COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU sets single-year fundraising record

By Zachary Van Epps
July 8, 2014 | 12:05 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU set a single-year fundraising record in 2013-14, raising $164.5 million, beating out the previous record of $160.5 million raised in the 2007-08 fiscal year.

The goal for the year was $150 million, according to a Tuesday news release from the MU News Bureau.

The $164.5 million includes "an eight-figure gift" that has not been announced. Tom Hiles, vice chancellor for advancement at MU, said he thinks it will be made public in September but would not say how much the donation is or how it will be used.

"All I can say that it is for an academic unit, not an athletic (unit)," Hiles said.

This is the third year in a row the university has received a gift in the eight-digit range. In 2013, the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation gave $30 million to the School of Journalism. In 2012, the Kansas City Sports Trust gave Intercollegiate Athletics $30 million as well.
Hiles said donors want to see that their money has mattered to the university, whether through funding new research or helping to construct university centers, such as a planned center for constitutional democracy.

"Donors who give these million-dollar gifts want to see an impact," Hiles said. "They want to see a return of investment."

Private fundraising continues to grow in importance to MU. "If you look across the board, it is increasingly a critical part of the strategic plan of all universities," Hiles said.

The focus of the One Mizzou comprehensive fundraising campaign, still in its planning stages, is to support MU's people, places and programs with private philanthropy, the release said. Hiles said the university anticipates the program will have a public kick-off sometime between the fall of 2015 and the spring of 2016.

Richard Miller, one of three co-chairs of the One Mizzou campaign, said in the release that with fewer funds coming from the state, the university must seek support elsewhere.

"With reduced state support, the university must rely more and more on private support," Miller said.

MU surpasses previous fundraising record

By ASHLEY JOST
Tuesday, July 8, 2014 at 10:49 am

The University of Missouri hit a new record in fundraising during fiscal year 2014.

Administrators announced this morning that the Office of Advancement brought in a record $164.5 million during the past year, surpassing the previous record of $160.5 million raised in 2008.
This year’s total surpasses the university’s goal of $150 million. The total also surpasses the fiscal year 2013 gifts and pledges total of $137 million by about 20 percent.

Tom Hiles, vice chancellor for advancement, deemed the year a success.

“Of course I feel good about our team and the traction we’re getting, but our donors are just so amazing and so supportive of this institution,” he said. “I feel blessed and fortunate to have alumni and friends who love this institution like they do. We’re just thrilled.”

The news about the fundraising total comes as Hiles and his team plan the One Mizzou campaign, which aims “to support MU’s people, programs and places” with private donations, according to the news release.

One Mizzou is set to kick off sometime in 2015, Hiles said. The momentum from fiscal year 2014 will be beneficial to that effort, Hiles said.

After the announcement, Hiles said he and the advancement staff will analyze the data and set a goal for fiscal year 2015, which started July 1, by the end of the month. Hiles described the goal-setting process as a “bottom-up” approach. Fundraisers will all discuss their prospective donors they plan to work with this year, and the advancement department uses those numbers as a baseline for fiscal year 2015 planning.

Of this year’s $164.5 million raised, $19.7 million of that came from annual giving, the term used to define all donations of less than $10,000. The university’s goal for annual giving in fiscal year 2014 was $17 million. The $19.7 million is a 12 percent increase from last year’s annual giving total. MU spends about 12 cents for every dollar it raises, Hiles said this spring.

The value of the university’s endowment funds also increased by more than 13 percent this year. This year’s endowment total is $783 million, though Hiles said that number is only through the end of March — June numbers haven’t come in yet.

“Private philanthropy and fundraising are vital to the educational and research missions of the university, helping us support student scholarships and attracting and retaining top-notch teachers and researchers,” Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said in a news release. “The MU advancement team has done a phenomenal job this year in surpassing our fundraising goals. We have set a great precedent for future fundraising as we prepare to move into our new campaign.”
University of Missouri hits new fundraising record

University of Missouri administrators announced Tuesday morning that they surpassed a previous fundraising record during fiscal 2014, raising $164.5 million in the past year. This exceeds the MU Office of Advancement's previous record of $160.5 million raised in 2008. It also exceeds fiscal 2013's gifts, at $137 million, by about 20 percent, the Columbia Daily Tribune reported.

The advancement staff will analyze the data from this year's fundraising and use it to set a goal for fiscal 2015, which started July 1.

You can read the full breakdown of fundraising gifts here.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Storms damage campus buildings, cars

By Lauren Rutherford, Michael Alvey
July 8, 2014 | 2:45 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Columbia homes and businesses weren't the only things affected by Monday night's summer storm. The storm’s high winds and heavy rains also affected MU buildings and vehicles.

The storm caused structural damage at the Virginia Avenue South Housing construction site where a new MU residence hall is being built.
Some exterior framing was blown over before it was fully constructed, said Kyle Nieman, a project engineer at KCI Construction Company and manager of the construction project.

The damage should only delay construction a couple of days, Nieman said.

No one was hurt in the incident.

According to the MU Department of Residential Life website, the complex, temporarily named Virginia Avenue South, will house 331 beds and is set to open in August 2015.

There was also some water damage to buildings across campus, including the General Services Building and a human resources office in Parking Structure 7, Karlan Seville, the campus facilities spokesperson said. The damage is believed to be minimal and should only cost about $5,000.

Although they weren't damaged, both the University Physicians-Fairview General Internal Medicine Clinic and the Missouri Digestive Health Center at 101 South Fairview Road suffered power outages that caused both clinics to be closed on Tuesday, according to an MU Health System news release. The power was restored later Tuesday and both buildings will be open on Wednesday.

In addition to buildings, MU campus vehicles were affected by the storm. In all, 42 different service vehicles were damaged, including 19 fleet vehicles, 21 construction service vehicles and two construction management vehicles. Seville attributed the damage to the high winds.

Several streets across campus were temporarily closed due to the storm. Fallen trees caused closures of sections of Ninth Street, Paquin Street, Research Park Drive, Carrie Francke Drive, Champions Drive and Providence Point. All were re-opened as of 4:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Several hundred trees were damaged, mostly near the MU Research Reactor, University Hall and the Old Alumni Center. An estimated 20 to 30 trees will have to be cut down, Seville said.
One in five colleges and universities surveyed by Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., does not provide sexual assault training for faculty and staff members, according to her office.

Nearly one in three — 31 percent — colleges and universities do not provide sexual assault training for students.

McCaskill sent surveys to roughly 450 colleges and universities. She is expected to release the full results here Wednesday morning.

The Missouri Democrat plans to introduce bipartisan legislation later this summer to address what she says is lacking procedures to report, investigate and prosecute campus sexual assaults. She said the legislation may address such issues as requiring training for people who deal with sexual assault on campus.

A public interest law professor at George Washington University says one solution may be to allow colleges and universities to form a consortium and hire trained investigators.

John Banzhof said Tuesday that universities in the same cities or those that are regionally connected could share an investigative service that would "promptly and impartially investigate all reports of sex crimes involving students, using full-time trained and seasoned professionals such as former special victims detectives, retired sex-crimes prosecutors... rather than university functionaries."
The University of Missouri is expanding an early alert system that tracks academic performance to all four of its campuses this fall.

The system, developed by the company Starfish Retention Solutions, is designed to improve retention and graduation rates by better connecting students, faculty and staff.

The expansion follows the success of a pilot program at the university's Columbia campus that gives advisors real-time grading information on students and tracks performance trends among classes and subjects.

According to the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Dean of Enrollment, Alan Byrd, the program will allow staff to more closely track cohorts of students.

“If they notice a large group of students isn’t doing well in a certain class or with a certain topic, then they can do something to address it as a group as opposed to just sending out individual alerts that students aren’t doing well,” Byrd said.

The online program is also designed to help faculty, staff and students more quickly address academic issues of individual students, said the UM System’s Chief Communications Officer John Fougere.

“We can identify if a student is having academic issues, issues adjusting to college life going forward,” he said.

“While these technological advances are a key part of this program, really the technological advances of the program will allow our advisors on our four campuses to have more time for the personal one-on-one time with students.”

According to Fougere, the four-campus rollout this fall is part of its Comprehensive Retention Initiative, which aims to boost retention and graduation rates system-wide. The $1.9 million initiative is funded by an annual per-credit-hour student fee.
The UM system’s student retention rate for first-year students is currently about 82 percent, he said. 59 percent of students graduate within six years of enrollment.

The University’s target is reaching an 83 percent retention rate for first year students and a 64 percent graduation rate within six years, said Fougere.

Missouri is one of many states that have implemented a performance-based funding model for its public universities and colleges.

MU budgets reallocated for strategic plan

The MU Strategic Operating Plan could be essential for MU to maintain its membership in the Association of American Universities.

By Covey Eonyak Son

July 8, 2014

Various departments across campus will work with reduced funding and mandated self-funded salary and benefit increases over the next four years.

Every area of campus, except the scholarship and campus safety budgets, received 2 percent less in general operating funds — money raised from tuition revenue and state funding — on July 1, when fiscal year 2015 rolled in.

These cuts are independent of the $3.8 million reallocation announced by Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin on July 3.

Departments will also be required to increase their own salaries and benefits with no additional general operating funds to match the increased expense.
For the Department of Student Life, which oversees nearly 1,500 student events and programs each year, these new policies will result in the loss of over $250,000 over four years, Director of Student Life Mark Lucas said.

Lucas said the department, which employs roughly 52 full-time staff and 43 graduate assistants, has never seen a multi-year budget cut of this magnitude during his tenure, and that the reduced funds could challenge the department’s ability to “enhance the student experience.”

“We will have a great deal less money to provide programs and services to students … and you can’t make up a quarter of a million dollars by reducing photocopies or having eight pizzas instead of ten pizzas at a student event,” Lucas said. “So it’s bigger things that we will have to eliminate … It’s my job to ensure that the impact is as minimal as possible, but you cannot lose that much money and not have some effect on what we have been providing for students.”

Lucas also said since 75 to 80 percent of the department’s GO and student fee budgets are tied up in areas such as staffing, the department would review both programming and staffing to determine where to make reductions.

However, Student Life’s reduced budget will not affect the student organizations within the department, such as the Missouri Students Association and the Department of Student Activities, whose budgets are mostly made up of student fees.

The department is a part of the Division of Student Affairs, which distributes its general operating funds to five of nine departments: Student Life, the Disability Center, Counseling Center, Missouri Student Unions and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, which includes the Office of Parent Relations.

According to the division’s Director of Fiscal Operations Alysha O’Neil, the general operation cuts for FY2015 will be evenly distributed between the five general operation-supported departments while the division plans for FY2016.

Other Student Affairs departments — Residential Life, the MU Student Recreation Complex, Campus Dining Services and the Mizzou Store — are not funded through the general operation budget and will not be impacted by the reduction.
O’Neil said the Division of Student Affairs will lose about $74,000 in general operation funds each year — nearly $300,000 over a four-year period — in addition to the self-funded salary and benefit increases that could potentially double the loss.

“The campus has not said we must give an X amount (in salary increases), but we are working to budget 2 to 3 percent salary increases throughout that time,” she said. “That would cost in the range of $75,000 to $100,000 a year, depending on what the flat benefit rate is.”

INSIDE THE PLAN

Vice Chancellor for Finance Rhonda Gibler said the across-campus general operation reductions, which add up to $8.7 million annually, are being reallocated from the departments to fund the MU Strategic Operating Plan.

The university’s main goal, as stated in the plan’s strategy statement, is to, by 2018, “enhance (MU’s) academic stature as measured by publicly made available metrics, including those of the Association of American Universities,” a group of 62 top research universities across the U.S. and Canada.

To accomplish this goal, the plan emphasizes several areas into which funds are invested, such as improving interdisciplinary and experiential learning, recruiting and retaining faculty and staff, and expanding research infrastructure and resources.

A total of over $300 million is projected to fund the project between fiscal years 2014 and 2018, with additional funds coming from state funds, private donations and the UM System.

BRINGING NEW FACULTY

Roughly $162 million of the plan’s five-year budget would be used to hire “additional high-impact faculty and staff to enhance MU’s academic stature.”

At the UM System Board of Curators’ June 20 meeting, Loftin said that while the plan came almost $1 million under the initial first year budget of $55 million in FY2014, MU was able to make key faculty hires, such as John Boyer from Delaware University.
Loftin said hiring Boyer, who is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, has helped increase the number of MU faculty that are in one of the national research academies to nine, and improve MU’s AAU metrics by 12.5 percent.

The plan’s goal is to hire six additional academy members to join MU’s faculty.

**CATCHING UP TO THE AAU**

In addition to hiring new faculty, the plan seeks to improve compensations for existing faculty and staff, which UM Vice President of Human Resources Betsy Rodriguez described in April as currently “non-competitive.”

In 2013, MU’s average faculty salary was $94,500. Compared to the other public AAU members that same year, MU ranked 29 out of 30.

Gibler said if the relatively low salaries are not addressed, MU could experience trouble retaining some of its top faculty.

“We could easily lose some of our best and brightest faculty to universities that are willing to pay a lot more than we do,” she said. “We don’t believe that salaries are the only thing that a faculty member considers … but we don’t want to put them in a bad spot where it’s almost foolish (to stay) because they would be paid a lot more if they were willing to go to one of the other AAU institutions.”

However, increases will not be made across the board, Gibler said, because such a drastic change would be costly.

“It would take a lot of money to bring the whole set of our faculty up to the average,” she said. “We’re not trying to do that, but we’re trying to ensure that the most productive of our faculty are paid reasonably in comparison to peer institutions.”

College of Arts and Science Dean Michael O’Brien said that in some cases, MU had been able to retain those faculty members who had been offered a better salary elsewhere with “counter offers.”

“Sometimes it’s GO money that allows us to do that, but it’s also private money as well that allows us to give a renowned professor a salary augmentation,” he said.
O’Brien also said the idea to reallocate 2 percent of GO funds from departments and colleges was his, and that the plan could be essential for MU’s membership in the AAU.

“(The AAU) is the most prestigious group of 62 universities on the continent,” he said. “And for us to remain (in) that, we need to ramp up a lot of the things we do. What I’m interested in is getting people to look above a department, a program or even a college, and talk about the common good for the campus.”

**POTENTIAL TO EARN BACK FUNDS**

Even academic areas are not exempt to the reallocations.

The College of Arts and Science, which maintains a much larger operating budget than Student Affairs, will see approximately $1.7 million of its $85 million budget reallocated annually over the four-year period, but O’Brien said the reallocation will not drastically change the college’s operations.

However, each affected department and college will have the opportunity to make requests to potentially earn back the reallocated funds, as long as the money is used to advance MU’s strategic plan’s objectives.

“We probably will get back the $1.7 million, but it’ll be for targeted hires, probably in areas different than what the reallocated funds came from,” he said.

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**Six courses approved for credit transfer among Missouri colleges**

*July 08, 2014  BY Sarah Walsh*

*NO MU MENTION*

College students in Missouri will have an easier time transferring credits between universities, thanks to the addition of six new courses to the Coordinating Board for
Higher Education’s transfer course library. The six newly approved courses are biology lecture for non-majors, biology laboratory for non-majors, French I/II and Spanish I/II. The addition of these six courses brings the library total up to 26, including courses in American government, economics and philosophy.

The Missouri Legislature directed the board to establish by July 1 a library of at least 25 lower-division courses that would transfer on a one-to-one equivalent credit basis among all public colleges and universities in Missouri. The transfer course library is also applicable to a handful of participating private institutions.

“The transfer library will make it easier for students to transfer credit they have earned from one college to another,” says Rusty Monhollon, assistant commissioner for academic affairs at the Missouri Department of Higher Education. “Making the transfer process more effective and efficient is one way we are working to increase degree completion in our state.”

Boston University’s Daily Free Press reported in March that nearly 42 percent of U.S. students who transfer from community colleges to four-year universities find themselves unable to take all of their credits with them; 18 percent carry less than 10 percent of their accumulated credits from community college to university. Credit loss can represent a significant impediment to these students’ ability to complete a degree program. Other university students may be faced with disappointment when they discover that their summer credits, often taken at community colleges, do not transfer one-to-one at their regular university.

The Coordinating Board of Higher Education plans to continue expanding the transfer course library in the future, according to a press release.
KC biotech company gets $3 million NIH grant to treat sepsis

Everybody knows what lung and breast cancer are. But fewer have heard of sepsis, said Steve O'Connor, CEO of Kansas City-based ImpeDx Diagnostics.

That's why he said it always surprises people when he tells them sepsis — a severe blood infection — kills more people annually than breast and lung cancer combined.

His company is developing a technology that will diagnose sepsis much more rapidly than anything else on the market. That's important, because when sepsis is diagnosed quickly it's very treatable. But after about 72 hours the majority of people with sepsis will die, O'Connor said.

"Sepsis is scary," O'Connor said. "You would rather have your kids have cancer than sepsis."

The National Institutes of Health has just granted the company $3 million to help develop the prototype it needs for clinical testing. O'Connor said they'll need to raise another $1 million to $2 million to fund the clinical testing.

O'Connor is a serial entrepreneur — this is his twelfth company and he said he's raised more than $120 million in his career — so he's not worried about getting together the remaining funds.

The product works by detecting pathogens in the body. Current market-leading technologies detect byproducts of bacteria, O'Connor said. ImpeDx's product uses a direct electrical measurement of the bacteria themselves. They don't need to wait for the byproduct, which makes them faster, O'Connor said.

"And not just that, but it's also more sensitive," O'Connor said. "We're orders of magnitude more sensitive. We're not twice as sensitive; we're like 10,000 times more sensitive."

ImpeDx has been around for about a year, but Shramik Sengupta, a researcher at the University of Missouri-Columbia, has been developing the technology for about eight years. Sengupta also serves as the company's chief technology officer.
O'Connor said he's glad to receive the NIH funding and is looking forward to moving the company forward.

Lenexa firm teams with MU football to prevent injuries

Staff, Kansas City Business Journal

A Lenexa company is teaming with the Missouri Tigers football team to use technology to try to prevent injuries, Fox Sports reports.

Dynamic Athletics Research Institute LLC is using motion-capture technology to study how MU football players move. The initial scans of healthy players can be used later to spot changes in form that are clues to injuries — or to show progress in changing form to avoid injury.

The University of Missouri is DARI's first big-time college client for the product.