COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU council formed to advise chancellor about budget allocation

Wednesday, November 12, 2014 | 7:34 p.m. CST
BY ISABELLE GUSTAFSON

COLUMBIA — A council made up of MU faculty, staff and students has been created to advise Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin on "all aspects of the campus budgeting process," according to a release Wednesday from his office.

The overall mission of the Budget Allocation Advisory Council is to support core missions of teaching, research, public service and economic development as well as financial decision-making under the MU Strategic Operating Plan, Loftin said in the release.

In June 2012, University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe launched a systemwide strategic planning process for the next five years, according to the website. Throughout the 2012-13 academic year, MU’s Strategy Workgroup drafted a document outlining MU’s plan. Since then, the plan has been revised several times. The most recent version of the plan, dated Oct. 15, 2013, is known as the MU Strategic Operating Plan, or MUSOP.

"MUSOP will continue to provide insight into our investment priorities, while the BAAC will delve deeper to provide me with specific recommendations at the operational level," Loftin said in the release.

He also said council members will need to spend time learning about the campus budget process before they will be able to advise him on allocation decisions.

Permanent, non-voting members of the new advisory council are: Ken Dean, interim provost; Rhonda Gibler, vice chancellor of finance; Todd Mackley, associate director of finance; Pat Okker, interim deputy provost; and Jim Spain, vice provost for undergraduate studies.
These members will "support the council to provide background, data and context for the group’s work as well as to learn from the council’s discussion in order to better carry out their ongoing work assignments," according to the release.

The rest of the council consists of 10 voting members and five non-voting members, all of whom will serve two-year terms. The five non-voting members will move to a voting role in their second year on the council, at which point a new member will assume the non-voting role.

Two of the 15 represent the chancellor's staff, three represent academic affairs, four represent faculty, four represent students and two represent staff.

Faculty and student representatives are nominated by the Faculty Council, the Missouri Students Association and the Graduate Professional Council. Staff are nominated by the Staff Advisory Council.

The initial 10 voting members are: Alysha O'Neil, director of business and vice chancellor for student affairs; Gary Ward, vice chancellor of operations; Kris Hagglund, dean of the School of Health Professions; Dan Clay, dean of the College of Education; Joan Gabel, dean of the Trulaske College of Business; Scott Brooks, associate professor of sociology; Wilma King, professor of black studies; Chris Hanner, undergraduate student; Jill Arnold, graduate student; and Chrissy Kinter, registrar's office coordinator.

The five non-voting members are: Bradley Curs, associate professor of education; Doug Wakefield, professor of medicine; Haden Gomez, undergraduate student; Alex Howe, graduate student; and Kate Shipova, core facilities research specialist.

Thinking big

Looking at sports tourism

By Henry J. Waters III

Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 11:30 am Comments (5)
Our Columbia-Boone County area has an extremely valuable asset ready for exploitation — the fairground, now called the Central Missouri Events Center.

What seemed like a pothole on the way to the future only weeks ago, when local voters rejected a sales tax for development and maintenance of the area, now might turn into a smooth road ahead if we follow advice in a city-sponsored consultant’s report.

The consultants recommend developing facilities for sports tourism funded with an increase in the Columbia hotel tax.

They imagine a “competitive infrastructure” with enlarged field facilities for baseball and soccer, a multisport indoor field house and an aquatic center. They see the fairground site as an ideal location for the field complex and the indoor field house as first steps with the more expensive aquatic center to come.

Money would come from an increase in the local hotel tax from 4 percent to 7 percent, which would require a public vote and increase current annual proceeds from $2.2 million to $4 million, with more to come as visitation increases.

Local leaders will have to digest this idea, but the initial sampling is tasty. The idea fits our local culture and capacity.

Unlike the ill-fated sales tax, this is an idea with bones and legs. It builds on an already burgeoning enterprise with a natural revenue flow. **The Show-Me State Games, the University of Missouri, the city of Columbia and other sporting event sponsors are pressed for space.** We know from experience large sports tournaments can bring hordes of visitors to town. How many times have many of us traveling by car run into motels filled to overflowing with families in town for tournaments lasting several days? With proper facilities at the fairground, additional hotels and restaurants might pop up in the neighborhood.

This tourism prospect spells the underwriting for increased hotel tax funding, but larger facilities are and will be needed as well for local athletic activities. The plan initially calls for adding four fields to Atkins Park adjacent to the fairground and building 12 artificial turf soccer fields for about $16.5 million. A new 80,000-square-foot field house would cost about $10 million and could be used for events other than sporting.

Could the county fair and potential horse shows, etc. be accommodated? Of course, says I.

And, then in the future, an aquatic center would run $20 million or more. It’s not Disneyland, but it’s plenty exciting.

The first step, of course, is for local leaders to collaborate. It would make sense for the city to own and operate the project with the county’s contribution involving provision of the land and perhaps some existing underwriting for transportation maintenance. The two entities would need a good agreement to smooth the forces of political skepticism.
Officials should plan together for an initial stage using the 3 percent hotel tax increase. Build the fieldhouse and the outdoor fields and go from there. I’ll bet the results will be so encouraging we will want to expand the project, but we won’t get out of the barn and down the road unless we look beyond the pothole.

Come on, city and county, show us your stuff. Everybody can be a winner here. Leaders, arise! We can do this.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Columbia's Substance Abuse Advisory Commission endorses proposed tobacco policies
Wednesday, November 12, 2014 | 10:45 p.m. CST; updated 6:38 a.m. CST, Thursday, November 13, 2014
BY ETHAN COLBERT, SHELBY ROWE

COLUMBIA — First Ward Councilwoman Ginny Chadwick's push to increase the purchase age of tobacco products from 18 to 21 and add electronic cigarettes to the city's smoke-free ban for restaurants and bars has gained support from the Substance Abuse Advisory Commission.

Chadwick proposed the changes to city ordinances in early September to discourage smoking among young people.

A handful of people attended Wednesday's meeting, and only two spoke passionately about the proposed changes.

Rob Leon, executive director at Missouri Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, spoke to the committee about why he and the 28 association convenience stores in Columbia he represents oppose the policy changes.

"You do not have the authority to change state and federal law," Leon said. He also noted that the commission voted against a proposed marijuana ordinance because it was against state and federal law and that it would be hypocritical to not do the same for the proposed tobacco laws.
Leon said tobacco product users will go outside the city to buy products and that the limited sales tax revenue the city generates from the sale of tobacco products will hurt the city's budget.

According to the National Association of Convenience Stores, tobacco products made up 40.7 percent of all in-store sales in 2012.

Traci Kennedy, who lives in Columbia and is a member of Tobacco Free Missouri, spoke in support of the proposed changes and the benefits they could have for Columbia. She said that because Columbia doesn't have the authority to raise the taxes on cigarettes, implementing a higher age restriction is the next best way to curb tobacco consumption.

She also noted that the current tobacco purchase age of 18 allows teens in high school to smoke, which is when most young people start.

Kennedy said that other Missouri cities, including Branson and two Kansas City suburbs, have recently enacted similar policies to those Chadwick has proposed.

Commission member Teresa Stephenson said she agreed with the intent of the proposals, but she didn't think it would be effective to raise the purchase age.

"It will send the message we don't want you to smoke, but I do not see the benefit or the effectiveness of making that change," Stephenson said.

The commission voted 6-1 to increase the purchase age of tobacco and electronic cigarette products to 21, with Stephenson opposed and Joseph Priesmeyer abstaining.

There was no public comment on the proposal to ban the use of electronic cigarettes indoors. The commission voted 6-1 in favor of the proposal with Stephenson opposed, and Priesmeyer abstained again.

Priesmeyer abstained from voting on both proposals because of what he said was a conflict of interest associated with his work. He's president of N.H. Scheppers Distributing Co., a beer distributor in mid-Missouri, according to the company's website.
Kim Dude, assistant director of the MU Wellness Resource Center and a member of the commission, said the impact of this policy change will not be seen immediately but overtime as healthcare costs decrease.

"People know smoking is bad for them, so education is not going to change their decision," Dude said. Enforcing existing policies and increasing age restrictions will help curb tobacco product consumption, she said.

Columbia City Council will take the recommendation of the Substance Abuse Advisory Commission and the Columbia/Boone County Board of Health into consideration before voting on Chadwick's proposals.
The Board of Health will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at 1005 W. Worley St. to vote on the proposals.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Talks on marijuana legalization in Missouri to be held Thursday

Wednesday, November 12, 2014 | 8:25 p.m. CST; updated 6:37 a.m. CST, Thursday, November 13, 2014
BY KAROL ILAGAN

COLUMBIA — A civil liberties expert and a former drug law enforcement officer will weigh in on marijuana legalization during two talks at MU on Thursday.

The events will take place a week after marijuana law reform advocates filed an initiative petition to the Missouri Secretary of State for the 2016 ballot. Both events are free and open to the public.

The first presentation will be by Neill Franklin, national executive director of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, and will be held at 4:30 p.m. in Room 2-07 of the MU Agriculture Building. Franklin is also a former law enforcement officer who oversaw drug task forces with the Maryland State Police.
The second presentation will be by Ira Glasser, board president of the Drug Policy Alliance and former executive director of the national American Civil Liberties Union. Glasser’s speech will be at 7 p.m. at MU’s Tate Hall.

Dan Viets, coordinator with the Missouri National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, said the event aims to increase awareness on what is happening across the county in terms of regulating and taxing marijuana like alcohol.

In the Nov. 4 elections, voters in Oregon, Alaska and the District of Columbia supported a ballot measure that legalizes adult use and cultivation and regulates and taxes retail sale of cannabis. Colorado and Washington are two other states where marijuana use and sale are legalized.

Viets said Glasser will talk about the Nov. 4 elections in context of the national movement to regulate marijuana like alcohol.

Viets also said Franklin will talk about the same topic but from the point of view of a former drug law enforcement officer.

Viets said he expects Franklin to talk about one of his closest friends who was killed in the similar line of work. He said this was part of the reason that led Franklin to support marijuana law reform.

“Prohibition is not worth it; it is not worth the sacrifice that we’re making,” Viets said.

A reception for Glasser and Franklin will also be held at Bleu Restaurant at 811 E. Walnut St. from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Admission to the event is $10 for students and $25 for others.

Thursday’s events are sponsored by the MU chapters of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws and the Students for Sensible Drug Policy.
Symposium explores post-traumatic stress disorder, military sexual trauma

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 11:00 am Comments (5)

The Department of Defense reported that about 3,000 U.S. troops were wounded in Afghanistan in 2012. That same year, an estimated 26,000 servicemen and women were sexually assaulted.

“The numbers are scary,” said Richard Harding, retired lieutenant general and former leader of the Judge Advocate General Corps of the U.S. Air Force. Harding was the keynote speaker Tuesday at a Veterans Clinic symposium on post-traumatic stress disorder and military sexual trauma at the University of Missouri School of Law.

Harding suggested that the U.S. military’s evolving role in dealing with military sexual trauma also might lead to better ways to advocate for victims of sexual assault on college campuses.

Only about 13 percent of military sexual trauma victims report the crimes, but the number of active-duty and retired service members coming forward with reports is increasing, Harding said. He said the numbers reflect government estimates of sexual assault on college campuses.

“How different are those victims from those that are on active duty today?” Harding asked, describing typical service members and college students as between 18 to 25 years old. Some joined the military, some went to a university, and many who entered the service will then go on to a university under the post-911 GI Bill that pays for a service member’s college education.

“If by law we give sexual assault council to airmen, soldiers, sailors and Marines, what should stop us from doing the same for university students?” Harding said. “They’re all America’s sons and daughters, pure and simple.”

He told the students that the number of military sexual trauma claims will continue to increase as more than 13 percent report those crimes.

“Why do we have those numbers?” he said. “It’s because 87 percent of the time, the perpetrator gets away with it.”

Tuesday’s symposium, the first for the law school’s Veterans Clinic, aimed to help law school students be more aware of issues related to post-traumatic stress disorder, military sexual trauma and other needs of active-duty military personnel and veterans.

Army Maj. Evan Seamone, prosecuting attorney with the Office of Chief Prosecutor of Military Commissions, cautioned students to be alert to “secondary traumatic stress” that might come from handling these cases.
“There are inevitable human consequences” from being exposed to someone else’s trauma, Seamone said. “We are also trauma workers. And there are significant risks that come from that.”

Seamone encouraged law students to think of themselves as “attorney as first responder” and to realize that post-traumatic stress disorder is “an unavoidable occupational hazard.”

Grant O’Neal, post-traumatic stress disorder clinical team leader and military sexual trauma coordinator at Truman Memorial Veterans’ Hospital, explained changes in the way that post-traumatic stress disorder is diagnosed.

“We know that PTSD is treatable,” he said. “It doesn’t have to be chronic.” Post-traumatic stress disorder that continues for more than a year is “virtually impossible to get better” without professional care, said O’Neal, a licensed psychologist.

Shawn Lee, a veteran and now law school student, introduced O’Neal. “I think without some sort of therapy, I would have done something self-destructive long ago,” Lee said.

He said that the field of veterans law is growing.

“The issues veterans face are the issues Americans face, as well,” Lee said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Mizzou Tigers for Tigers Club hosts Tiger Talk event
Wednesday, November 12, 2014 | 10:13 p.m. CST

BY MEGAN BEDFORD

COLUMBIA — By the year 2050, MU’s mascot could be an animal that no longer exists.

Hemanta Kafley, a doctoral candidate at Missouri who studies tigers, hopes that won’t be the case.

At a Tiger Talk on Wednesday night, Kafley discussed some of the threats wild tigers face and presented ways that students and members of the community could help the animals stave off extinction. The event, hosted by Mizzou Tigers for Tigers, a branch of the National Tigers for Tigers Coalition, was part of the lineup of MU’s Tiger Awareness Week.
Kafley came to MU from Nepal, where he spent years working at the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation. While in that job, Kafley came to realize how much danger tigers were in.

The numbers are dire. Tiger populations have declined 97 percent and have lost 93 percent of their habitat in the past 100 years due to habitat destruction, poaching and revenge killing, according to the Tigers for Tigers website. There are only an estimated 3,200 tigers left in the wild, making the animal a likely candidate for extinction.

At MU, Kafley soon found out that his adviser was the coordinator for Mizzou Tigers for Tigers, a group dedicated to raising money for and awareness of tigers. Kafley was intrigued and decided to get involved with the group himself.

"The amount of money is not a big thing, but what's important is the intent," Kafley said. "The undergrads have lots of things going on, but despite that, they are spending their time on this cause, and I can see how devoted they are, so that is something that really intrigued me about the organization here at Mizzou."

Even though he's at MU now, Kafley has spent parts of the past few years doing field work in Nepal. He completed one season of field work in both 2011 and 2013, making it back to Columbia in one piece.

"Fortunately I am still alive," Kafley said, joking. "I have not been eaten by a tiger."

According to the Mizzou Tigers for Tigers website, Mizzou was recognized as the nation's first tiger mascot conservation organization by the World Wildlife Fund after creating a club for the Tigers for Tigers coalition in 1999. The club is currently made up of 22 active members, who do things like volunteer at zoos and sanctuaries.

Every year the club donates money to a different conservation organization. In past years, they've donated to the World Wildlife Fund and the Save the Tiger Fund.

"We want to ensure that there will be wild tigers for as long as there are Mizzou tigers," said Rhiannon Koehler, the president of Mizzou Tigers for Tigers.

MU Tigers for Tigers is part of the National Tigers for Tigers Coalition, a group of 14 student clubs, some of them from colleges with tigers as mascots. Some of the member schools are...
Auburn University, Clemson University, the University of South Carolina and Colorado College. There are more than 50 schools with tiger mascots in the U.S.

The goal of the coalition is "to spread its conservation efforts through research, mass awareness campaigns, educational initiatives and policy reform," according to its website.

It's a goal that has a lot of meaning for Koehler.

"We are the Mizzou Tigers here, and so what would a Mizzou Tiger be if there were no more wild tigers? If our mascot went extinct, it would be pretty sad," she said.

Gut–brain link grabs neuroscientists

Idea that intestinal bacteria affect mental health gains ground.

Companies selling ‘probiotic’ foods have long claimed that cultivating the right gut bacteria can benefit mental well-being, but neuroscientists have generally been sceptical. Now there is hard evidence linking conditions such as autism and depression to the gut’s microbial residents, known as the microbiome. And neuroscientists are taking notice — not just of the clinical implications but also of what the link could mean for experimental design.

“The field is going to another level of sophistication,” says Sarkis Mazmanian, a microbiologist at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. “Hopefully this will shift this image that there’s too much commercial interest and data from too few labs.”

This year, the US National Institute of Mental Health spent more than US$1 million on a new research programme aimed at the microbiome–brain connection. And on 19 November, neuroscientists will present evidence for the link in a symposium at the annual Society for Neuroscience meeting in Washington DC called ‘Gut Microbes and the Brain: Paradigm Shift in Neuroscience’.

Although correlations have been noted between the composition of the gut microbiome and behavioural conditions, especially autism1, neuroscientists are only now starting to understand how gut bacteria may influence the brain. The immune system almost certainly plays a part, Mazmanian says, as does the vagus nerve, which connects the brain to the digestive tract. Bacterial waste products can also influence the brain — for example, at least two types of intestinal bacterium produce the neurotransmitter γ-aminobutyric acid (GABA).
The microbiome is likely to have its greatest impact on the brain early in life, says pharmacologist John Cryan at University College Cork in Ireland. In a study to be presented at the neuroscience meeting, his group found that mice born by caesarean section, which hosted different microbes from mice born vaginally, were significantly more anxious and had symptoms of depression. The animals’ inability to pick up their mothers’ vaginal microbes during birth — the first bacteria that they would normally encounter — may cause lifelong changes in mental health, he says.

Similarly, a 2013 study from Mazmanian’s lab found that a mouse model with some features of autism had much lower levels of a common gut bacterium called *Bacteroides fragilis* than did normal mice. The animals were also stressed, antisocial and had gastrointestinal symptoms often seen in autism. Feeding *B. fragilis* to the mice reversed the symptoms. The group also found that the mice with these symptoms had higher levels of a bacterial metabolite called 4-ethylphenylsulphate (4EPS) in their blood, and that injecting that chemical into normal mice caused the same behavioural problems.

The mechanism for these effects is still unclear. At the meeting, Mazmanian will present data showing that feeding 4EPS to mice causes behavioural problems only if the gut is leaky, presumably because that allows the chemical to seep into the body through the intestinal wall. That observation raises the possibility that some people with autism could be supported with therapies, such as probiotics, that target the gut instead of the brain, which is a much more complex and inaccessible organ.

Yet even those at the forefront of the research remain sceptical that the findings will translate into treatments for humans. The evidence that probiotics affect human behaviour “is minimal to say the least”, Mazmanian acknowledges. Still, he says, a growing number of researchers are starting to look at some mental illnesses through a microbial lens.

**There are implications for basic research too.** In another study to be presented at the meeting, veterinarian Catherine Hagan at the University of Missouri in Columbia compared the gut bacteria in laboratory mice of the same genetic strain that had been bought from different vendors. Their commensals differed widely, she found: mice from the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine, for instance, had fewer bacterial types in their guts than did mice from Harlan Laboratories, which is headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Such differences could present a major complication for researchers seeking to reproduce another lab’s behavioural experiments, Hagan says. When her team transplanted bacteria from female Harlan mice into female Jackson mice, the animals became less anxious and had lower levels of stress-related chemicals in their blood. Hagan notes that when a lab makes a mouse by *in vitro* fertilization, the animal will pick up microbes from its surrogate mother, which might differ greatly from those of its genetic mother. “If we’re going to kill animals for research, we want to make sure they’re modelling what we think they’re modelling,” she says.
Advocates hope flower farms will take root in Baltimore

A movement is underway to fill some of Baltimore's 14,000 vacant lots with flower farms, where residents could grow zinnias and toad lilies and hyacinths to sell to local florists or invite the public to come pick their own bouquets.

The city's spending panel agreed Wednesday to contribute $5,000 for a consultant's study of the potential for leasing empty lots to flower farmers as an outgrowth of the farm-to-table push.

Ellen Frost, who owns Local Color Flowers in Charles Village, said she's looking for nearby growers to fill her orders and help shrink the industry's environmental footprint by using blooms that have been treated with fewer chemicals and traveled fewer miles.

"Flowers are a good option for people who are interested in farming but want to try something different or have a niche that sets them apart from food growers," Frost said. "For us, it's exciting as a viable entrepreneurial option for farmers, and to eliminate blight."

Flowers can be a good use for vacant lots that may contain pollutants from a former life and may not be suitable for growing food, advocates say. And some flowering plants can draw pollution out of the soil, helping to cleanse it for later use, said Mary Hendrickson, an assistant professor of rural sociology at the University of Missouri.

"Flowers make more money per acre than vegetable production," Hendrickson added. "I see this as a great use of space in Baltimore." She said St. Louis, Detroit and Minneapolis are among cities where abandoned spaces are being turned into flower farms.

While some vacant land is targeted for redevelopment as housing or for commercial use, the city started a push for more community gardens in 2011, said Jenny Guillaume, coordinator of the city's Growing Green Initiative. The idea is to improve blighted neighborhoods, give families access to more healthful food options and help unemployed residents earn money, she said. About a dozen fruit and vegetable farms are operating in Baltimore.

Now, Guillaume said, the city wants to figure out whether market forces are strong enough to support flower farms, which could also produce petals for perfumes, cooking and essential oils. Another option could be to allow people to stop by and pick their own bunches, the way some orchards sell hand-picked apples.

"More and more people are interested in using more local products, and that has encouraged flower farming," Guillaume said.
Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said she's excited by the possibilities, based on reports from other cities. Chicago, she said, has a program "where they teach people how to cultivate flowers to create a fragrance. They created two or three perfumes that are very Chicago. I feel like Baltimore smells better than Chicago, and I would love for us to do that."

The Board of Estimates approved a $10,000 contract with Kristin Dawson, a former city policy analyst who runs a consulting firm that specializes in urban agriculture. Half of the money for the study will come from an Abell Foundation grant.

The consultant is charged with investigating local supply and demand, establishing a working group of local stakeholders, charting lot availability, researching how to process flowers into products and identifying industry best practices, according to information presented to the Board of Estimates.

Guillaume said the consultant is expected to report back to the city by early March.

The idea to explore flower farming came, in part, from an entry in a city contest to propose uses for vacant property. Walker Marsh, who works as a field manager for Baltimore's Real Food Farm, was a winner of the Growing Green Design Competition for his plan to create such a farm on a city-owned lot in the Broadway East neighborhood. Marsh, who won about $64,000 in the city contest, will lease the half-acre tract from the city.

He said he hopes the space at North Gay and North Washington streets will eventually feature benches for community gatherings, a rain garden, composting, a storage shed and flower beds blooming with marigolds and tulips and snapdragons.

"It is deeper than flowers for me," Marsh said of his passion for growing. "Once I was into it, I found I could calm myself. You have to have patience and be gentle, all the things that come with farming and gardening."

Marsh said he wants to sell bouquets at the site, provide arrangements for weddings and special occasions, wholesale his flowers to local florists and partner with farmers' market vendors.

Baltimore has at least one flower farm. Maya Kosok, coordinator for the Farm Alliance of Baltimore City, started Hillen Homestead near Clifton Park in Northeast Baltimore about 21/2 years ago. The city's decision to explore flower farms on a larger scale only makes sense, she said.

"Sustainable agriculture and urban agriculture have been gaining momentum in the last decade or two, and I have certainly been inspired by a lot of great examples in Baltimore and elsewhere," Kosok said.

Kosok said she will make about $10,000 this year on her flower farm. Most of the sales are to Frost's Local Color Flowers, she said.
Frost, who buys all her flowers within a 100-mile radius of Baltimore, opened her flower shop in 2008. This year, she's made arrangements for 85 weddings and dozens of special events, she said.

She recently started convening a small group of potential flower farmers to talk about techniques, share stories and network.

"We started to understand for us to have a sustainable business model, we needed to have more flower farms in our pool and more closer to home," she said.

Kosok said what she doesn't sell, she gives away, dropping off bouquets to neighbors and handing them out to people walking by.

"For me, urban agriculture is partly about growing things and producing things," she said. "But it's partly about building community and using vacant spaces and empowering people to feel invested in their neighborhood."

College Board: College prices continue to go up

KIMBERLY HEFLING AP Education Writer

Jesse Hall and the columns on the campus of the University of Missouri-Columbia, pictured on July 28, 2010.

Photo by Erik M. Lunsford, elunsford@post-dispatch.com

NO MU MENTION

WASHINGTON • Time to stock up on the ramen noodles. The average cost of attending college crept up again this year, the College Board said Thursday.
The average sticker price, with room and board included, for undergraduate students attending a four-year college or university in their home state was $18,943. Out-of-state students at those schools paid, on average, $32,762. At two-year public schools, in-state students paid an average $11,052.

The cost to attend a private, four-year nonprofit college: $42,419, on average, including housing and meal plan.

For-profit schools cost about $15,230, but housing figures weren't available.

Books and transportation costs can add more than $2,000 to the cost of attending college, and that rises even more for commuters.

The highest rate of increase of 3.7 percent was among private, nonprofit colleges. And even though the increases across higher education outpaced inflation, the rates of increase were lower than those students saw five, 10 or 30 years ago, the College Board said.

When adjusted for inflation, students are paying more than triple what students paid 30 years ago to attend a public, four-year institution and about 2.5 times more to attend a private nonprofit or two-year public one.

"The price increases are actually quite moderate this year but still what people are paying, and this is before financial aid, is the accumulation of many years of price increases," said Sandy Baum, a co-author of the nonprofit College Board's annual college pricing report. "So, if the price goes up just a little bit this year, people aren't really going to breathe a sigh of relief because the price is already high from their perspective."

Baum said during tough economic times, college costs tend to go up because public institutions receive less in state dollars and private ones see a decrease in endowments and in giving. Other contributing factors are wide ranging from the increasing costs of technology to health insurance for university employees.

Only the wealthiest of Americans are seeing their incomes rise, so most students feel the tuition upticks more, Baum said.

The number of fulltime undergraduate students increased by 16 percent in the three years leading up to fall 2010 to 13.7 million, but then declined to 13 million in fall 2013. The number of students taking out student loans and the amount taken out, on average, by students has been declining, the College Board said. It said about 60 percent of students who earned a bachelor's degree in 2012-2013 from public or private, nonprofit schools from which they began their studies graduated with debt, borrowing an average of $27,300.

Here's the breakdown in pricing:

— Sticker prices, on average, for in-state tuition and fees at public four-year schools increased to $9,139 this school year — a 2.9 percent increase over the 2013-2014 school year. The average out-of-state price tag was $22,958, an increase of 3.3 percent increase. Room and board was $9,804.
—Public two-year schools had a $3,347 published price on average for tuition and fees— an increase of 3.3 percent. Room and board was $7,705.

—Tuition and fees at private, nonprofit schools rose 3.7 percent to an average of $31,231. Room and board was $11,188.

—For-profit schools saw an increase of $190 — a 1.3 percent increase.

The published prices don't necessarily reflect what students actually pay because they don't include grant dollars provided by institutions or government aid such as Pell Grants, the GI Bill and tax credits. This school year, full-time students received an average of about $6,110 in aid at public four-year schools, $5,090 at public two-year ones, and $18,870 at private colleges.

The average in-state prices at four-year schools ranged from $4,646 in Wyoming to $14,712 in New Hampshire.

For out-of-state students, the most affordable tuition of $9,910 was in South Dakota. On the other end, the most expensive was $34,331 in Vermont.

Average Debt at Graduation Rises Again

NO MU MENTION

*To see how MU’s tuition and room and board costs compare to other colleges and universities, visit: http://chronicle.com/article/TuitionFees-1998-99/142511/

Report: “Student Debt and the Class of 2013”

Authors: Matthew Reed, program director, and Debbie Cochrane, research director, of the Institute for College Access and Success.

Organization: Project on Student Debt

Findings:
Average debt at graduation rose to $28,400 in 2013 for the 69 percent of bachelor’s-degree recipients at public and private nonprofit four-year colleges who borrowed.

That’s a 2-percent increase for this group of graduates, compared with their counterparts in the Class of 2012.

The report includes only graduates of public and private nonprofit colleges, many of which voluntarily report debt levels. Last year’s report also included graduates of for-profit colleges because it was based on government data that come out only every four years or so. As a result, the overall debt figures in the two reports can’t be compared.

**Bottom Line:** Average debt at graduation continues to rise. But the infrequency of federal data on debt levels makes the picture incomplete.

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**Tuition and Borrowing Growth Slows**

November 13, 2014

By Kaitlin Mulhere

**NO MENTION**

College prices are still climbing, but they’re doing so at a slower pace than they were for the past several years, and the amount of money borrowed for higher education last year fell for the third straight year, according to two reports released today by College Board.

The data in the annual [Trends in College Prices](#) and [Trends in Student Aid](#) reports don’t mean it’s time to stop worrying about the high price of attending college, but they do show some positive signs, the report’s authors say.

"This Week": Tuition and Aid

Sandy Baum, an author of the College Board report, will on Friday discuss its findings on "This Week," Inside Higher Ed's free weekly news podcast. [Sign up here](#) to be
Average published tuition and fees for full-time in-state students at public four-year colleges increased 2.9 percent from 2013-14 to 2014-15. The average published tuition at two-year colleges increased 3.3 percent, while tuition at private nonprofit colleges increased 3.7 percent.

The inflation-adjusted increase in prices was smaller between 2004-05 and 2014-15 than over the previous decade.

But while the rate of price increases is slowing, the accumulation is still formidable, as Sandy Baum, one of the report’s authors, points out. For public four-year colleges, the published tuition and fee prices are 3.25 times higher than they were 30 years ago. At public two year-year and private four-year colleges, the prices are 2.5 times higher.

“We’ve been living with these price increases for a long time, and people have been living with this cumulative effect,” said Baum, a professor of higher education at the Graduate School of Education & Human Development at George Washington University.

Published price increases vary by degree type. At public universities, tuition for students earning a bachelor’s degree has increased 10 percent beyond inflation in the past five years, compared with 16 percent for master’s programs and 17 percent for doctoral programs in the same period.

The trend for the past five years was different at private nonprofit colleges, where bachelor’s-degree tuition increased the most – 13 percent beyond inflation – and master’s and doctoral programs increased 7 percent and 9 percent, respectively.

As for tuition increases at public institutions, declining state revenues per student are a major factor, according to the report.

Room and board costs are also steadily rising across all sectors. They grew at roughly the same pace as tuition this year, with a 3.2 percent increase at four-year public colleges and a 3.4 percent increase at private four-year colleges.

**What Students Pay**
Although published tuition prices get a lot of attention, more important to understanding how much college costs is the net tuition price, or what a student actually pays after grants, loans and tax deductions are factored in.

The difference between published tuition ands and the average net price has grown over the past several years because the federal government boosted aid to students between 2008-9 and 2010-11. Net prices for students shot down while tuition prices were rapidly increasing.

In 2014-15, the average published in-state tuition and fees at public four-year colleges is $9,139, about triple the net price of $3,030. (The net price is an estimate, since the report's authors have data for the 2014-15 tuition prices but the latest financial aid statistics are from 2013-14.)

Increases in the average grant aid have kept the net prices at private institutions and two-year colleges from rising. That’s not the case at public four-year institutions, though, where the average net tuition and fee price rose about $1,000 in the past five years.

**Student Borrowing and Grant Aid**

Total education borrowing dropped by 8 percent in the past year, and per-student borrowing fell by 6 percent. Both reductions are larger than the slight decreases seen in the previous two years.

The fall in total borrowing is partially explained by a dip in enrollment. Record numbers of students went to college during the recession, but enrollment levels dropped by 4 percent between 2010-11 and 2013-14.

Undergraduates received an average of $14,180 in financial aid per full-time equivalent student last year, including $8,080 in grants, $4,840 in federal loans and $1,195 in education tax credits.

Graduate students, on the other hand, received just 4 percent of all federal grant aid and borrowed 34 percent of all federal loans. They received an average $26,200 in aid per full-time equivalent student, including $16,080 in loans and $8,450 in grants.
In the past several years, the percentage of loans making up student aid packages has slowly declined as the percentage of grants has grown.

Federal grant aid rose from 30 percent of all grants in 2007-8 to 45 percent in 2010-11 before falling to 40 percent of the total in 2013-14. The shifts are explained by Pell Grants, which peaked at $38.2 billion in 2010-11. Last year, the total spent was $33.7 billion.

While the total amount of Pell Grant spending has increased, the maximum award covered just 63 percent of average tuition at public four-year colleges in 2014-15, compared to 79 percent in 2004-5.

Justin Draeger, president of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, said this year’s reports are good news over all. They’re also a good reminder of why permanent changes, such as cuts to Pell Grants, shouldn’t be made in response to acute budgetary problems.

“What we’ve done this last recession, which is sort of budgetary triage on the backs of students, isn’t good long-term policy, because we will reach a normal after a recession,” he said.

The recent annual declines in borrowing haven’t yet been reflected in the debt levels of college graduates, who still leave school with significantly more debt than did their peers from a decade ago, according to the report.

About 60 percent of students who earned bachelor’s degrees in 2012-13 from public and private nonprofit colleges graduated with debt. The average amount per borrower was $27,300, an increase of 13 percent over the past five years.

The percentage of bachelor’s-degree recipients leaving college with $40,000 or more of student debt is also growing. Only 2 percent of borrowers fell in that category in 2003-4, compared with 18 percent in 2011-12.

And, as Draeger points out, even though the percentage of borrowers using income-based repayment plans has increased, that still hasn’t been enough to translate into a decrease in the number of borrowers in default.
**College Prices Vary by Geography**

National averages conceal much of the variability in college prices based on where a student lives. For students at public four-year institutions, prices range from a low of $4,646 in Wyoming and $6,138 in Alaska to $14,419 in Vermont and $14,712 in New Hampshire.

Baum said there’s not a perfect correlation between state allocations to higher education and tuition prices, but Alaska and Wyoming had the highest state appropriations per full-time student in the country in 2013-14. Likewise, four of the five states with the largest increases for tuition in the past five years were among the 13 states that cut higher education funding by 18 percent or more during that time.

The geographic gap is similarly large at public two-year institutions, where tuition ranges from $1,429 in California and $1,645 in New Mexico to a high of $6,500 in New Hampshire and $7,320 in Vermont.

Acknowledging that range in prices helps give context to tuition increases in different states, Baum said. California, for example, has seen significant percentage increases (almost 60 percent) in tuition at its public two-year colleges. New Hampshire’s two-year tuition has barely budged over the past five years. But California’s price -- the lowest in the country -- is still nearly $2,000 below the national average of $3,347.

Over all, the portion of state resources going to support higher education has declined steadily in recent decades. It has dropped from an average of $9.74 per $1,000 in personal income in 1989-90 to $5.45 per $1,000 in personal income in 2013-14.