MU announces administrative moves

By Ashley Jost

Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 5:30 pm

University of Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced Thursday during a MU Faculty Council meeting that Hank Foley, UM System vice president for academic affairs, research and economic development, has been named MU’s senior vice chancellor for research and graduate studies.

Foley’s appointment is effective immediately, and he will continue in his role with the UM System, Loftin said.

Additionally, Leona Rubin, interim dean of the MU graduate school, has been named MU’s associate vice chancellor for graduate studies and the UM System’s associate vice president for academic affairs and graduate education.

In a news release, Loftin said MU faculty interviewed Foley during the search for his current role — a national search — and Foley “is doing a superb job coordinating the research functions at all four UM campuses.”

“His expertise and experience will help us build upon our strong research foundation to help us solidify our status in the Association of American Universities (AAU),” Loftin said in the statement.

The AAU is a prestigious organization that includes only 34 public universities. Part of MU’s strategic plan is to improve its AAU ranking from No. 32 of 34 to No. 28 by 2018. Universities are ranked on four metrics — federal research funding, National Academy of Science members, faculty awards for quality work and faculty citation in high-impact journals. MU’s ranking determines how much money the university gets from the UM System.

As for Rubin, Loftin said, “with her institutional knowledge and leadership experience, Leona is the perfect individual to help us move forward as we restructure our graduate school functions.”
Loftin said during the meeting he isn’t assuming having the two serve in roles at MU and at the UM System will save money. He said his priority is making sure Foley and Rubin work with colleges to meet their research and graduate studies needs.

Foley’s MU position will provide leadership for the campus’ research operation, overseeing the Division of Sponsored Programs, nine research centers, the MU Technology Management and Industry Relations Program and the Office of Animal Research.

“Research and economic development have been passions of mine throughout my academic career, and I am excited about the opportunities and potential at MU,” Foley said, adding that his positions “will provide a unique approach toward growing MU’s footprint in research and economic development, both crucial elements in maintaining the university’s elite status as a member of the AAU.”

Rubin’s position as associate vice chancellor for graduate studies will include managing and promoting MU’s graduate education. Her UM System role will include collaboration with Foley, as well as the campus deans, to determine structural or administrative changes to graduate education. The Graduate School is responsible for managing interdisciplinary and post-graduate education along with admission and financial aid.

Loftin names 2 vice chancellors to help revamp MU Graduate School

Thursday, March 13, 2014 | 11:47 p.m. CDT; updated 6:47 a.m. CDT, Friday, March 14, 2014

BY KEVIN MODELSKI, THOMAS DIXON

COLUMBIA — At the MU Faculty Council meeting Thursday, MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced two new administrative appointments. The new appointees, he said, would be instrumental in his plans for restructuring the graduate school.

Hank Foley, executive vice president of academic affairs, research and economic development for the University of Missouri System, has been named senior vice chancellor for research and graduate studies at MU. In addition to his new duties as vice chancellor, Foley will continue to serve as a vice president for the UM System.
Leona Rubin, the interim dean of the MU Graduate School, has been named associate vice chancellor for graduate studies at MU and associate vice president for academic affairs and graduate education for the UM System.

Both appointments are effective immediately.

MU had been searching for a vice chancellor of research since October of last year. Instead of appointing one, Loftin said he decided to change the position's responsibilities and administrative structure.

That, Loftin said, is part of his effort to integrate research and graduate studies. He said the model already exists at other universities.

"Graduate students in general make up the backbone of our research enterprise here at MU," he said. "Being able to put people together who have complimentary functions was very important to me. This struck me as a very good way to do it"

Loftin said he wants to "eliminate the graduate school as it is today" and put some of its functions into MU's colleges and an office of graduate studies. He said he wants to let faculty make curricular decisions and let an office of graduate studies handle other functions that are not directly academic, such as dissertation processing.

He can't outline precisely how it will happen, he said, but he expects Rubin and Foley to figure it out.

Loftin said one factor in the decision to choose Foley was his concern that an external candidate would need too much time to get acclimated to the university.

"(Foley) will be a game changer ... to get us to a point where we can really work hard on research," Loftin said.

Foley earned a master's degree in chemistry from Purdue University and a doctorate in physical and inorganic chemistry from Pennsylvania State University, where he also served as dean of the College of Information Sciences and Technology. He's worked for companies such as DuPont, Monsanto and the Engelhard Corporation.

Rubin was named interim vice provost for advanced studies and dean of the graduate school in June 2013. She has a bachelor's degree from Temple University, a master's
degree from Rutgers and a doctorate from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

She joined MU in 1989 as a professor, working in the Department of Biomedical Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine. She served on the MU Faculty Council from 2006 to 2011 and was elected chair of the council in 2009.

Loftin said Rubin's knowledge and leadership experience make her the perfect fit for restructuring MU's graduate school, according to a news release.

Rubin and Foley will work together in the UM System Office of Academic Affairs.

Their collaboration, Loftin said, would free up Foley to spend more time on campus.

"He's a passionate, driven individual," he said. "I expect him to do both jobs very well. I'm very confident that Hank can make it happen."

**Other notes from Faculty Council**

- Loftin said he's in the process of putting together a search committee for a new provost. He hopes one will be hired in the fall, he said.

- UM System President Tim Wolfe spoke about the progress of his Show Me Value Tour and also committed to provide funds to the Faculty Council's committee to address sexual assault in the wake of the Sasha Menu Courey investigation.

- The Faculty Council has set up a committee to help address the ongoing remediation process of the MU Libraries books affected by mold. The committee will meet with Director of Libraries Jim Cogswell to discuss how faculty can be involved in deciding which books will be saved. The latest estimate for remediation is $2 per book, said Dan Hooley, a professor of classical studies.
University of Missouri to demolish apartment complex where firefighter died

By Ashley Jost

Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 2:00 pm Comments (7)

The University of Missouri plans to demolish University Village, which includes the Student Parent Center day-care facility, shortly after closing the apartment complex June 30, MU officials said Wednesday.

Several residents of the 57-year-old complex at 601 S. Providence Road already have terminated their leases because of concerns about safety after a Feb. 22 walkway collapse at Building 707 that killed Columbia fire Lt. Bruce Britt. MU said yesterday that residents can terminate their leases without financial penalty between now and June 30.

Also in yesterday's statement, MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin noted that engineers inspected all the buildings at the complex and declared them safe for occupancy. However, that determination came after wooden support beams were put up on all the building walkways at the complex.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said engineers have told MU that "the wooden supports will hold for several months, well past the June 30 closing date."

"However, we will be watching all of the buildings as we have always done and doing any maintenance that needs to be completed during this time," Basi said.

The additional recommended work, including lateral bracing on Buildings 602, where the day-care center is located, 604 and 709 is in the works now and will be finished within the recommended six-week period, Basi said.

Meanwhile, MU is offering help for residents looking for alternative housing and to parents of children who attend the day-care center. Yesterday, MU administrators met with parents of the center to tell them of plans to close the complex.
Twenty-nine children attend the center, 16 of who are children of students. Since the Feb. 22 walkway collapse, Basi said one or two children have been removed by the center at their parents' request. Parents of children at the Student Parent Center have expressed concerns about the building's safety, and some started a petition to urge MU to move the facility to a different building.

Dorothy Atuhura is one of two University Village residents who have children at the day care. She said she has no car, so having on-site day care for her 3-year-old son is important. But she said she's glad the university is closing a place she calls "unsafe."

In his statement, Loftin said he has asked "several organizations on campus to begin discussing the feasibility of the future of child day care services on the Mizzou campus."

The university is not committing to build another day-care center until it hears from the representative groups — including the Missouri Students Association, Graduate Professional Council, Staff Advisory Council and Faculty Council — about the need. Basi said there is no timeline on those discussions.

Basi said the university subsidized the Student Parent Center with $130,000 last year from student fees and from the general operating budget. The annual subsidy increases each year. During the past two decades, the school has put more than $250,000 in student fees into the center as well as operating budget support, Basi said. Parents pay fees to send their children to the center, but those fees cover about 50 percent of the operating costs.

The MU Child Development Lab is another child-care option on campus. It offers care for infants through pre-K children, but the lab is at its 78-student capacity and has an expansive waiting list. Michelle Mathews, operations director, said she anticipates having a few openings coming up with more in June and August.

Mathews said she will encourage staff of the Student Parent Center to let parents know about her program and that they should fill out an application to get on the waitlist. "We're looking forward to seeing how we can be of help to these parents," she said.

Parent Nick Foster, whose daughter attends the Student Parent Center, said the news of the closing was a surprise.

"I texted my wife during the meeting and told her," Foster said. "We didn't anticipate this happening, but we're going to have to arrange other options."

Foster is executive director of the Voluntary Action Center and says he counts Bruce Britt's wife, Leigh, as a friend. "In the midst of all this, I'm still thinking about Bruce," he said.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Consistent child care on campus will help families flourish

Thursday, March 13, 2014 | 5:58 p.m. CDT
BY KAYLIE LAMME

Note: This letter was originally sent to MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

My name is Kaylie Lamme, and I currently work here on our campus. I graduated from the University of Missouri in 2011 with my bachelor of arts degree in sociology.

I had my daughter in 2010 while still in school. The only reason I was able to graduate was because of the Student Parent Center.

Due to the recent circumstances regarding the building structure of University Village, I feel saddened that the Student Parent Center will have to close with no secure plans of reopening.

As a user of this facility in the past, I understand, as should all Mizzou patrons, the extreme importance of this establishment. This child care provides students with the opportunity to have a convenient and affordable place to take their children so they may pursue their education.

I felt then as I still do now that this establishment was underfunded and under supported.

I read that you have asked organizations to discuss child-care services for our campus. I sincerely hope that you will support, as well as enforce, the need for child care for our students, faculty, and staff.

My hope is for some day to utilize the wonderfully talented child-care providers in Columbia, as well as early childhood education students on campus, to provide child care on a large scale for the university.
Children are our future. The only way they will flourish is if they see their parents flourish, and this can start with Mizzou.

Kaylie Lamme is administrative assistant with Student Academic Services, MU College of Engineering.

**MU to close and demolish University Village, Student Parent Center**

By Kevin Graeler

Eighteen days following the fatal building collapse at University Village, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced that the University Village apartments and the Student Parent Center will be closing by June 30, with a plan in place to have the entire complex demolished shortly thereafter.

The plan to close the day care was discussed with parents in a private meeting that lasted approximately 30 minutes Wednesday led by several university leaders including Heath Immel, Associate Director of the Missouri Student Unions, and Jeffrey Zeilenga, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said the current location required renovation that were too costly to keep the center there. There is no plan in place to move the center to a new location but he did not rule out the possibility. Factors such as space and costs contribute to the lack of an immediate backup plan other than what has been announced.

“That’s part of the future discussions,” he said. “Chancellor Loftin is going to be asking many different groups on campus to look into the issue and see if there is a solution.”

Basi said the groups MU plans to consult with include the Missouri Students Association, Graduate Professional Council, Faculty Council, Staff Advisory Council and Family Friendly Campus, among others.

“Going forward, I will ask representatives from student, faculty and staff groups to consider the feasibility of continuing to offer child care on campus for the children of students, faculty and staff,” Loftin said in a university news release.
The Student Parent Center has been in existence since 1974 after originally being funded by student fees to accommodate students who are parents. Since then, the university has used additional student fee funds to subsidize the operations of the center. Now, it seems, those funds will be headed in other directions.

Basi said these unused funds would now be put towards deferred maintenance projects that before could not be addressed along with other academic priorities.

MU plans to offer help to families who are now without care providers.

“We will provide assistance to any students who are looking for alternative housing, as well as provide resources to those parents searching for child care,” Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Cathy Scroggs said in the same news release.

Basi said the matter of what will happen to current day care employees is a “personnel decision.”

Basi did not link the timing of the meeting with day care parents to the recent upstart of a petition to move the center.

“We wanted to have this meeting tonight to let parents and also University Village residents know what the decision ended up being,” he said.

Basi said that further conversations about the future of the center would be had very soon and before the time of demolition.

“We have been moving as fast as we can,” he said. “Our first priority was for the residents who were immediately displaced and that took several days. So, it did take a little while before we started having these discussions. Now that we’ve been able to make a decision, we can make the next step.”

Naomi Clark, an MU graduate student and parent of children at the center, said she had been concerned a long time before the recent building collapse.

“For the last five years, we have been contacting individuals in administration, asking them about the long term plan,” she said. “We had heard that there was an expiration date on these buildings, and we were asking them, ‘What are the long term plans?’ and they would say, ‘We don’t know. We don’t have a plan.’”

Despite the fact that her family was already planning to move this summer due to her upcoming graduation, Clark said it is going to be hard to see the center go away.

“We have always been very happy with the direct care they received,” she said. “In 1974, MU did the right thing by starting the Student Parent Center. I hope MU will do the right thing again by restarting (it) at a safe, affordable, accessible location.”
Kimberly Bodner, in her fifth year as a student in MU’s Clinical Psychology doctoral program, had one son enrolled at the Center prior to the collapse. She said she was surprised by what was announced at the parent meeting.

“We just thought that they were going to voice our concerns,” she said. “We didn’t expect that they would announce that they would close and demolish University Village.”

Bodner said location of University Village was not suitable for a day care facility.

“I think it’s the right decision because there should not be a day care on this site,” she said. “This is a tough situation for everyone involved.”

As for the meeting itself, Bodner said parents were told that any relocation plan might take as long as one year to complete.

“The tone of the meeting was rather heated because some students were very concerned that there would be a future for the Student Parent Center and we wanted to make our concerns known,” she said. “We just hope that the university takes care of its students and their children.”

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Animal Health Specialties receives $230,000 investment

March 13, 2014  BY Sarah Redohl

Animal Health Specialties, a local biotech startup based in the MU Life Sciences Incubator, received a $230,000 investment from Columbia-based angel investor group Centennial Investors Wednesday, March 12.

“We are pretty excited about the investment,” said Centennial Investor member Greg Wolff. “Animal Health Specialties is working on what could be blockbuster drugs that will change everything for pet owners, farmers and others who need production animals.”

The “blockbuster drugs” Wolff mentions include one to treat cachexia, wasting of lean body mass often associated with cancer, in companion animals. The company is also developing a drug to help eliminate the need for antibiotics for production animals. According to the Food
and Drug Administration, around 80 percent of the 7 million pounds of antibiotics sold in the United States are consumed by livestock and poultry.

“Treating cachexia and helping to eliminate the need for antibiotics for these animals will change domesticated animal health as we know it,” Wolff said.

Kenneth Gruber, president and CEO of Tensive Controls, Inc.—of which Animal Health Specialties is a subsidiary—said it was the resources of the University of Missouri and Centennial Investors’ assistance that have made the company’s progress possible.

“Dr. Gruber’s work and the effort to commercialize it represent a wonderful alliance with the University of Missouri,” said Carolyn Henry, who works with Gruber at the University of Missouri Department of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. “I really do believe we will do great things together.”

According to a press release, “Centennial Investors reviews a wide range of deals each year, and members invest in a select few that they think will be great successes.”

“The substantial interest among Centennial Investors members was based on respect for Dr. Gruber’s credentials as a scientist as well as the opportunity for Animal Health Specialties to commercialize discoveries to improve animal health,” said Bruce Walker, chair of Centennial Investors.

Jake Halliday is the president and CEO of the Missouri Innovation Center, which runs the MU Life Sciences Incubator. In his role at the Incubator, he has assisted with the launch and growth of Animal Health Specialties.

“What I like most about Animal Health Specialties is the company’s platform technology that will generate a steady pipeline of animal health products and, from an investor standpoint, create more shots on goal.”

University professor warns of dry soil for crops

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Despite significant precipitation this past winter, some soil in the Midwest may still not have recovered from recent drought.
University of Missouri-Columbia soil science professor Randal Miles says that soil in Missouri is still dry about 4 to 5 feet below the surface. He says that's an improvement over last year, but it still could affect crops whose roots reach down that far for moisture.

Miles says much of the precipitation this past winter came in heavy doses instead of a long-term drizzly type of rain or snow that better replenishes the soil.

He says it could take another year of solid rain and snowfall for soil to get back to normal moisture levels.

Rockhurst's Helzberg School makes U.S. News & World Report's list of best business schools

Rockhurst University's Helzberg School of Management ranked in the top 20 on one of U.S. News & World Report's lists of the 2015 Best Business Schools.

The management school moved up one spot from last year in the best management MBA category. The Helzberg School of Management ranked No. 20 in the category, tying with Washington University in St. Louis and Ohio State University.

"It's an honor to move up in the rankings and to receive national recognition," said Cheryl McConnell, dean of the Helzberg School of Management. "However, we don't focus on achieving rankings. We focus on achieving our mission and maintaining quality, and when you do that, goodness follows."

Asked how the ranking will affect the school's future, McConnell said it assures employers that the alumni and students are obtaining a high-quality degree and highlights the school as an "outstanding graduate school that builds leaders and managers."

Other rankings

• The Helzberg School of Management did not rank in the overall best business graduate school rankings. However, it did rank No. 132 in the part-time MBA category as well as the management MBA category.
The Robert J. Trulaske Sr. College of Business at the University of Missouri ranked No. 58 in the overall best business graduate school rankings. It did not rank in any of the specialty categories.

The University of Kansas School of Business ranked No. 82 in the overall best business graduate school rankings. It also ranked No. 85 in the part-time MBA category.

The Bloch School of Management at the University of Missouri-Kansas City did not rank in the overall best business graduate school rankings. However, it did rank No. 125 in the part-time MBA category.

City council gives first read to agreements with downtown developers

Developers may pay for services.

By Andrew Denney

Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 2:00 pm Comments (9)

The Columbia City Council on Wednesday held first readings of development agreements to allow construction of three apartment buildings near the University of Missouri campus that will accommodate a combined total of about 1,300 beds.

The agreements will allow Austin, Texas-based American Campus Communities and St. Louis-based Collegiate Housing Partners and The Opus Group to proceed with their projects, provided they pay for improvements to the public infrastructure serving their developments.

The reading was conducted in just a few minutes and passed without much discussion from council members or city staff. Fourth Ward Councilman Ian Thomas and Fifth Ward Councilwoman Laura Nauser were not present for the first readings.

City Manager Mike Matthes told the council the agreements will be presented for public hearing at the council's regular meeting Monday night. The council is expected to vote on the measures
at a special meeting Wednesday, the second day of a two-day council retreat where paying for downtown infrastructure is expected to be the central topic of discussion.

Matthes said there also will be an opportunity for public comment on the agreements Wednesday. Monday's regular meeting and the two-day retreat are being held at City Hall.

American Campus Communities is proposing to build a complex with 718 beds, and Collegiate Housing Partners is proposing to build a complex with 350 beds just east of Providence Road and between Conley and Turner avenues. If the agreements are approved, American Campus Communities and Collegiate Housing Partners will contribute $300,000 and $150,000, respectively, to build connections into a trunk line sewer running along the Flat Branch watershed.

Deputy City Manager Tony St. Romaine said American Campus Communities might also be on the hook for an additional $300,000 to pay for a water main improvement serving its property, but he said that has not been determined.

Opus would spend $250,000 to improve water mains and $200,000 for sanitary sewer improvements. It is proposing to build housing for 256 beds on Locust Street between Seventh and Eighth streets.

According to the development agreements, Collegiate Housing Partners and Opus expect to have construction completed in time for the start of the fall 2015 semester, and American Campus Communities anticipates completion of its project in time for the fall 2016 semester.

St. Romaine said the passage of the development agreements should not be taken as a sign that other projects that have not been given the green light already will be able to move forward.

Despite the developers' contributions, he said, the city still needs to determine how it will fund large-scale fixes for downtown infrastructure, particularly for the trunk line sewer that will serve the three new apartment complexes. "We have a little bit of time, but not a whole lot of time, to figure out what the big fix is," St. Romaine said.

He said ongoing work to abate inflow and infiltration of stormwater and groundwater into the city's sanitary sewer system might be able to ease strain on the trunk line. That effort received a $15.5 million funding boost after voters passed a bond issue for sewer improvements in November.

Public Works Director John Glascock said the city will not be able to replace the trunk line in time for the start of the 2015 fall semester. Glascock said engineers will look for "Band-Aid fixes" to the trunk line — such as straightening out a 90-degree angle at one point in the line, for example — in hopes it can take increased flow from the new apartments.

"We still need $6.75 million," Glascock said, referring to the estimated cost of replacing the trunk line. He added that the amount was an estimate that does not take into account the road work that Public Works will have to complete farther upstream to excavate the old trunk line.
Wednesday’s meeting may have been the shortest in the history of the Columbia City Council (two minutes, by my watch, from noon to 12:02 p.m.).

It just might have been also one of the most important. The fate of the three ordinances introduced then seems likely to shape the course of downtown development.

As Samuel Hardiman reported in Thursday’s Missourian, three developers with plans for about 1,300 more beds for students have agreed to pony up nearly $1 million toward the cost of infrastructure upgrades necessary to serve those projects.

Good news, wouldn’t you say? Problem solved, right?

Not so fast.

Angry emails are circulating, motives are being questioned, council members are divided over issues of both process and substance. Monday night’s regular council meeting won’t be short, and another special meeting scheduled for noon Wednesday will probably spoil a lot of lunches.

You can get a sense of how citizen activists are reacting from this email that Tracy Greever-Rice, who sent it to her (and my) council representative, Ian Thomas, gave me permission to share:
“How can this possibly be legal? Two specially-called council meetings to rush three ENORMOUS developments through in a 7 (SEVEN) day period? Did you not hear folks say loudly and clearly that we have to address the issue of the utter inadequacy of C-2 before pushing through any more development?”

Like some other unhappy constituents, she charged that the council has been “blatantly lied to by staff repeatedly.”

I talked Thursday with Mayor Bob McDavid and a couple of his more skeptical council colleagues in hopes of gaining some clarity. I’m not sure I reached that goal, but here’s what I heard.

First, the mayor. For him, he said, the “fundamental question” is and has been, “Where do you want students to live?” His preference (and mine) is close to campus rather than driving distance away.

**Two of these projects are adjacent to the MU campus, and the third is just a couple of blocks away.** He didn’t need to note the reality that our downtown is bordered on three sides by campuses.

The cost-sharing, he pointed out, is intended only to increase sewer and water capacity enough to accommodate these apartments. It isn’t the total fix that’s still needed and still unfunded.

When I asked about his level of trust in the city staff, he replied, “I have a lot of confidence in Mike Matthes. He’s an all-star.” Then he admitted to disappointment that the infrastructure inadequacy came as a surprise to policymakers. He would have “expected more” in early warning from the professionals. He speculated that Matthes was surprised as well.

Third Ward Councilman Karl Skala qualifies as a skeptic. He’s dubious about the urgency of the process and the amount of the developers’ financial contribution. One reason the tax increment financing idea failed, he assessed, was the speed with which it emerged. He doesn’t want to be railroaded into a decision that would preclude a tightening up of downtown zoning.

Sixth Ward Rep. Barbara Hoppe was, as you’d expect from the council’s only lawyer, a little more cautious. The special meetings, she explained, were called to allow the
developers to meet April 1 deadlines for some contracts. She also pointed out that the report on revising the anything-goes C-2 zoning will be presented at Monday night’s meeting.

Still, she said, there’ll be no “automatic approval” of the three deals. She has “serious concerns” about the adequacy of the financial commitments by two of the developers.

What would you have our council members do?

John Clark, longtime unpaid and often unwelcome adviser to the council, urges rejection. The proposals put at risk the city’s full faith and credit, he argued in an email.

I’m usually less certain than he is, though I like to think I’m constructively skeptical. So I’d probably vote yes, with the caveats that the developers must also agree to abide by the height, parking and ground floor retail requirements proposed in the zoning report and that the staff must produce a plausible plan for infrastructure financing.

You’re welcome to disagree.

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.

House committee signs off on budget with contingency spending

By Rudi Keller

Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 2:00 pm

JEFFERSON CITY — The House Budget Committee found a little bit more money for colleges and universities Wednesday but once again rejected expanded coverage for the working poor under Medicaid as it finalized 13 spending bills.
The full House will debate the budget when lawmakers return from their midsession break, which begins today. They will see a budget with significant differences from the one proposed in January by Gov. Jay Nixon. Members approved most of the spending bills by a unanimous vote, but committee Democrats solidly opposed sending a Department of Social Services budget to the floor without Medicaid expansion.

That bill was approved on a 19-10 party line vote.

Committee Chairman Rick Stream, R-Kirkwood, was not able to give firm totals for the budget proposal, which arrived as a $27.7 billion plan from Nixon. The final total will be substantially below Nixon's figures without $1.9 billion for Medicaid expansion and after almost $40 million was cut from proposed increases to colleges and universities.

One of the biggest differences between the two budgets is over how much money is available. Stream used a figure nearly $300 million less than Nixon's in the general revenue fund and set up a reserve fund to detail how to use money in case Nixon's more optimistic projections are true.

Public schools might be the main beneficiaries of the reserve fund. Nixon proposed adding $278 million to the $3.08 billion foundation formula, the state basic aid program for public education. The budget going to the House allows $122 million more, with another $156 million from the reserve fund.

It won't be known until next year sometime — perhaps after lawmakers finish next year's session — whether the reserve fund will have any money. And the size of the education allotment from the fund means schools might not get the money until mid-June 2015 or later — when they have only days left in their fiscal year.

That means the money won't be available in the coming school year. Stream said he's not worried that the money won't be used. Districts could put it in their reserve fund, he said.

"I think the school districts will be happy to get the money whenever it does come in," he said.

The cut to higher education could have been more. Stream had proposed limiting the higher education increase to 2 percent. Reps. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, and Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, worked to boost that to 3 percent — an extra $9.2 million.

Rowden secured $7.2 million, but the money is from a fund that would only be available if state revenue exceeds legislative projections. Kelly won $2 million of the total from general revenue, a more secure funding source.

Rowden said adding the reserve fund money for higher education illustrates legislative priorities.

"It is important for us as the House Budget Committee to make a statement of our support for higher education," he said.
As it will go to the floor, the budget includes a $13.1 million increase for the University of Missouri System, to about $420.6 million. The increase is slightly above 3 percent because UM met all five performance goals last year, and both Nixon and lawmakers support providing money based on those measures.

Two other UM-related amendments were also approved. One gave the University of Missouri-St. Louis a $1.4 million boost for equity, a move that second-guesses how curators allocate funding among the four campuses. Another gave $500,000 to the University of Missouri-Kansas City for the Centers for Neighborhoods Initiative.

The committee also approved an amendment sponsored by Rep. Scott Fitzpatrick, R-Shell Knob, to bar colleges and universities from allowing undocumented foreign students to pay in-state rates for their education.

The Coordinating Board for Higher Education already bans the practice by rule, and Fitzpatrick has filed legislation to write the ban into state law.

When questioned, Fitzpatrick said he only wants fair treatment for people legally in the state. "If I wanted to keep them from going to school, I would have had that in the amendment," he said.

*This article was published in the Thursday, March 13, 2014 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Panel finalizes spending bills; Medicaid changes not part of budget."

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Posted in Politics on Thursday, March 13, 2014 2:00 pm.

Collaboration, Not Competition

March 14, 2014

By

Nancy L. Zimpher

NO MU MENTION
We've got plenty of data to support the value of a college degree, but the value of higher education systems -- in contrast to single institutions both private and public -- more often lies in the eye of the beholder. That is certainly the case in "Are Systems Bad for Flagships?" -- a recent essay in this space arguing that state-operated systems are harmful to “the health of public flagship universities and to the states and regions they serve."

Nothing could be further from the truth.

The authors of the column have asked the wrong question, and in doing so, presented readers with an outdated, myopic perspective of higher education today. Rather than pitting campuses against systems, we should be asking, and many of us in the field are asking, “What can public higher education do to better collectively serve our students and our states?”

After all, that’s what public colleges and universities were created to do. And we continue to uphold these basic virtues by increasing access to advanced learning, preparing students for successful careers, expanding research and innovation, engaging with communities to address critical societal needs, and, increasingly, driving economic development. Systems are especially valuable, as they are best suited to coordinate these efforts on behalf of a network of institutions, discouraging excess competition among campuses for resources, and preventing any unnecessary duplication of both effort and cost.

The insinuation that flagship campuses are more capable or entitled than their counterparts is simply not true. Ironically, the book cited in the last week's column, Higher Education Systems 3.0, explores how systems can be transformed to meet today’s needs, making a convincing case for the fact that systems are more important than ever in terms of using collective impact to address society’s greatest challenges at a scale.

Unfortunately, the essay’s authors have cherry-picked from the book’s contents in order to support an apparent bias for the otherwise flailing notion of flagships, leaving readers with a fraction of the full story.

For example, the column quotes this book excerpt from Jason Lane: “In many ways, systems have become very functional, but not very strategic. They have become bureaucracies, not leaders, conduits for communication, not agenda setters.” Lane’s argument, though, is cut short, and the column casts his statement and others as a
criticism of systems, rather than a call for modernization as it was intended.

The full story is this. Currently, there are 49 multicampus systems operating in 37 states, according to the National Association of System Heads. The institutions within these systems served approximately 30 percent of all postsecondary enrollments in the U.S., and nearly 75 percent of all students attending four-year public colleges and universities.

Major research universities, or what we can presume the column authors view as flagships, are part of these systems too, and they are critical contributors to our economies and our communities. That much is unquestionably true.

But they are not going it alone, nor do they possess the capacity to do so. The roles of community colleges, comprehensive four-year universities, and others are just as vital to educating and employing citizens as well as creating jobs, driving the economy, generating research, and supporting community growth. These institutions – all traditionally represented within systems – may not have the heft or prestige of a flagship, but that does not discount their value.

In fact, the strategic placement of diverse campuses alongside one another within a system represents higher education in its most effective form. Systems that are actively sharing resources, collaborating on degree programs, working with employers to tailor their offerings to work force needs, and strategically deploying assets across the system to bolster communities and economies are better-equipped to serve their shared stakeholders – students, faculty, staff, communities, and businesses – than any one institution alone.

Such systems have, in other words, successfully moved from a thousand points of light to concentrated engines of coordinated, coherent interventions to support and drive change. That is collective impact and, as SUNY and others nationally are proving, it is our sector’s only way forward.

A few pages from SUNY’s playbook exemplify this. We are expanding access, increasing completion, and ensuring success for all students by working with our partners in K-12 and within communities to strengthen the educational pipeline, from cradle to career.
Our faculty are working side-by-side with Fortune 500 companies and local businesses to expand cooperative education opportunities for students so that, come graduation, they are the most qualified candidates for jobs in their field.

We are building our research and innovation infrastructure with networks of excellence that bring together SUNY scientists – students and faculty alike – with industry experts and national labs, so that our best ideas have every advantage in the commercialization process.

And an unprecedented partnership with Governor Andrew Cuomo and state legislative leaders has led to the designation of SUNY campuses as 10-year tax-free zones for new businesses.

These achievements are all a result of a focus on collaboration – not competition – among New York’s public universities and our partners across the state.

Promulgating the concept that flagship campuses are owed some kind of privileged treatment is counterproductive to the progress our sector has made toward having a greater collective impact on our students and our states.

**BIO**

Nancy L. Zimpher is chancellor of the State University of New York system.

**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

McCarthy helps build a $37 million expansion at Jefferson City hospital

Capital Region Medical Center, an affiliate of the University of Missouri Healthcare System, selected a joint venture team of Ladue-based McCarthy Building Cos. Inc. and Jefferson City-based Sircal Contracting Inc. to build a $37 million medical center expansion.

Construction has started on the 120,000-square-foot project, located in Jefferson City. The expansion will include a new medical office building, new main entry and hospital connector, renovation to the existing outpatient entry and a new covered parking structure.

Completion is expected in about a year.
McCarthy has also partnered with Sircal on some previous projects in central Missouri. Capital Region Medical Center is a 114-bed facility.

College offers to pay students to take year off

By PAIGE SUTHERLAND

MEDFORD, Mass. (AP) — A new Tufts University program hopes to remove the financial barriers keeping cash-strapped students from taking a year off after high school to travel or volunteer, offering an opportunity to explore different communities before starting college.

This "gap year" program launching this fall will pay for housing, airfare and even visa fees, which can add up to $30,000 or more.

Students selected for Tufts' 4+1 program can defer their admission for a year while remaining tied to the university through video chat and email. Tufts will work with volunteer organizations to create packages that fit students' financial needs.

Holly Bull, president of the Center of Interim Programs, says students are able to see the world beyond the bubble they grew up in and get a better perspective of their future.

Harpo's to collect money in firefighter's boots in honor of Lt. Bruce Britt

Thursday, March 13, 2014 | 2:39 p.m. CDT; updated 4:05 p.m. CDT, Thursday, March 13, 2014

BY SIRRAH JOOF

COLUMBIA — Harpo's Bar & Grill will set firefighter's boots at its front and atrium bars Thursday evening.
Harpo's is encouraging customers to drop donations into the boots, an effort to honor Lt. Bruce Britt, the Columbia firefighter who died when a walkway collapsed at MU's University Village apartments.

The funds raised will be matched to support the Missouri Children's Burn Camp, according to a release from Harpo's.

The boots will be out from 3 p.m. until Harpo's 1 a.m. closing, manager Miranda Shaw said.

Harpo's is located at 29 S. Tenth St. in downtown Columbia.

Supervising editor is Allie Hinga.