of the policies and the practices of those policies we have in place here at MU regarding sexual assault.

I’ve done this before at other universities. I’ve made this same assessment before, most notably after the Penn State issue became public, relating to underage individuals on campus and their vulnerability.

You find out very quickly that one of the key issues can be that people don’t know what to do. If they observe something or if it happens to them, they don’t know who to talk to. I can show you that we’ve already told people that, but I can almost guarantee that if I ask anybody on campus, they wouldn’t be able to tell me. So we have to figure out good strategies not simply to say it once, but to say it many times in different ways.

If you put a poster on the wall that says what to do, after a few days that poster’s wallpaper. You don’t see it anymore. I can show you many examples of that. I’ll be very surprised if we don’t
find in our study here that we do things well, but that we do not have the knowledge on part of our people here (our students, our staff and our faculty) of what to do.

It's well-known that oftentimes these kinds of issues are tied to issues like alcohol abuse. So you have a deal with that issue, too. I've already begun talking to student affairs and to others on campus about what are our approaches to education here among our population in particular about the use of alcohol.

That's going to, I think, be again the ability to make a difference over time and to make sure you understand the risks they take, which are going to put them in a position where this might be occurring in ways they can't control then. We have to deal with this, and I think that's going to be an important message for us as well.

We'll see what comes out of this. Mike Middleton, my deputy chancellor, is busy (reviewing and collecting the policies and procedures related to mental health and sexual assault) right now. Many on campus are involved in doing this. We'll find out what we'll do here and if the other three campuses are doing the same thing in the (University of Missouri) System.

We will share all of that, and I think next month or so we'll be able to put this down as something we now know where we are and can chart a course forward. I believe we, as a team, pull together and really address this problem aggressively, and I believe it's going to come down to communication more than anything else — about sexual abuse itself but also contributing factors, like alcohol abuse.

You have experience taking a university into the Southeastern Conference at Texas A&M. What lessons did you learn in that process and how is that relevant to MU now?

Read my book. Seriously, I'm writing a book right now that is a story of how A&M made that transition. I've been thinking about adding a chapter with help from people like Chancellor (Brady) Deaton and others here about how Missouri, in parallel, made that same transition.

What I've said repeatedly in my public statements, probably equally to Texas A&M and Missouri, is that the SEC is the premier athletic conference in the country. At no time in the past
has A&M or Missouri had greater visibility than today, and that’s largely due to membership in the SEC. I wasn’t here to make the decision about Missouri’s transition, but I was at A&M.

Clearly, my No. 1 criterion there was enhancing the visibility of the university on the national stage. That enhances your brand. It enhances the value of your diploma, basically, when your university is more prominently known than others are. It’s just how it works. You understand that from a journalism or marketing point-of-view. That was a key thing.

A second key thing was I experienced, as did Chancellor Deaton, the instability of the Big XII, which I think is still not resolved. Again, going to the SEC, we’re going to a conference that I think will be around for a long time.

My book, for example, is titled "The 100-Year Decision," a phrase I used in a press conference where we announced we were going to do this. And I meant it that way. It is a decision for the long haul.

And part of that is the long-lived nature of the SEC. If you look at the penalty for leaving conferences, it’s very high in some cases. Look at the ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference), for example. You know that number. What’s the penalty for leaving the SEC? It’s zero. Tulane left immediately because of a more competitive advantage issue, but none of us wants to leave, and that’s the beauty of the SEC.

Another piece of that stability is the equity. The Big XII, which has reformed itself quite a bit since we left, was unequal in terms of distribution of revenues when I arrived there as A&M’s president. Chancellor Deaton saw the same thing, I’m sure, from his point of view.

The SEC divides its money equally. Really easy to do. That gives you a sense that everybody’s on the same plane. There are no have’s or have-not’s in the SEC. It’s a wonderful place to be.

Ultimately, and this was really going to begin in the next few years with the SEC Network, the revenues we would derive from this membership are going to be very, very important, not just in athletics, but in other parts of the university as well.
I’m a known commodity to the commissioner (Mike Slive). We have become quite good friends. We worked together extensively. For a while we talked every morning at about 7:15 as we were moving through these very difficult moments in the transition. Mike and I have become quite close during this period in time, and I have the utmost respect for him.

You are now, perhaps, the "public figure-in-chief" at MU. It’s almost like you have your own brand. You live in the heart of campus now. Based on your experience, to what extent do you keep your private life private, and how do you balance the potentially competing interests of being both a public and private person?

I have no privacy. That’s not quite true, but you have to recognize in a role like this that assuming you’ll have much private time is a pipe dream. You just won’t have it. I lived not quite in the heart of campus, but I lived on campus where I was before, and I’m even more in the heart of campus here, which I actually am glad about.

The price you pay, if you want to call it a price, is that there is little privacy. But the benefit is you continue to engage with what makes this place go.

A common occurrence to me is the doorbell rings at 10:30 at night. You go out there and there are three young ladies who are part of a sorority and they say, 'We have a scavenger hunt, and one of our items is a picture of the president, or the chancellor in this case. Can we have one?'

So I can’t take my tie off, sir. That’s just an example. Being on campus has its moments or challenge like that, but again, who am I? What do I do? What do I focus on? My interest is in the student body, primarily, and they’re here. I should be here.

You’ve been teaching or in administration at the college level for almost four decades or so. What are some things you have learned from your experience?

I’ve mentioned some things. I talked about, for example, the role I play in advancing the institution from a standpoint of finding private dollars and how you do that. This role is different in a few ways from being a faculty member only.
I have my teaching role to play still, but that's OK. Leadership in a place like this is a somewhat interesting animal. Faculty don’t view themselves as employees, they view themselves as colleagues with you.

I don’t like the idea of being 'the boss.' I’m not 'the boss.' I’m a colleague, and I’ve got some responsibilities for doing some things they don’t have to do. But I haven’t forgotten where I came from. That’s really one of the key things I wanted to say in response to your question. You can’t change who you are. You can’t change where you came from. I can’t change the fact that I’m a graduate of Texas A&M. I can’t become a Mizzou graduate. I just can’t do that.

We’re all the sum of both our DNA and our experiences in some combination. You can’t alter that, nor should you or want to. I became what I am today from a whole bunch of things that are both fun and not so fun. You all can look back at that. As you get older, you’ll know what I mean about that. That’s part of the equation. You bring to the table what you’ve been through.

During my time at A&M, not quite five years, 72 students died. I’m sure the number here would be adjusted a bit by the size, but probably comparable. That’s hard. No 19-year-old should die. But it happens. A car wreck happens. A disease happens. A suicide happens. These things happen, and it’s a very tough situation.

What’s important is that you reach out to the families, not just as a chancellor of the institution, but on behalf of the family, which is this institution. Let them see that this is a family.

One of my favorite hashtags you may have noticed on Twitter is #MizzouFamily. I mean that. I used #AggieFamily a lot where I came from because it is that. I’m not copying; I’m just being true.

This is a place where people feel an affiliation to each other. You feel like you’re a family. You may have it in different layers. You may be part of a sorority and you feel it there. You may be part of a major and feel it there. You can be part of an organization of another type and you feel it there. Last night I was talking to some of the band members at the arena at the basketball game, and they’re a family.
You have these layers: you have the close family that you see every day, you have an outside family that you don’t see as much. But when things happen, this family stands up for you. So, Mike Sam. Mike Sam, what happened to him? We had Westboro show up here, and what happened? That’s the family.

So when people do have a death of a student and they come here and see you guys, they’re going to understand this is not something they’re sharing by themselves. They’re sharing it with you. The grief is spread. Grief spread is more easily borne, I’ve learned.

These are the kinds of things that shape you over time. I’m going through all that. One benefit I bring to this university is about 10 years of doing this kind of work. Like I’ve said, it’s not my first rodeo. That’s helpful.

A lot of my experiences can be translated. A lot of the things I’ve learned can be translated. I have more to learn about this place, and I’m looking forward to that.

One thing I’ll say for sure is the students here today at this university are very much like the ones I’ve dealt with before. They’re intelligent, service-focused, very energetic and wanting to impact and change the world. Good stuff. Makes my job a joy.

Is there anything else you want to touch on about getting acclimated into your new role or moving into the new house with your wife, Karin Loftin?

What was challenging for us is that I’ve been in government housing for over 10 years now. We owned a private home in Texas besides our public home. Over the years, you kind of grow a completely duplicate set of things.

We have one home here right now, and so we’ve concatenated two households, and that’s been complicated. We’re trying to figure out what we want to keep and what we want to give away. The house is big enough, but we have to figure out what we really want to have there.

We want to get a home some place else as a getaway. We had one of those, we had a lake house in Texas, which I used for my time in Galveston. I wasn’t able to as much when I went to the job in College Station, because it was a pretty soul-consuming job.
You figure out right away in a place this size, and that was true in College Station, it’s a 24/7 job. There's not much down time. Thankfully you guys are around to give me the energy I need to keep going.

Contract details fees for law firm doing inquiry into MU’s handling of Menu Courey case

UM curators hired counsel.

By Ashley Jost

Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 2:00 pm

The law firm hired by the University of Missouri Board of Curators to investigate the University of Missouri's handling of former MU swimmer Sasha Menu Courey's allegation of rape has capped its billable hours at $120,000, according to its contract.

The contract, obtained via a records request, said the Dowd Bennett Law Firm has capped its billable hours, not including expenses. The firm will bill the university every month, with the first bill expected next month.

John Fougere, chief communications officer for the UM System, said in an email that funding for the independent counsel is coming from the interest in the university’s cash account.

"No tuition money or state appropriations funds will be used," he said.

Any expense fees, including lodging and travel costs, likely will be attached to each monthly bill, according to the contract.

Edward Dowd, principal at Dowd Bennett, could not be reached for comment.

The firm is scheduled to report its findings during the curators' April 11 meeting in Rolla. Board of Curators Chairman Don Downing said the findings likely will be reported to the curators during a closed session. He said the report will be made public later, but some of the information might be redacted for privacy or legal reasons.
Menu Courey committed suicide in June 2011, about 16 months after she was the alleged victim of a sexual assault at the hands of one or more football players. Six campus medical professionals reportedly were aware of her 2010 rape but didn't report it to police.

After an ESPN story last month brought attention to her case, UM System President Tim Wolfe recommended the curators hire an outside independent counsel to investigate MU's response.

This article was published in the Tuesday, February 25, 2014 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Contract details fees for law firm; UM curators hired counsel."

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Posted in Education on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 2:00 pm.

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A contract shows the law firm hired by the University of Missouri Board of Curators to investigate how the University of Missouri handled a student's rape allegation has capped its billable hours at $120,000.

The Dowd Bennett Law Firm is investigating how the school handled the allegations by former swimmer Sasha Menu Courey, who committed suicide in 2011, about 16 months after she was the alleged victim of a sexual
assault by one or more football players.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports (http://bit.ly/1dvNPz3) the contract says the law firm has capped its billable hours at $120,000, not including expenses. The firm is scheduled to report its findings to the curators April 11.

UM system spokesman John Fougere says funding for the inquiry comes from interest in the university's cash account.


MU College of Education suspends admissions to undergraduate art education program

Tuesday, February 25, 2014 | 8:42 p.m. CST; updated 9:46 p.m. CST, Tuesday, February 25, 2014
BY CAROLINE BAUMAN, KEVIN MODELSKI, THOMAS DIXON

COLUMBIA — The MU College of Education announced this week it will suspend admissions to its undergraduate art education program effective this fall.

Current MU sophomores, juniors and seniors will be able to complete the program by May 2016 if they have been accepted into the program and continue to meet or exceed minimum graduation requirements, according to a news release from the College of Education.

The art education program has had the smallest number of graduates in all of the college’s undergraduate areas throughout the past five years, according to the news release.
"While the faculty has worked hard to increase enrollments, the number of graduates still averages fewer than 10 each year," College of Education Dean Daniel Clay said in the release. "These types of decisions are never easy, but with limited state resources, we have decided to focus on our post-baccalaureate certification and graduate programs in art education."

Kathy Unrath, MU associate professor of art education, said in an email these undergraduate enrollment numbers do not represent the total number of art educators who are certified each year.

They do not include a strong contingent of graduate students who are earning a master of education with certification degree, she said.

"We are hearing that when budgets need to be cut, arts are expendable," Unrath said. "I care so much about the quality of the century-old art education program at MU... yet the official response that my students are getting from the university when they write in support of the art education program is 'I assure you that art education is alive and well at Mizzou.'"

Sharyn Hyatt-Wade, MU adjunct instructor of art education and a former art teacher at Rock Bridge High School, said she thinks the College of Education got the numbers wrong when looking for small programs to cut.

"Our program isn't nearly as small as the numbers that they are putting out there," Hyatt-Wade said. "We're concerned that the decision is being made with false data."

In the release, Clay said it is important to note that the art education program isn’t closing at MU and that the college remains committed to art education.

"We continually evaluate and assess all of our programs as part of our responsibility to be good stewards of our resources," Clay said. "Going forward, we will monitor a number of factors in determining whether to lift that suspension."
Current MU freshmen or undergraduate students applying for admission in the fall have two options to pursue art education at MU, according to the release. Students may:

- earn a bachelor of fine arts degree through the MU College of Arts and Science and then pursue a teacher certification in the MU College of Education through a post-baccalaureate certification program.
- choose to pursue a master’s degree in art education with certification requirements.

All four art teachers at Rock Bridge High School are alumni of the MU art education program, said Carrie Stephenson, foundations of art and advanced art teacher at Rock Bridge.

"You've got students who are so passionate about what we do and what they do as artists that they would love to go join this field," Stephenson said of current Rock Bridge art students. "It's just a shame that we're no longer going to be able to tell them, 'Hey, Mizzou has this amazing, life-changing program that's consistently doing some of the things that are on the forefront of art education, but sorry, it's not there anymore.'"

Stephenson said she has former art students who are now MU freshmen who will have to pause and reassess whether they will have to transfer universities.

"It's crushing for them," Stephenson said. "We used to really pride ourselves in being in a community that supports the art, at a university that supports the arts, and to have them cancel that type of program, I feel like it's sort of them making a statement that maybe we don't have the advocacy for the arts and the arts in schools that we thought we did."

Stephenson also said she fears this decision will interrupt the MU master's program, as it will break the cycle of art education in the community. It will then have an effect on the art programs in elementary and secondary schools, she said.

Caitlin Casey, a 2003 graduate of Rock Bridge, said she greatly benefited from the high school art program, which has relied on the students and infrastructure of the MU art education program.
"Taking away the art education program at MU runs the risk of stripping away the rich world of K-12 art education in mid-Missouri," Casey said in an email. "Even though I'm now a scientist by training, I could not have reached half of the career hurdles had my artistic skills (not) been fostered so intensely by the wonderful teachers and student teachers involved with MU art education."

Without her experience in the Rock Bridge art program, Lauren Orscheln said she would not be a successful artist today.

Now living in New York City and attending the School of Visual Arts, Orscheln said her work, which has been featured in Business Insider, started as ideas during her advanced placement art class in her senior year of high school.

"I owe much of my artistic success to that year" and especially to her art teacher, Hyatt-Wade, Orscheln said in an email. "Had I landed in any other art program, or in no art program at all, my young mind would not have been able to focus its creative drives."

An online petition, "Reinstate the Undergraduate Art Education Program at MU," calls for the College of Education to reconsider its decision. The petition had 454 signatures as of Tuesday evening. A Facebook page, Save Mizzou Art Ed, had 2,982 likes as of Tuesday evening.
Last week, the Missouri Senate advanced a bill that would establish five performance-based criteria for the state's colleges and universities.

The action occurred on the same day the four-campus University of Missouri System held its 40th annual Legislative Day at the Capitol.

Performance, tuition and eliminating program duplication are among the higher education priorities identified by legislators.

The performance funding proposal, sponsored by Sen. David Pearce, R-Warrensburg, would place into law four standards set by state government and one selected by the school. Examples of state standards are student retention and graduation.

The schools voluntarily have received some performance funding money in the 2013-14 state budget.

Gov. Jay Nixon has asked — and offered financial incentives — for public colleges and universities to hold the line on tuition increases.

He reiterated the point at the MU rally when he praised the system's administrators for "answering the call" to freeze undergraduate tuition for the 2014-15 academic year.

Perhaps the most controversial proposal this session regarding higher education is an initiative by Senate Appropriations Chairman Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, to eliminate duplication through coordination or consolidation.

"We've got 13 four-year public campuses," Schaefer said last week. "We've got a lot of duplication — and not just duplication of programs, but also lots of duplication on ... things that we're spending money on."

Schaefer has questioned why the state's Coordinating Board for Higher Education hasn't done more to improve efficiency and decrease costs.
The answer is the board's authority is limited, purposely, to concentrate control in the governing bodies for each school.

Schaefer also has called attention to low graduation rates and whether open enrollment policies at some four-year schools should be eliminated. **Lincoln University, which graduated 31.5 percent of its students in recent years**, is among the open-enrollment institutions.

All of these issues are worthy of analysis and debate.

The importance of a well-trained, well-educated work force is a constant.

But as modernization and technology alter the work force, education also must adapt.

The model that guided higher education in the past may not be desirable, or affordable, for the future.

This conversation — including asking tough questions — will help us become smarter about higher education.

**EDITORIAL**

**Missouri should help universities with building needs**

**No MU Mention**

Two years ago the Missouri General Assembly passed legislation to help the state’s public universities with their building needs. If schools raise money to upgrade buildings or construct new ones, the legislature is authorized to match the funds dollar for dollar. It’s a good idea. Missouri’s universities are faced with huge maintenance backlogs and inadequate space to educate students, especially in the job-rich fields of math, science, technology and engineering.
A multi-million dollar bond issue is in order. But that would require voter approval, and so far, unfortunately, lawmakers haven’t been keen about putting a proposal on the ballot.

The matching-fund idea, called the 50-50 plan, is a way to get started.

But the legislation only says the state “may” appropriate money if universities do their part and raise private funds. Therein lies the choice currently staring at lawmakers.

Even with revenues improving, legislators are juggling competing requests for money. But they should make every effort to live up to their end of the bargain and support worthy projects.

The University of Missouri-Kansas City used the 50-50 plan to raise $7.4 million, mostly from the Kauffman Foundation, to go toward construction of a $14.8 million, high-tech “free enterprise center.” Complete with labs, rapid prototyping equipment and collaborative space, it is envisioned as a resource for engineering and business students and also for middle- and-high school science teachers and their students.

This is a venture that would help prepare more students to work and even lead in fields where jobs are plentiful. The university and its funders deserve to be rewarded for their initiative. A match from the state would likely encourage potential donors to help with other worthy ventures, most notably a downtown campus for UMKC’s Conservatory of Music and Dance.

The four campuses of the University of Missouri system have raised a total of $40 million in private money, in hopes of getting the state to match the funds. Other public universities also have raised money for projects. Legislators should acknowledge the crucial role of these schools in boosting the state’s economy and help them build for the future.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/2014/02/25/4849009/editorial-missouri-should-help.html#storylink=cpy
Options for College Avenue upgrades draw mixed reviews

Tuesday, February 25, 2014 | 11:53 p.m. CST
BY SAMUEL HARDIMAN

COLUMBIA — Potential plans for improving safety on the stretch of College Avenue bordering MU drew the ire and admiration of the public Tuesday evening.

At the second public input meeting for the College Avenue safety project, the city revealed the eight draft plans on display boards. Members of the design team milled about the mezzanine conference room in the Daniel Boone City Building, explaining different aspects of each proposal to the public, including members of the media and two City Council members, Barbara Hoppe and Ian Thomas.

The design team’s two preferred alternatives for the project, plans A and B, drew the most attention from the public. Both of the preferred alternatives featured a vertical barrier the length of College Avenue between University Avenue and Rollins Street in place of the center turn lane. Both plans would completely restrict left-turn access into and out of East Campus on Rosemary Lane, Wilson Avenue and Bouchelle Avenue.

Seven plans, including the two preferred ones, feature a crosswalk on each side of Wilson Avenue.

The aesthetics of the two barriers were of particular interest to people at the meeting. Besides cost of construction and maintenance, the physical appearances are the only distinction between the two plans. Plan A’s barrier features a wrought-iron fence on a stone wall, and Plan B’s barrier is a wrought-iron fence sitting on a raised median. Both barriers would be about 5 feet tall.
Denice and Phil Warnken, owners of several rental properties on East Campus, preferred option B. Denice Warnken didn't like Plan A's stone wall because she feared that it would be ruined by graffiti.

The loss of left-turn access didn't bother the Warnkens. Denice Warnken said she tries to avoid taking a left turn onto College Avenue out of East Campus anyway.

"It's dangerous, I don't want to hit anybody, and the kids are always jumping out of the fraternities and running across the street," she said about students, "so I just don't use it."

Not everyone echoed the Warnkens' sentiments, however. Bill Toalson, business manager for Beta Theta Pi, a fraternity on College Avenue, was upset about the proposed loss of left turns.

"It's going to add a lot of traffic back onto Wilson Avenue and Rosemary Lane, and neither one of those streets can handle it," Toalson said.

The design team did its best to alleviate concerns. Linda Moen, a transportation engineer on the project, said East Campus could handle the loss of left turns.

"Everyone has a different opinion based on where they live, but if you look at it, William (Street) is not very far away," she said. "William Street is a low-volume road right now, and it's got a lot of capacity so most of the cars going down College Avenue can easily go through William Street and access everything the same way."

Moen added that the Missouri Department of Transportation would try to sync the H.A.W.K. signals, which would stop traffic at the proposed crosswalks, with the lights at University Avenue and Rollins Street intersections. This would minimize backlogs of cars at each crosswalk and travel time down the corridor.

Another plan, option G, also drew considerable interest. It featured a vertical barrier down the full length of the corridor, but instead of a fence, it has a shorter wall with landscaping. Downtown Community Improvement District Director Carrie Gartner preferred the landscaping to options A or B.
"I think it makes a better gateway to that part of our city," she said.

Sixth Ward Councilwoman Hoppe wanted more of the landscaping option.

"I thought the landscape median looked a little bare. I think more could be done with that," she said. "I'd like to see, and I think the public would like to see, some more landscape features included in that."

Hoppe liked the aesthetics of option B and also touched on her East Campus constituents' concerns about the loss of left turns.

"I'd like to see a left turn or it at least being looked at," she said.

East Campus resident Rick Shanker said the design effort was a waste of time and resources.

"The solution could be solved easily by putting a fence on the west side of the street where the university campus is and just herd the cattle that way," he said.

Shanker said students would cross the street only where there were breaks in the fence.

The option was considered but rejected, said Julie Nolfo, an MU traffic consultant and a member of the design team.

"It doesn't really solve the problem. If you put a fence on the west side, they can still cross the road at any location, and the problem would be that they'd get to the west side of the road and can't get into the campus," she said. "The purpose of the project is not to keep people out of the campus; it's to make people cross the road safely to get to the campus, so it didn't address the concerns at all."

Cliff Jarvis, capital improvement project supervising engineer for the city, said he hopes to have the final proposed design before the City Council within six months. The design team will review the public comment forms submitted at Tuesday's meeting, he said. An online comment form will also be available on the project website. The project is scheduled to be finished by the end of August 2015.
University of Missouri police on Monday arrested an 18-year-old MU student on suspicion of second-degree rape, Capt. Brian Weimer said in a news release.

MUPD officers were dispatched at 12:08 a.m. yesterday to University Hospital to pick up a rape kit from a sexual assault that occurred early the previous morning, according to a probable cause statement.

Police contacted the victim, who is an MU student, via telephone, and she identified the suspect and told police he is an acquaintance. Police located freshman Vincent T. Nuño and arrested him at about 7:43 a.m. yesterday in Laws Hall. In addition to second-degree rape, he also is suspected of possession of intoxicating liquor as a minor.

The victim told police she met some friends and they went to a club, where they were drinking liquor out of flasks that Nuño brought, the statement said. When staff at the club found the teens drinking, they told them to leave, and they did, the statement says. Nuño drove the group back to a residence, where the drinking continued. The victim said she vomited and then passed out in Nuño's room in Laws Hall, the statement said.

The victim said she drifted in and out of consciousness and could remember some details of the sexual contact but did not know intercourse had occurred until Nuño allegedly told a mutual friend the next day, the statement said. She told police she did not consent to the contact.

During his initial interview with detectives, Nuño claimed the contact was consensual, but eventually he admitted the rape and expressed remorse, the statement says. Police also confiscated some alcohol that was in his room.

Nuño is being held at the Boone County Jail with bond set at $30,000. Charges have not been filed on the liquor violation.
MU power plant embraces new technologies to help meet university's energy needs

By Ashley Jost

Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 2:00 pm

At the University of Missouri Power Plant, change is the norm.

Every morning, the cost of purchasing renewable energy from other states changes. The amount of energy the university needs to purchase changes, too, based on on-site energy production outlooks for the day. Output from the solar panels and wind turbine on campus also changes regularly.

Amid all of these changes, MU Campus Facilities administrators say they hope to continue on a path to make the university more energy-efficient, and they have spent about $70.8 million on getting three major renewable energy generation projects up and running.

The cost of energy production hasn’t changed as use of renewable energy sources has increased, Karlan Seville, spokeswoman for MU Campus Facilities, said in an email. “Biomass costs about the same as coal,” she said, adding that the wind and solar projects are primarily “demonstration projects.”

In fiscal year 2012, the university allocated about $60.5 million to its Facilities department, which pays for operation of the power plant, among other expenses.

MU administrators have vowed to make the campus carbon-neutral by 2050. As of now, about 35 percent of the energy sources, including what’s purchased and what’s generated on campus, are renewable. Many of the major sustainability changes have taken place in the past decade, starting with burning biomass in the same boiler as coal in 2006.

Since then, the campus has gained solar panels, a biomass boiler and a wind turbine, with more on the way.

SOLAR THERMAL

The most recent effort to increase sustainability is small but noteworthy. It’s called a solar thermal process, and it’s still a work in progress because of the weather.
The solar thermal process starts with collecting heat from the sun through tubes installed on the roof. That energy is then used to heat water that’s used inside the power plant for the boilers, including the biomass boiler — another relatively new project. Using the sun, instead of natural gas, to heat the water saves energy for the plant.

Gregg Coffin, plant superintendent, said snow and ice kept crews off the roof to finish installing pieces that have to be in place before the heat-collecting tubes can be put in.

With a few weeks of decent weather, Coffin said, the solar thermal process might be up and running as early as mid-March.

The solar thermal process started with a study back in 2010 with help from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources through a federally funded research program, Coffin said. MU conducted a feasibility study for solar-thermal technology in Central Missouri “in either a commercial or industrial process.”

“That study helped us better understand the available technologies and what would best apply and provide the best benefit for the university if we went down that solar thermal path,” Coffin said.

Facilities was also able to use money saved from reducing energy consumption with solar panels — another renewable source — to help fund the solar thermal project.

The final costs won’t be tallied until the installation is complete but are estimated at about $350,000, according to an email from Paul Hoemann, director of energy management at MU.

**BIOMASS BOILER**

The university has had its biomass boiler up and running since the beginning of 2013, but Coffin said the effort to bring it to campus started more than six years ago.

The biomass boiler, like the handful of other boilers in the plant, runs 24 hours a day, unlike the solar panels or the wind turbine. The biomass boiler burns biological material such as wood chips.

“I haven’t calculated the energy value for a while, but we’re approaching about one-third of our fuel energy coming from biomass,” Coffin said. Another third comes from coal, and the final third comes from natural gas.

The plant receives wood chips from Foster Brothers Wood Products in Auxvasse about five days a week. Coffin said in addition to biomass adding to the renewable energy portfolio, it’s also a plus to know the plant is helping the Mid-Missouri economy.

Questions remain about biomass sustainability because the method still puts carbon in the air and involves, in some cases, deforestation. But biomass is considered a renewable energy source because “the carbon in biomass is regarded as part of the natural carbon cycle: Trees take in
carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and convert it into biomass, and when they die, it is released back into the atmosphere,” according to The Earth Institute at Columbia University.

Bo Mahr, an MU student and member of the Missouri Energy Action Coalition, said biomass is better than coal — which is still used in the plant’s other boilers — but he thinks using biomass for energy is “obviously detrimental to the environment.”

“I don’t think this solves all of our problems, but it helps us reduce our emissions,” Mahr said.

Mahr said a collaborative group of students, power plant administrators and other campus administrators called the Energy Strategy Student Advocacy Group is collecting data for a boiler-lifetime assessment. He said the group hopes to see how long the boilers last to get an idea when new energy sources could be implemented.

As part of the sustainability commitment, the power plant also works with the forestry department on campus to develop and maintain a contract to make sure the wood chips MU receives from Foster Brothers are sustainably harvested, said MU Campus Facilities spokeswoman Seville.

Hank Stelzer, associate professor of forestry extension, said part of the contract involved an annual audit of Foster Brothers by a forester.

There currently is no other research in progress dealing with the new biomass boiler, but the university has talked with MFA Oil Biomass about “conducting a test burn of their miscanthus, blended with waste wood chips,” Coffin said. Miscanthus is a large perennial grass that has energy-generating potential.

The use of miscanthus in energy production isn’t a new concept. The University of Illinois at Champaign Urbana is using it on a smaller scale in a “miscanthus furnace.”

The discussion about work with MFA Oil Biomass is still in progress, Coffin said.

The biomass boiler cost $69 million, said John Haynes, director of Campus Facilities Administration, and some grant funding is pending.

**WIND TURBINE**

MU added a small wind turbine to its campus portfolio in 2012, just before the solar panels were installed on the roof of the power plant.

The turbine produces about one-fifth the amount of energy a large, industrial turbine can pump out, but Coffin said plant operators knew that when it was purchased.

“Central Missouri is not the best place for wind, and we knew that going in,” Coffin said. “But we knew it would produce a small amount of electrical energy and it would be a great resource for the campus.”
Coffin said it’s hard to gauge whether the turbine has met expectations because it was decommissioned for several weeks in the past year. The turbine was recommissioned last week after a circuit board failure in January rendered it useless for a few weeks. The turbine’s previous dormant period was last spring, when it was struck by lightning.

“It’s definitely a piece that’s drawing a lot of interest,” Coffin said about the turbine that’s a few blocks away from Memorial Stadium on Stadium Boulevard. “It’s pretty hard to hide a wind turbine. It’s been picked up by ESPN during football games and things like that because it’s highly visible.”

The turbine operates on its own, with technology similar to larger utility turbines, Coffin said. There’s a mini weather station on top of the turbine monitoring wind speed and direction. The computer decides whether the turbine should be placed in service or remain idle, based on the wind speed, and if it’s in service, the computer monitors the wind to face the blades in the direction where it will get the maximum amount of energy.

Total costs for installation and accompanying fees were about $346,000, and since installation the university has received about $95,000 back in federal grants.

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Plant ranks as city's biggest source of greenhouse gases

By Andrew Denney

Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 2:00 pm

The University of Missouri Power Plant, located at Fifth Street and Stewart Road, was the leading producer of greenhouse gases in 2012 among Columbia facilities that are required to file emissions reports to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, but emissions from the plant have dropped significantly since 2010.

According to the EPA's online database for greenhouse emissions from large facilities total emissions of carbon dioxide from the plant fell from almost 317,000 metric tons in 2010 to about 178,000 metric tons in 2012.

In that same timeframe, methane emissions from the plant fell from 867 metric tons to 431 metric tons and emissions of nitrous oxide fell from 1,831 metric tons to 923 metric tons.
For several years, the plant has used different fuel mixes — biomass, wood and scrap tires — to reduce the amount of coal burned.

The MU Power Plant is one of four large facilities in Columbia that file annual greenhouse gas emissions reports to the EPA.

In 2012, the city of Columbia's Municipal Power Plant and its sanitary landfill — where methane from refuse is converted into electricity — both produced more than 56,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide.

For the Municipal Power Plant, that year was a statistical anomaly — the plant was taken off-line for a portion of 2012 to allow consultants to conduct condition assessments on it.

The city's landfill was the top emitter of methane gas in 2012, producing more than 56,000 metric tons. Combined, the Municipal Power Plant and the MU Power Plant produced just more than 600 metric tons of methane that year.

Woelfel to head University of Missouri's new documentary journalism program

By Ashley Jost

Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 3:18 pm

Stacey Woelfel, journalism professor and news director at KOMU-TV, is stepping down from his post this fall and accepting a new position as director of the Jonathan Murray Documentary Journalism Center in the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

Woelfel, who has been news director at KOMU since 1990, will step down Sept. 1.

“I’m delighted that Stacey, who has already done so much for the School of Journalism with his superb leadership of KOMU-TV’s unique news operation, has agreed to take on this new challenge,” said Dean Mills, dean of the journalism school. “He’s a superb teacher and manager, and he has a deep commitment to documentary journalism.”
The documentary journalism center was established by a $6.7 million grant from Jonathan Murray, chairman of Bunim/Murray Productions and a 1977 MU journalism alumnus. The gift announcement was Feb. 12.

Murray, whose gift makes Woelfel’s new role possible, said in a news release that he is confident Woelfel is the “perfect person to pull together the necessary elements to make this an outstanding program.”

According to the release, the new documentary journalism program will offer bachelor of journalism and master of arts degrees and fund research “that advances the field of documentary journalism.”

The university will offer the bachelor’s degree program starting in fall 2015. The master’s degree program is still under discussion. Coursework will focus on the history, business models, advocacy and advanced production of documentary journalism, according to the release.

The journalism school will hire two other faculty members for the program, one full-time position funded through Mizzou Advantage and another rotating position filled by a visiting documentary filmmaker. The search for the full-time position is in progress and a final decision should be announced “soon,” the release said.

**KOMU's Stacey Woelfel will lead MU documentary journalism program**

Tuesday, February 25, 2014 | 7:18 p.m. CST; updated 7:55 p.m. CST, Tuesday, February 25, 2014
BY MARY LORENZO

COLUMBIA — **Longtime KOMU/NBC News Director Stacey Woelfel will be the first director of the Jonathan Murray Documentary Journalism Center.**

"I was interested in the documentary program, and once (School of Journalism Dean) Dean Mills asked me to run it, I couldn't pass that up," Woelfel said.
This month, the Missouri School of Journalism received a $6.7 million gift to create the degree program in documentary journalism, educating students in the history, business and production of film and other nonfiction multimedia. Murray is a writer, producer and pioneer of reality television and a graduate of the Journalism School.

The program is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2015. Woelfel, an associate professor who has led KOMU for almost 28 years, said that as soon as a new news director is hired, he will train that person while preparing to start the program.

KOMU is part of the hands-on teaching in the Journalism School. Woelfel said it will be hard to leave the broadcast students there because of his love of teaching them and watching their growth over time.

He is excited to start the documentary journalism program and witness similar growth, though.

"I think I'm most excited for getting to build the curriculum and working with my other colleagues at the school building it," Woelfel said. "When I came to KOMU, it had already been on the air for 33 years. It was a world-class teaching opportunity through this whole time, and that's a goal for the documentary program — being a world-class teaching program."

Experience in the field will be as fundamental to the documentary journalism program as it is with KOMU. Woelfel said he is eager to create a new set of hands-on opportunities for students.

Woelfel acknowledged there will be challenges in the program's inaugural semesters. The biggest obstacle will be condensing the curriculum into a two-year undergraduate program, he said. A lot of ideas are circulating, he said, so the faculty will have to decide what will be of greatest value to the students.
A search committee is looking for and interviewing candidates for two other positions in the program, Woelfel said.

Woelfel is past national chairman of the Radio Television Digital News Association. He serves on the national board of directors of the Carole Kneeland Project for Responsible Journalism, the board of governors of the Mid-America chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and the board of directors for the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri, according to the Journalism School website.

February 26, 2014

College Board Offers Proposals for Simplifying Student Financial Aid

By Beckie Supiano

**NO MU MENTION**

Prospective students from low-income backgrounds need information on financial aid at a younger age, and an easier way to get access to that money when they need it for college. That’s the perspective guiding a set of proposals for simplifying the financial-aid system that was released by the College Board on Wednesday.

The proposals appear in a new paper, “Back to Basics: Simplifying the Financial Aid Process to Increase Access & Success,” written for the second phase of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s Reimagining Aid Design and Delivery project. The College Board is part of the project’s consortium working on simplification and transparency.

In its paper, the College Board offers proposals in five areas: simplifying the aid-application process;
making federal-aid eligibility clearer; using older tax data; providing needed data to colleges and states; and providing early information to families.

The application process for federal financial aid has become somewhat easier lately, the paper points out, now that students and parents can use the IRS data-retrieval tool to populate the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or Fafsa. Still, it argues, the process could be simpler.

To make it so, the paper recommends basing federal aid only on financial data that can be gathered from the IRS. It suggests that students whose families aren’t required to file federal tax forms automatically qualify for a maximum Pell Grant. It suggests using "prior-prior year" tax data, and letting students who’ve experienced a change in circumstances (like the death of a parent) appeal their eligibility determination.

**Simpler Tests for Eligibility**

The College Board suggests that, for most students, eligibility for a Pell Grant should be determined from two data elements—adjusted gross income and family size. That simplified calculation would allow students to get a good idea of their Pell Grant eligibility long before applying for aid.

In more-complex situations, like when families have negative adjusted gross income or file certain tax schedules, the government could collect additional information, the paper says.

The paper does not deal directly with calculating eligibility for subsidized federal loans. That’s because the College Board wants to remain open to several future directions the program might take, said Kathleen Little, the organization’s senior adviser for student-aid policy and the report’s main author.

In a previous project, a group gathered by the College Board suggested replacing the current subsidized-loan system, in which a government subsidy covers the interest on the loans while students are enrolled, with a system that shifts the subsidy to borrowers in repayment. In that case, there would be no need to have a mechanism for determining eligibility.

Another idea would be to make subsidized loans available only to Pell Grant recipients, in which case no further process would be needed. And, finally, if subsidized loans were maintained in something like their current form, extra data collected for states and colleges could be used to award them.

The paper also reiterates a recommendation from the College Board’s Rethinking Pell Grants study group that the program should change so that only students under a certain income level would qualify for a grant. The size of the maximum award would be raised by the increase in the Consumer Price Index plus one percentage point each year.
Potential Problems

Streamlining the aid-application process and the way aid eligibility is determined could be a big improvement for students and families slogging through the Fafsa form, or turned off from college by the prospect of filling it out.

But efforts to simplify the process are often met with concerns that basing aid on fewer data points could be problematic for states and colleges that use the federal form to award their own aid. For that reason, the paper recommends sharing more data from families’ prior-prior year tax returns with them and providing a new needs-analysis formula that requires only that information.

The paper also suggests that information on academic preparation, the benefits of college, sticker and net prices of public colleges, Pell Grant eligibility, and other financial-aid data be sent to families annually once their children are of school age.

“It’s really important for low-income students to understand early in their preparation years what their eligibility for federal student aid might be,” Ms. Little said. That knowledge could encourage students to work hard in their classes and guide them in where to apply to college, she added.

The paper mentions a recommendation, offered in a paper from the Hamilton Project, that aid be calculated just once, at the outset of college, off the three most recent years’ tax data. “Our consortium really likes the idea of applying only once,” Ms. Little said.

But the new paper doesn’t repeat that recommendation because the authors weren’t sure the Internal Revenue Service was prepared to provide data from additional years. And a system where students apply for aid only once using one year of data could be too easy to game, they worried. But the paper does suggest the government conduct a pilot study to see what would happen if families applied for aid only once.

The idea is a good one, Ms. Little said, and “we don’t want it to be forgotten.”
February 26, 2014

AAUP Leaders Face Backlash Over Unionization Emphasis

By Peter Schmidt

NO MU MENTION

Two former presidents of the American Association of University Professors, Jane L. Buck and Cary Nelson, have put together a four-member slate of candidates bent on ousting the association’s current leadership, which they say is too focused on union organizing and neglectful of its historical mission.

Members of the group challenging the AAUP’s top officers in the association’s coming national elections call themselves the Unity Slate. They argue in a manifesto posted on their Facebook page that those now in charge of the organization have “sought to divide the association against itself by creating a false dichotomy” between its union and nonunion chapters, to the detriment of the latter.

Ms. Buck, who served as the AAUP’s president from 2000 to 2006 and is seeking election to that position once again, argues in her own candidate statement that the association is making a mistake by failing to vigorously represent members who do not belong to a unionized chapter or any chapter at all.

“It would be a tragic loss if we were to weaken our historic commitment to academic freedom, shared governance, and tenure—a commitment that distinguishes us from other organizations,” her statement says.

The four top AAUP officers that the new slate is challenging, who easily won office in 2012 as part of a slate called Organizing for Change and who are now seeking re-election under that banner, have issued statements accusing Ms. Buck and Mr. Nelson of “falsehood and distortion.” They argue that if there is division within the AAUP, its source is “the persistent and groundless fear-mongering about a phony collective-bargaining takeover spread by Buck, Nelson, and their shrinking group of supporters.”
In an interview on Tuesday, Rudy H. Fichtenbaum, who is running for re-election as the AAUP’s president, said the real choice before its members was whether the association would continue to build a national network of activist chapters or retreat into being a group focused on running a Washington office that weighs in on few controversies each year.

“Our emphasis has totally been on organizing people,” Mr. Fichtenbaum said.

Forward-Looking Fight

The election, which will be conducted via mail ballots to be sent out on Monday and counted in mid-April, represents just the latest skirmish over the direction of an organization struggling to rebuild its membership and maintain its financial health.

Mr. Nelson, who served as the AAUP’s president from 2006 to 2012, left that office as a result of a term limit, and is now running for the position of second vice president. Late in his presidency, he alienated many in the AAUP’s unionized wing, the Collective Bargaining Congress, by driving out a top executive widely praised for his field-organizing work.

In the group’s 2012 elections, Mr. Fichtenbaum, who had been treasurer of the AAUP’s Collective Bargaining Congress, and other members of his Organizing for Change slate defeated candidates backed by the association’s traditional leadership with a platform that held that the AAUP’s top priority must be organizing. It argued that “the single most effective way to protect academic freedom and shared governance is through collective bargaining.”

The AAUP’s collective-bargaining units now account for nearly three-fourths of its roughly 40,000 members, and its membership outside such units remains in a state of long-term decline.

Ms. Buck said in an interview on Tuesday that she supports the AAUP’s efforts to establish collective-bargaining units but believes its leadership is too focused on that area.

“I think they mean well, but I think they are misguided,” she said. “We have to organize in the non-collective-bargaining areas as well.”

Questioned Decisions

The AAUP had begun to reverse long-term declines in its membership and financial health under Mr. Nelson, and has continued to make progress on those fronts under Mr. Fichtenbaum. But relations between its elected officials and its national staff have been strained under both presidents, and it now has vacancies in several of that staff’s top positions, including chief financial officer and director of its department in charge of member organizing. About a fifth of its national-office staff departed last year,
leaving its department of academic freedom, tenure, and governance especially thinned.

The Unity Slate’s manifesto questions several decisions made by Mr. Fichtenbaum and other top AAUP officials as part of efforts to bolster organizing.

For example, the manifesto accuses the AAUP’s current leadership of diverting nearly all the association’s discretionary funds to its union-organizing arm. Mr. Nelson, in his own candidate statement, argues that the chairman of the AAUP’s Collective Bargaining Congress now functions, essentially, as the association’s de facto president.

The Organizing for Change slate, in a rebuttal statement, dismisses the accusation as “hogwash,” says the shift in funds was the result of needed financial reorganization, and reflects growth in the share of the membership that belongs to unions and increased revenues from raises in unions.

The Unity Slate manifesto also criticizes a decision by the AAUP’s executive committee to shift a share of funds allocated to the group’s Assembly of State Conferences to the Oregon conference, where major union-organizing efforts were under way. The Unity Slate argues that the executive committee circumvented the assembly in reallocating the money, and the assembly’s chairman, Clayton F. Rosati, resigned in protest of what happened.

The Organizing for Change slate argues that the executive committee was within its rights in shifting the funds and that Mr. Nelson was among the committee members who approved the decision.

The Unity Slate manifesto accuses the association’s leadership of hiring several “roundly unsuccessful” field organizers while leaving vacant crucial positions in the association’s national office. The Organizing for Change slate’s rebuttal says the AAUP’s leaders are working hard to fill needed national-office positions. It also defends the work of the criticized field organizers and says they are helping to build the AAUP’s membership in ways that will help cover the cost of increasing staff.

The four members of the Unity Slate are:

- Ms. Buck, a past president of the association who is seeking election to that position again. She is an at-large member of the AAUP’s national council and a retired professor of psychology at Delaware State University.
- Mr. Nelson, who is also a past president and is seeking election as second vice president. He is a member of the AAUP’s executive committee and a professor of English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Brian Turner, who is running for first vice president. He is a professor of political science at Randolph-Macon College and acting chairman of the AAUP’s Assembly of State Conferences.
- Saranna Thornton, who is running for secretary-treasurer. She is a professor of economics at Hampden-
Sydney College and chair of the AAUP’s committee on the economic status of the profession. The four members of the Organizing for Change slate, all running for re-election, are:

- Mr. Fichtenbaum, the incumbent president, who is a professor of economics at Wright State University.
- Henry F. (Hank) Reichman, the association’s first vice president, who is a professor emeritus of history at California State University-East Bay and chairman of the AAUP’s Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure.
- Susan Michalczyk, the incumbent second vice president, who is an adjunct faculty member at Boston College and chairwoman of the board of the AAUP Foundation.
- Michele Ganon, the incumbent secretary-treasurer, who is a professor of accounting at Western Connecticut State University.

February 25, 2014

Business and Academic Leaders Disagree on Quality of College Grads, Surveys Find

By Mark Keierleber

NO MU MENTION

Survey results released on Tuesday show a "significant" gap between the opinions of business and higher-education leaders on how prepared today’s college graduates are for the work force.

The survey, conducted by Gallup in partnership with the Lumina Foundation, indicates that just 11 percent of business leaders "strongly agree" that today’s graduates have the skills and competencies that their businesses need. In contrast, a recent Gallup survey found that 96 percent of college and university chief academic officers said they were "extremely or somewhat confident" in their institution’s ability to prepare students for work-force success.
This is the first time Gallup and Lumina have collected perceptions from business leaders, in their joint poll called "What America Needs to Know About Higher-Education Redesign."

The survey, which also polled adult Americans at large, found that the broader population also gave higher education a "dismal rating," with only 14 percent saying they "strongly agree" that graduates in the United States are well prepared for success in the workplace.

Digging deeper, Brandon Busteed, executive director of Gallup Education, a division of the polling company, said that 24 percent of lower-income Americans agreed college graduates have the skills necessary to get a good job, but only 7 percent of higher-income people agreed.

"That’s a real disconnect," said Mr. Busteed, who spoke at a news briefing here on Tuesday. But the difference, he added, is not that provosts "have their heads in the sand" and business leaders and Americans are "entirely correct in how they’re assessing it, either."

While Mr. Busteed said graduates’ readiness for jobs probably lies between those extremes, he said all parties involved need to increase their emphasis on internships and on-the-job training.

"This data point here," Mr. Busteed said in reference to the gap between business leaders, higher-education leaders, and the American public, "is something we should all be ashamed of."

**Weighing Value**

Findings from the survey also analyzed opinions about online degrees, what makes a degree valuable, and the overall importance of a higher education.

Though still in the minority, 39 percent of Americans polled said they believe online degrees are valuable, an uptick from 30 percent in 2011, when Gallup and Lumina began the joint project. In contrast, among business leaders polled, 47 percent said they would consider hiring someone with an online degree.

However, the poll revealed that, in hiring decisions, where a job applicant studied and his or her major were less important than the candidate’s knowledge and skills. For business leaders, 84 percent said the candidate’s knowledge of the field was "very important," and 79 percent said the same of applied skills, while 28 percent put the same emphasis on the candidate’s major and 9 percent on his or her degree.

While members of the public also rated knowledge and applied skills in the field as important, they valued major and institution higher than the business leaders. Forty-seven percent of respondents over all said the major is "very important," while 30 percent said the same of the institution where a graduate had received his or her degree.
The president and chief executive of the Lumina Foundation sided with business leaders on credentials. "What should matter most is what students know, and what they are able to do with their degree," said Jamie P. Merisotis. "I’m agnostic about where you went to school. I want to know whether or not you have those outcomes that are going to prepare you for work and for life."

MU Health Care to open walk-in clinics at Hy-Vee stores

By Ashley Jost

University of Missouri Health Care today announced plans to open walk-in medical clinics at the three Columbia Hy-Vee stores.

Construction on the three new "Mizzou Quick Care" clinics is set to start by mid-March, according to a news release.

"Mizzou Quick Care will provide convenient, affordable, walk-in medical care to anyone in the community age 1 year or older with a common illness such as an ear infection, strep throat or the flu," Mitch Wasden, chief executive and operating officer of MU Health Care, said in the release. He said these clinics will be a good option for people who don't need to go to the emergency room and can't get in to see a regular doctor.

The clinics will serve patients with upper respiratory symptoms such as sore throat or cough, urinary symptoms, skin rashes and minor injuries. Pre-employment, sports and day care physicals, pregnancy tests, flu shots and limited adult immunizations also will be offered.

Wasden said in the news release the clinics will be linked to MU Health Care providers through electronic health records.

The Department of Family and Community Medicine at MU will manage the clinics, said Michael LeFevre, vice chairman of the department. Susan Pereira, professor and family medicine physician with MU Health Care, will serve as medical director.

LeFevre said physicians within the department will work collaboratively with nurse practitioners and physician assistants, who will work the day-to-day operations of the clinics. MU Health Care is hiring a total of five people — nurse practitioners and physician assistants — to have one person staffing each clinic during operating hours. LeFevre said increased patient volume would likely spur additional staff.
Mary Jenkins, spokeswoman for MU Health Care, said clinic space will be leased from Hy-vee. She said the funding is coming from MU Health Care operational revenue. Each of the three locations is on a five-year lease. The Nifong Boulevard and Conley Road locations cost $3,450 per month, and the Broadway location will cost $4,000 per month.

Pricing structures for patients are still being determined.

"As in all of MU Health Care's facilities, if patients are uninsured, we work with them to meet their medical needs," Jenkins said.

The Conley and Nifong clinics will open by Aug. 1, and the clinic at the Broadway store will open at the beginning of October, according to the news release.

"We have an opportunity and responsibility to our customers to help them meet all their health and wellness goals," said Andy McCann, chief health officer for Hy-Vee, said in a statement. "Partnering with University of Missouri Health Care to offer quick and convenient clinical services in our Columbia stores for minor ailments is just one more way we accomplish that goal."

The clinics will be open every day. LeFevre said the current proposed hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends.

MU Health Care to open three clinics in Columbia Hy-Vee stores

Tuesday, February 25, 2014 | 5:43 p.m. CST; updated 10:52 p.m. CST, Tuesday, February 25, 2014
BY FRANCES WEBBER

COLUMBIA — Each of Columbia's three Hy-Vee locations will open a new walk-in clinic in the fall.

The clinics will serve as an alternative to emergency rooms or primary care physicians, treating people older than one year who have symptoms of common illnesses including upper respiratory symptoms, sore throats, coughs, urinary symptoms, rashes or minor injuries. They will also offer physicals, pregnancy tests, flu shots and some adult immunizations.
Nurse practitioners or physician assistants, who will be remotely supervised by physicians within the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the MU School of Medicine, will provide care.

Matt Rohe, assistant store director at the Hy-Vee on West Broadway, said he thought in-store clinics were fairly new for Hy-Vees in the Midwest. The decision to open clinics in the stores was made by the corporate office with local store directors' support.

"It seemed like a good fit," Rohe said, describing how Hy-Vee promotes health, which mirrors MU's goal of increasing community access to health care.

MU Health Care does not plan to have medical students practicing at these locations, at least at the start, Dr. Michael LeFevre, professor and vice chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine, said. The purpose of the clinics is to provide care as opposed to teaching, he said, though they could be used for teaching in the future.

"We’ll get the clinics up and running and see what the future holds," LeFevre said.

The concept of in-store clinics isn't a new one. Both CVS and Walgreens pharmacies have stores with walk-in clinics, though neither of the chains' Columbia locations have them.

One of the advantages of the new clinics is being part of the MU Health Care system, LeFevre said. If a patient comes to the clinic with a condition that can't be addressed by the staff there, the clinic can make arrangements for care someplace else within the MU system.

Care at the clinics is intended for all members of the Columbia community, not just existing MU patients, LeFevre said.

“Our goal is to be as accessible as possible,” he said.

Hours and pricing for the clinics have not been finalized. MU anticipates accepting the same insurers at the clinics that they currently accept in the MU Health Care system, Colin Planalp, spokesperson for MU Health Care, said.
Construction will begin mid-March and the clinics are scheduled to open by Aug. 1 at the 25 Conley Road and 405 E. Nifong locations. The clinic at the 3100 W. Broadway Hy-Vee is expected to open Oct. 1.

MU participates in nationwide recycling competition

Tuesday, February 25, 2014 | 12:00 p.m. CST; updated 8:21 p.m. CST, Tuesday, February 25, 2014
BY JONATHAN FENTON/MISSOURIAN

COLUMBIA — **MU is participating in the RecycleMania Tournament, an eight-week competition among 461 colleges and universities across North America that determines which school recycles the most.**

“Over this eight week period we can keep track of what our stats are compared to other schools,” MU Sustainability Office administrative assistant Alicia LaVaute said.

Schools are judged on the recycling rate. Schools report the weight of all recycled materials and the weight of all material disposed on campus.

The City of Columbia Public Works Department collects the recycled materials from campus and delivers them to the Material Recovery Facility.

Nearly 58 percent of all materials disposed on campus are being recycled, according to the statistics compiled by RecycleMania. This is a significant increase from last year when MU completed the competition with a recycling rate of 24 percent. The University of Missouri-Kansas City won last year’s competition with a recycling rate of 86 percent.

“In some ways we are kind of limited to what we can recycle because...the [City of Columbia] only accepts plastics number one and number two,” LaVaute said. “You can’t recycle a yogurt cup, which is a number five.”
Currently, MU is in 18th place and has collected 147,000 pounds of recycling. The competition ends March.