MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

Dec. 1, 2014
MU leaders direct colleges to scrutinize individual accounts

By Ashley Jost

Wednesday, November 26, 2014 at 9:30 am Comments (2)

Administrators are implementing a review process this semester that emphasizes, and ideally strengthens, financial accountability within the University of Missouri’s colleges.

Rhonda Gibler, MU chief financial officer, said the system requires leaders of colleges or other campus divisions to sign off on their financial reports, then meet with Gibler and the provost to discuss their situation and create a three-year plan to overcome any deficits the college might have in a line-item account.

The process emphasizes scrutiny of spending within a college’s individual accounts, even though each college or division as a whole isn’t running at a deficit. These accounts range from line items for large purchases administrators are working to pay off to the salary cost for adjunct faculty deans have to hire just before the semester starts, when enrollment numbers solidify.

The College of Arts and Sciences holds a $7.9 million paper deficit for the account Dean Michael O’Brien created to show how much additional money he has spent for part-time faculty.

Almost half of all the classes taught in Arts and Sciences are taken by freshmen, Gibler said. It’s the college that houses many mandatory, general education classes in a slew of academic departments.

Gibler and O’Brien are creating a plan for the next three years, but Gibler said increasing enrollment remains a roadblock. Someone has to teach those students, she said.

“I love that we’re growing, but there are growing pains,” she said.

The deans, vice provosts and vice chancellors already have started meeting with Gibler and interim Provost Ken Dean. Each group can have hundreds of accounts they oversee, and all the accounts are scrutinized.

“At the campus level, we have money,” she said. “We don’t have enough money, but we have money.”

In fiscal 2015, MU will bring in an estimated $606 million in operating revenue and spend almost $584 million on operations, according to documents from the June meeting of the Board of Curators.

The College of Engineering, another school that has grown significantly, is carrying a $4 million paper deficit for additional educational support.
“These are really constructive conversations,” O’Brien said. “In the past, we’ve always had budget discussions, but now we’ve got definitive plans to address the issues.”

O’Brien said he is in favor of holding administrators, such as himself, accountable.

“Some might say the university should wipe the slate clean every year and not carry the red numbers in our budgets, but that’s counterproductive to making people better managers,” Gibler said. “If you can run a deficit and know I’m going to wipe it off for you, you don’t have any incentive not to run a deficit again next year. Just fixing it takes that manager off the hook.”

Gibler and O’Brien are creating a plan for how to allocate money the next few years to overcome those paper deficits, but Gibler said increasing enrollment remains a roadblock. Someone has to teach those students, she said.

Among the campus’s largest paper deficits is $8.6 million in athletics. That number is what is leftover from the $12.4 million exit fee incurred from leaving the Big 12 Conference for the Southeastern Conference.

Athletics administrators are paying off the debt — which the university paid, an issue Gibler said administrators thought was fair because it was University of Missouri System and MU administrators who ultimately chose to switch to the SEC — with interest. The department is scheduled to have the debt paid off by 2019.

Talks with each dean and administrator will continue through the end of the semester. Gibler and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin approve the financial reports before they’re sent to the UM System.

Plan for campus repairs could open political scramble over available funds

By Rudi Keller

Sunday, November 30, 2014 at 12:00 am

When Gov. Jay Nixon convened the Board of Public Buildings in October to authorize bonds for the long-deferred renovation of Lafferre Hall on the University of Missouri campus, he used new borrowing authority granted by lawmakers to finance the $38.5 million project included in this year’s state budget.

On a Nov. 21 visit to Springfield, Nixon announced he is ready to use the rest of the $200 million in borrowing authority to fund major maintenance and repair projects on other campuses. But unlike the Lafferre Hall project, divvying up the remaining funds might spark a political fight.
The state Senate in April approved a list of 161 campus projects in a resolution that never came to a vote in the Missouri House. The list designates $84.1 million for the University of Missouri system — including Lafferre Hall — $35.1 million for community colleges and $78.5 million for other campuses.

But with the influx of many new lawmakers, changing leadership and the first chance to set priorities next year, the Missouri House might have different ideas. The politics will include not just the projects that make the list, but whether Nixon can be persuaded to release money withheld from projects already approved.

The withheld funds include $36.4 million from general revenue, including $10 million for an applied learning center on the Columbia campus.

“We have a whole new group of people coming in in January,” said Rep. Tom Flanigan, R-Carthage and the incoming House Budget Committee chairman. “I know one thing they are going to ask me: ‘Do we have the money and what about these withholds?’”

Sen. Mike Parson, R-Bolivar, put together the Senate-approved project list. He said he expects the priorities to be “tweaked a little bit” but wants few major changes. “I am going to say that basically the fundamental amount of money going to universities and community colleges is going to be staying just about where they are at.”

Nixon named only two projects during his Springfield visit — Ellis Hall and Hill Hall at Missouri State University — and both made the Senate-passed list. The projects listed in Parson’s resolution did not draw from any statewide need assessment, and the list has not been reviewed by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, which annually makes recommendations for funding priorities on college campuses.

“We were not involved in the development of the list,” Assistant Commissioner of Higher Education Leroy Wade said. “We have answered questions … and talked to institutional representatives and talked to legislators about it, but it does not reflect review or prioritization about the projects.”

Parson said he based the amounts designated for each school on enrollment and the campus’s current share of state funding. The schools were asked to provide lists for consideration, he said, and he selected what fit the money available.

“We didn’t allow any of the universities to come in and say this or that,” he said. “I just didn’t want a lot of outside interference.”

Lists for campus construction are not in short supply, whether for new buildings or repairing and renovating existing structures.

At its September meeting, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education requested $664.2 million for campus construction, reflecting the top priority for each school. The Coordinating Board also has requested $57 million to match local donations for campus projects under a 2012 law to push forward projects with strong private support. Lawmakers included $20.8 million for the program this year, but Nixon vetoed the funds.

The reported needs for maintenance and upgrades to existing buildings exceed the cost of priorities for new construction. The latest figures reported to the Board of Curators put University of Missouri system-wide deferred maintenance needs at more than $1 billion, including $552 million on the Columbia campus.

Spending bills begin in the Missouri House, and, because each project funded by the bonds must be a separate line item, it will test whether Parsons’ project list will survive intact. “I know that there’s a lot of
good projects out there,” Flanigan said. “My whole desire in the whole deal is to keep the state in good financial footing. As long as it makes fiscal sense for both short and long term, I am for going ahead.”

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, said he expects Parson’s original list to undergo few changes. “That doesn’t mean we won’t go back and look and make sure those are necessary projects,” he said.

The new bonding authority can be used only for repair and maintenance projects. Parson said he put together the list to help schools catch up on repair, maintenance and upgrades deferred because of tight funding.

“If we were just going to go out there and do a blue-sky bonding bill, I didn’t think we would pass it,” he said.

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**THE COLLEGE FIX**

*(student-reported, conservative news and commentary site dedicated to higher-education issues)*

**Smoke? Don’t apply for work at U. of Missouri Health Care**

*Any applicant for a job at the University of Missouri’s Health Care system will have to be nicotine-free starting January 1, 2015.*

Current employees will be grandfathered in, and tobacco users that check “yes” that they’re indeed smokers can reapply for employment in the system after ninety days (hopefully being smoke-free).

KOMU TV-8 reports:

Associate Professor of Family and Community Medicine Kevin Everett said banning nicotine isn’t a new concept.

“Numerous health care organizations have adopted not hiring those who use tobacco products, or nicotine-free policies, across the nation,” Everett said.

MU Health Care Chief Executive Officer Mitch Wasden said the new policy will help the hospital “lead by example.”

“Improving the health of our patients, as well as the community and the state, is central to our mission as a leading academic medical center,” Wasden said.
Everett agreed, “One of Mu Health Care’s primary missions is ensuring the health of our patients. And as we move forward and try to advance and become one of the leaders in the state as an academic health setting, we want to make sure we’re leading by example. We’re creating a culture of health here, and our employees will take the lead on that.”

MU adjunct law professor Sandy Davidson said that the new policy is not discriminatory:

“There is no constitutional right to smoke, so from that perspective, there’s not a legal problem … employers can’t discriminate in many different ways, discriminating against smoking would not fall into any protected categories.”

Included in the list of banned products are “cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, clove cigarettes and electronic cigarettes.”

If MU is concerned about health issues, will there soon be a questionnaire that includes a checklist about a prospective employee’s diet?

In addition, as a patient, would you care that your doctor is a smoker? Or would you care more that he knows what he’s doing?

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**Faculty Council discuss Title IX, faculty compensation issues**

**MU is currently assessing 18 candidates for the Title IX administrator position.**

In a wide-ranging meeting, Faculty Council discussed ongoing changes to Title IX policies, the Title IX administrator search and academic and faculty affairs.

**Title IX reform**

Faculty Council and the Intercollegiate Faculty Council are working on two major parts of the Title IX review process: prevention and adjudication.

Dennis Miller, the council’s IFC representative, said the council is working to improve a series of issues regarding the student aspect of Title IX adjudication, such as the advocates’ role in student cases and getting witnesses to testify.
Miller said no one is obligated to testify given the current policy. He said a group of Faculty Council members will review chapter 200.025 of the collected rules and regulations, which outlines the process for student conduct cases, and apply changes sometime between January and March.

Miller said the process for reporting Title IX issues is different for MU than it is for Boone County. He said the Boone County procedure is judicial, whereas MU’s process is more administrative, which means there are different steps to make a conviction. Under MU’s structure, the chancellor is given the authority if the accused is found guilty.

Miller also said each case is handled within 60 days from when the complaint is voiced.

“Title IX requires us to do this because it focuses on the right of the complainant,” he said. “He or she is not able to get their Mizzou education because of this person who allegedly did something to them.”

A major challenge to faculty adjudication is tenure. Miller said IFC is working on a model of the procedure for faculty, which is currently a two-step process: First, the initial investigation, then the possible dismissal of cause, which would remove tenure from the faculty member and occurs if they are found in violation of the policy.

Miller said the IFC President would like this task to be resolved quickly so it can be presented at the February Board of Curators meeting.

Faculty Councilman Tim Evans and Faculty Councilwoman Nicole Monnier reported on a “syllabus statement” that Interim Title IX Coordinator Linda Bennett would like to implement. Several Faculty Council members expressed concerns with the proposed statement, such as language students would not understand, not necessarily being directed at the students and a lack of time limitation.

The council voted down the proposal. The new plan is to form a smaller committee to work on a more acceptable syllabus statement with Bennett.

Title IX administrator

Monnier said there are 18 candidates for the Title IX administrator position. She said the candidates will visit MU on Dec. 3, 4, 17 and 18 for interviews and return later for open forums to publicly discuss their qualifications.

“There’s a robust pool of candidates,” Monnier said. “I think that’s a positive.”

Faculty raises

Faculty Councilman Harry Tyrer said a new committee called the Faculty Raise Assessment Committee has been formed and is “already starting to get to work.” He said the council should expect a report from the committee sometime in February.

Tyrer said some of the non-tenure track members represented in the committee hope to make changes to representation in the Faculty Council.

Tyrer also said smaller schools will have reduced advising staffs with these changes, but the changes will not take place until it is approved by Faculty Council.
Academic affairs

Monnier said the Academic Affairs Committee is reviewing the language for the religious observance policy.

Monnier said the end of semester faculty survey is completed, but it will not be available to fill out until the beginning of next semester.

Faculty Council will conclude the semester with an executive session on Dec. 4. It will hold its next public meeting on Jan. 22, 2015.

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Letter to the Editor: Mizzou Advantage misrepresented in editorial

The Maneater’s recent editorial mischaracterized the nature of The Mizzou Advantage initiative.

By Jerry Frank

Dear Maneater Editorial Board:

I’m writing in response to the editorial “Provost must be a voice for faculty, students.” The editorial expressed that the Provost should be an advocate for faculty and students, and I completely concur with this sentiment. However, I wanted to take this opportunity to correct a significant inaccuracy in the editorial. It stated that The Mizzou Advantage initiative provides bonuses to high-performing faculty. The bonuses that the article was referring to come from a 2 percent reallocation mandated by the University of Missouri System in 2013. None of the money from the 2 percent is allocated to The Mizzou Advantage budget, nor does our initiative fund bonuses of any kind. In fact, like all of campus, Mizzou Advantage is also subject to the annual 2 percent reallocation. With this said, I thought this would be a great opportunity to clarify how The Mizzou Advantage initiative contributes to the campus.

The initiative focuses on MU’s interdisciplinary strength across four areas (Food for the Future, Media of the Future, One Health/One Medicine and Sustainable Energy) and on improving MU’s standing within the AAU. In the broadest sense, the initiative has five aims: discovery, networking, education, communication and advancement.

Discovery
The Mizzou Advantage has provided seed funding for a variety of promising research projects. Some notable examples: Dr. Chung-Ho Lin identified compounds in red cedar trees which may fight skin cancer. Dr. Bill Jacoby investigated a carbon-burning process that could generate clean water for third-world countries. Dr. Fred vom Saal demonstrated that pregnant women’s exposure to chemicals in everyday plastics may predispose fetuses to obesity. These projects, and 65 others, establish MU as a destination for research in the university’s areas of strength, attract high-profile external research partners and bring MU additional research dollars from external funding agencies.

The Mizzou Advantage initiative also partners with schools and colleges across campus in supporting hires which link together two or more campus areas. For example, Dr. Charlie Maitz’s research in radiation oncology crosses between the veterinary school, the medical school, the MU Research Reactor and the department of chemistry. As another example, Dr. Ellen Wan investigates new technologies in biomass, spanning the colleges of Engineering and Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. To aid existing faculty and staff to learn about subjects outside their area of expertise, The Mizzou Advantage also offers professional development awards and travel funds to support investigation and collaborations for new undertakings.

Networking

The Mizzou Advantage initiative was founded on the belief that we can do more together than we can alone. Each area of strength is led by a facilitator — accomplished faculty recognized for their knowledge and ability to bring together disparate groups — in pursuit of knowledge and innovation.

The initiative also supports a number of networking activities. For instance, working with the MU Conference Office, The Mizzou Advantage funds national and international conferences on campus. It coordinates with the Chancellor’s office to bring distinguished speakers to the university. In conjunction with the Office of Economic Development and MU Extension as well as other outreach units, The Mizzou Advantage makes external connections.

Education

The initiative provides fiscal, networking and other support to campus scholars who are developing interdisciplinary educational initiatives. Some examples include new graduate certificates in energy, plant life sciences and health regulatory affairs as well as development of a new digital storytelling major and big data curriculum. All of these are in different stages of development.

The Mizzou Advantage also funds undergraduate research teams, providing undergraduates with opportunities traditionally available only to graduate students. It provides travel funds for undergraduate and graduate students to attend academic conferences. The initiative also supports off-campus education. For example, The Mizzou Advantage supported the development of energy education offered through MU’s Midwest Energy Efficiency Research Consortium. The Mizzou Advantage initiative has sponsored the development of training to individuals, community leaders, industry professionals and government officials.

Communication

The Mizzou Advantage gives the university a framework for sharing its story with the world at large. Since 2010, print, radio and television ads have been produced to communicate MU’s expertise. In addition, an online “communicate-on-demand” system will launch in 2015. The tool will offer professionally produced promotional print pieces, digital pieces, print ads, videos and PowerPoint slides which highlight assets, researchers and success stories from across the MU campus. The tool will be available to all faculty and staff to assist in their communication needs.
Advancement

Similar to communication opportunities, The Mizzou Advantage gives advancement professionals a way to frame MU’s expertise. A donor has already given a $2 million endowment for activities in the four areas of strength, and The Mizzou Advantage will be a theme in MU’s next major fundraising campaign.

The initiative also helps guide internal advancement decisions. When Enterprise Holdings donated $2 million in 2013 to support sustainable energy research, a biofuel network created through The Mizzou Advantage was already in place. The gift went to a team led by biofuel researcher Dr. Shibu Jose; their work is underway and looks very promising.

As the editorial mentions, The Mizzou Advantage initiative has been integrated into the MU Strategic Operating Plan. The interdisciplinary hires and the investment into areas of strength serve to recruit well-qualified faculty, and the initiative supports MU’s goal of enhancing interdisciplinary curriculum and our position within the AAU.

Through the first three calls for proposals, the Mizzou Advantage initiative disseminated more than $3 million to the campus for high-impact conferences, research and instructional development support. As reported by the faculty and staff who were funded, these projects have contributed to bringing over $9 million in additional funding to the university. The projects – which brought 230 prominent speakers to MU and gave rise to 94 publicity interviews and articles about the university – have generated 346 scholarly presentations, 36 academic publications and even one patent. A fourth round of funding was awarded to campus researchers in 2014 for $3.5 million and we are eager to see the great things that our talented faculty, staff and students will achieve with the support.

Sincerely,

Jerry Frank Faculty Fellow of The Mizzou Advantage

Missouri students want religious policy change

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A student group has asked the University of Missouri to strengthen a classroom policy to ensure that professors accommodate students who have to miss class for a religious holiday.
The Missouri Student Association, after meeting with Thalia Sass, president of the Jewish Student Organization at MU, presented the faculty council with a proposed change that would obligate faculty to make religious allowances.

The current rules only encourage professors to excuse students from classes, tests or activities because of religious obligations.

Student leaders say the change is needed because some students have problems with their professors without a mandate in place.

The student association proposal also recommends students provide notice to professors about possible absences toward the beginning of each semester.

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City to make airport announcement

By Andrew Denney

Sunday, November 30, 2014 at 12:00 am

Columbia officials plan an announcement Monday about service at Columbia Regional Airport that might include news of a third destination or that American Airlines, the city’s air service provider, will use larger jets on its flights from Columbia to Chicago and Dallas.

Officials have been tight-lipped about what the announcement entails, but they have been in talks with American about a new destination city and using larger planes on its routes. American provides service from Columbia Regional Airport to Chicago O’Hare International Airport and Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport on 44-seat and 50-seat jets. A market analysis names several cities it considers viable new destinations.

Don Elliott, superintendent for the city-owned airport, said air service providers have been phasing out the 44-seat and 50-seat regional jets in favor of 70-seat jets.

The market analysis by the consulting firm Mead & Hunt, presented Nov. 17 to the Columbia City Council, listed Charlotte, N.C., and Philadelphia as the most viable options, though the consultants said the city could reach out to other service providers for direct flights to Denver, Las Vegas, Orlando and Phoenix.

Among the suggested cities in American’s network, Charlotte would offer easier access to connections with Southeastern Conference cities and the Caribbean and “should be explored in more detail,” the consultants wrote.
“If you get there, the entire Eastern Seaboard is pretty much opened to you,” Drew Brooks, the city’s multi-modal manager, said of Charlotte. He said Florida is the most-frequently requested destination; Frontier Airlines provided flights from Columbia to Orlando for several months in 2012 and 2013, but pulled out of the market.

Philadelphia would provide better connections to Europe, the consultants wrote, but the City of Brotherly Love is a “fairly long trip” for a regional jet and holds lower overall revenue potential than Charlotte.

Officials have said an extension of the city’s revenue guarantee has been on the negotiating table during talks with American.

American began service in Columbia in February 2013 after the council approved a two-year, $3 million guarantee for the air service provider. The guarantee was backed by a fund established with contributions from Boone County, the University of Missouri, Jefferson City, Cole County and more than 40 private investors, including the Tribune.

The city later extended the revenue guarantee to February 2016 to entice American to begin offering a second daily flight to Chicago.

The city has had to pay out of the revenue guarantee just once: It paid $22,562 for American’s first two weeks of service to account for empty seats, but since then the escrow fund has gone untapped.

Before the council approved the revenue guarantee, Delta Air Lines had provided service to Atlanta and Memphis, Tenn. The airline pulled its flights after Delta executives learned of the deal with American.

Elliott said, though, that the falling out with Delta has not precluded efforts to seek service from more than one provider. He said at one point in the 1980s Columbia had five different air service providers. He also noted that Eastern Iowa Airport — located in Cedar Rapids, which is similar in population to Columbia — has five air service providers.

“I will be talking to any airline that will be talking to me,” Elliott said.

The announcement will be delivered at a news conference scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday at City Hall, 701 E. Broadway.

Steve Sapp, a spokesman for the city’s Public Works Department, said Mayor Bob McDavid would deliver the announcement and that local political leaders and representatives from the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, Regional Economic Development Inc. and Mead & Hunt have been invited.

Missouri hybrid: Public university wine institute operates largely on industry money
By Ashley Jost

Sunday, November 30, 2014 at 12:00 am

Sniff, sip and spit.

That’s the mantra instilled in students who take classes with the Grape and Wine Institute.

The institute, housed at the University of Missouri, provides students with the opportunity to take courses in viticulture, the study of grapes, and enology, the study of wine, while conducting research — all in an institute that gets its funding from Missouri’s grape and wine board, with a student placement rate of 100 percent.

The institute is a unique program. Though it is housed at MU’s Eckles Hall, including laboratories, a few offices and the experimental winery, money for the institute comes almost entirely from an annual grant funded by the research arm of the Missouri Wine and Grape Board.

The board’s money comes from a 12 cents-per-gallon tax on wine sales. In addition to funding the institute to research issues affecting the grape and wine industries, the board also is focused on marketing Missouri vineyards and wineries.

Every year, the institute reapplies for its grant and so far hasn’t had any issues or concerns about not being funded, interim Director Ingolf Gruen said. The annual grant is around $850,000.

It is a small program, but Gruen said it is smart to keep it that way.

“We have 15 undergraduates total out of 85” undergraduates “in the food science program,” Gruen said. Enology is a track within the food science major, and although there isn’t a track in plant science for viticulture, students can still take courses in the subject. “That doesn’t sound like a lot, but we make almost a conscious decision not to grow that program rapidly. While the industry is growing, not every winery has the need for a trained, educated winemaker.”

Gruen said that “cranking out” 20 to 30 graduates each year — the number it would take for a full-fledged degree program — would “flood the market,” he said. Keeping it small with those 15 undergraduates and a handful of graduate students — it has four now — is ideal.

The way classes are taught allows the institute’s two research faculty to switch off teaching each year. One year, the enology professor will teach two semesters’ worth of courses, and the next year, the viticulture professor will teach two semesters of classes. Keeping the classes biennial helps fill the classes between those students who are on the enology track and those who are just interested in the coursework.

The latest change has been the addition of a viticulture and enology minor, added last semester.

“We wanted to create some visibility for the program,” Gruen said. “It’s more of a stamp of approval, giving them a piece of paper that makes them feel more qualified, because they are.”

The minor also gives those students who are plant science majors the chance to take enology classes, which are food science courses, in addition to viticulture classes that fall under their purview.

Among the other program classes is a “Grapes and Wines of the World” course taught by Michael Leonardelli. This class introduces students to wine as consumers.
Leonardelli said the class has been around for 20 years but was expanded in 2010 from a one-credit-hour class to three credit hours. It also was expanded to include wine-sampling labs where students abide by a strict “sniff, sip and spit” policy.

“This is ideal because you are taking a very little bit of wine — half an ounce or so — which forces you to savor what’s there before you spit it, which is really what this is all about,” he said. Students learn about and try wines from across the world, starting in Europe and working their way around to American wine at the end of the semester.

Creating a foundation for being an educated consumer is what it is all about, Leonardelli said.

Students on the enology track in food science have a 100 percent placement rate, Gruen said. Some might land food science-related jobs, but about 90 percent of those who focus on enology end up working in wineries or vineyards. Gruen guessed that of those graduates — there have been 20 graduates total since the inception of the enology track in 2009 — half end up in Missouri wineries or vineyards.

For the first time in several years, the Grape and Wine Institute will be fully staffed starting in February.

It was a series of unfortunate events — faculty members leaving for other institutions, leaving the country for family and even a death — that kept the institute from being fully staffed these past few years, but Gruen is confident that is changing.

The institute funds a handful of positions, some in part and others in full.

MU hired a former post-doctoral student, Arianna Bozzolo, to fill the viticulture assistant research faculty position in September. The position had been vacant since late 2012 when Anthony Peccoux, the former viticulture faculty member, died in a car accident.

With Bozzolo and Misha Kwasniewski, assistant research professor in enology, who has been around for a few years, the institute’s employees are eager to start putting more focus on research.

Kwasniewski now has four graduate students working on different research projects. Among his current projects is one paid for by the institute’s only federally funded grant. It is a specialty crop grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that provided $30,000 for equipment and other needs to set up a system that will allow Kwasniewski and his students to accept samples from wineries to be broken down to their chemical basics.

“That grant outfitted us so we could do some of the testing we do in-house and offer it to growers,” he said. With the grant, they’re able to do the first two years’ worth of testing for free for those wineries interested in participating. “We’re trying to get that momentum of the more information growers and winemakers have, the better they can predict what they’re doing. There will be bad years and good years, but we can stack it more in producers’ favor when they have the knowledge about what’s happening in their products.”

After the first two years, Kwasniewski said they will have to charge $30 per sample analysis, which is still about a third of the cost charged by companies that provide the same service, all of which are out of state.

In addition to providing a service, those analyses also provide Kwasniewski with data about possible trends in production, which could spark research ideas. He said many of his research ideas come from trending issues communicated among producers, particularly those in Missouri, as well as trends found in work done at MU.
Though Bozzolo came to campus as a faculty member in September, she already has started looking at possible grant opportunities for future research projects. For now, her focus is on an ongoing project at one of MU’s three research vineyards in Mount Vernon involving rootstock growth in certain conditions.

There is one more faculty member, whose appointment is with MU Extension, though he will operate mostly out of MU’s campus. Gruen said Dean Volenberg, formerly with the University of Wisconsin’s Extension, will join MU in February as the new Extension specialist for both viticulture and enology, a new, merged position.

The otherwise quiet Grape and Wine Institute made some buzz last year when administrators filed a request for 50/50 matching capital grants from the state to build a new, $3 million winery.

The matching grants statute, signed into law in 2013, creates a public- and private-sector partnership by telling universities to raise half of the money for a capital improvement project with the help of their private donors, and the state might match those grants. The grants have to be passed by the General Assembly and approved by the governor. This year, that didn’t happen for the research and teaching winery.

“We are very hopeful that we can get it done this year,” Gruen said about the project.

Half of the funds have been raised by the wine and grape industry. Gruen said although the uncertainty continues about whether the project will receive approval from lawmakers, advocates for the institute will continue raising money to lower the amount the institute is seeking from the state. Gruen said keeping donors on board hasn’t been an issue because they’re all people whose businesses hinge on the skills and success of future viticulturalists or enologists.

Kwasniewski said the winery space is used now to house all research projects done in class as well as work students are producing in class. The limited space has caused for some limitations in what Kwasniewski said is practical in a class.

The winery space, located in the Agricultural Engineering Building, is lined with large coolers that are filled with 5-gallon jugs of dozens of types of wine. The jugs have labels indicating whether what is inside is a rosé, a red or a white and some have numbers that correspond with a research project.

Space that isn’t taken up with coolers houses equipment used in the grape-to-wine process.

“What the industry wants to see coming out of our program is some proficiency being able to step into an industrial facility,” he said. “We’ve had students that not just go into the wine industry but a few that are at breweries and distilleries in the state. A lot of the” technologies “transfer over. It becomes a lot more than supporting the wine industry.”

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Variety of useful electronic apps for farmers

BY BY AMY BICKEL THE HUTCHINSON NEWS
11/28/2014 1:00 AM 11/28/2014 1:00 AM
Even across the most remote landscapes, technology is spiraling.

And in a world of information technology, there is no need to leave the field when muddled by an unfamiliar disease or insect infestation. Nor do you, these days, need a tablet and pencil to figure things like estimating corn yields or even calculating fertilizer rates.

Yes, there is an app for just about anything - even on the farm.

"We have seen a growing sector of farmers who are using apps," said Ignacio Ciampitti, associate professor of agronomy at Kansas State University.

Maybe it is a weed or disease problem they want to identify, he said. Apps are being made by universities, commercial companies and organizations, giving farmers detailed information through a smartphone or tablet, The Hutchinson News (http://bit.ly/1ACBf0I) reported.

There are many useful apps in the farm world, he said, but he noted that if an app takes more than a few minutes to figure out, it isn't worth keeping.

Here's a list that Ciampitti finds useful, along with descriptions from the maker:

**Identification apps**

**ID Weeds - The University of Missouri is a good one for weed ID purposes. This app allows farmers to search weeds by their common or Latin name, view a list of weeds, and identify weeds based upon a number of different characteristics. The app provides details along with photographs.**

Weedalert.com - Weedalert features detailed color photos of more than 100 weeds, allowing users to search for and identify weeds by name, appearance or region. There is detailed information about each weed, including how to control it and the recommended control products.

Aphid Speed Scout - Speed scouting is a different way to determine if soybean aphids have reached the 250-aphids-per-plant threshold, according to the University of Nebraska, which developed the app. It relies on the number of "infested" plants. The app also recommends further scouting or treatment options based on the number of infested plants in a given area.

Ground Spray - Another University of Nebraska app, this one helps pesticide applicators making ground applications with decisions relating to droplet size and potential drift of pesticides.
Soy Diseases App - From South Dakota State University, this app provides easy-to-use and handy diagnostic information for a number of problematic soybean diseases.

Crop Diseases App - This provides information for wheat, barley, oats, triticale and canola, plus several other crops.

The IPM toolkit - This app developed by the University of Wisconsin is broader than disease ID alone. It also includes a list of Extension activities such as meetings, publications, videos and news, which Ciampitti highly recommends.

Crop production apps

Extreme Beans - This University of Minnesota app allows farmers to calculate the number of soybeans to plant per acre in order to generate the highest yield.

Corn Advisor - From the University of Arkansas, this app has different features such as calculating lime and nutrient rates and identifying nutrient deficiencies, diseases and insects.

Pioneer Plantability - This app works as a planter settings calculator to give farmers precise planter settings for corn and sunflower seeds of all sizes and shapes.

Ag PhD Planting Population - The calculator has two functions. First, during planting season the app can determine optimum in-row spacing between seeds based upon row width and the desired planting population per acre. Second, after crop emergence, it allows farmers to determine a stand count by helping them count the number of plants that have emerged in a specific row length.

Ag PhD Harvest Loss Calculator - This app allows farmers to estimate yield loss before and during harvest by recording the number of individual corn, soybean, wheat, sorghum, barley or oat seeds found on the ground in a square foot. With this information, the app calculates the number of bushels farmers have lost per acre.

Growing Degree Days app - This app measures the maturity of crops by viewing current and past "growing degree days" data at a farm's location. Growing degree days are a measure of heat accumulation used in agriculture to predict the date that crops will reach maturity.

Other apps

TankMix App - By DuPont, this app lets you quickly and easily calculate how much product and water you need for effective applications based on your acreage or spray tank size.

The Manure Valuator - Developed by the University of Arkansas, this app provides assistance in valuing the nutrient content of manure.
Corn In Rate Calculator - Developed by the University of Wisconsin, this app is designed to help producers select a nitrogen rate that improves profitability when "N" and corn prices fluctuate.

SpraySelect App - From TeeJet Technologies, this app allows farmers to quickly and easily choose the proper tip or nozzle for your application.

ConnectedFarm Scout App - This is useful for preparing maps, scouting and geopositioning points within your field.

eCropScout - This easy-to-use app allows farmers, agronomists and agricultural professionals to save all their information: field scouting, insect and disease scouting, chemical applications, fertilizer/manure applications, planting data and harvesting data.

YieldCheck - This provides growers with a simple way to calculate and store corn-yield estimates. Users can organize estimates based on client, farm and field, as well as see the location of all estimates on a map with satellite imagery. Also, growers can use the field-report feature to see just how much of a difference one additional ear per acre can mean to their operation.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/living/health-fitness/article4161195.html#storylink=cpy

The Chronicle of Higher Education

November 26, 2014 by John E. Bonine

Surveys, Secrecy, and Sexual Assault

NO MU MENTION

A phrase made famous during the Watergate hearings was, “What did the president know, and when did he know it?” Variations on that question are now being asked at the University of Virginia following gang-rape allegations, and elsewhere as well.

Related questions arise: What do college and university presidents know about the prevalence of sexual assault just a few blocks from their offices—and what must they do to find out? What do they know about the efficacy of their own policies?

One might expect a prestigious group like the Association of American Universities to take a leadership role in these matters. In reality, however, the AAU wants member
universities to commit by December 1 to a survey of sexual violence that will be kept largely secret from the public, including potential critics. Nearly 50 experts in sexual assault have criticized the plan in three open letters, but the AAU has continued to encourage presidents to spend $5-million on a survey that hasn’t even been written yet.

Accurate measurement of problems is key to crafting solutions that actually work. Are colleges failing or helping their students in this regard? And is the AAU engaged in an honest effort to dig out the truth about sexual violence in American colleges? Or might its work mask the true extent of the problem?

When both the White House and Senators Kirsten Gillibrand, of New York, and Claire McCaskill, of Missouri, announced in the spring that they would push to require campus-climate surveys, the AAU sprang into action. But what were its motives?

That seemed to be answered in May, when the AAU’s president, Hunter Rawlings III, sent a memorandum to member presidents in which he talked about the need to “get ahead of this issue before a federally designed survey is mandated for us.” To head off such a prospect, the AAU would design its own. In a letter sent to presidents this month, Rawlings said the AAU would “use the results to help inform national conversations with federal policymakers.”

“National conversations” is a code term for lobbying. According to Rawlings last week, when institutions receive their campus results next summer, “AAU will require that universities agree NOT to publish or communicate survey findings internally (to the student population) or externally” until the AAU can engage its “national conversations” strategy. (The emphasis was provided by Rawlings.)

The lobbying will be enhanced by a provision that the AAU’s private contractor will, according to the association, “keep individual variability in sampling and survey design and implementation across universities to a minimum.”

So what is the harm if institutions go ahead with the AAU survey? First, with a high price tag, it seems unlikely that other, more scientifically valid surveys will be performed. But there is an even bigger problem: secrecy. Sexual assault has long been shrouded in secrecy, and secrecy will be the hallmark of the AAU’s survey on sexual assault.

The AAU’s request for proposals on August 20 states that all intellectual property “related to this project” will be “retained and solely owned by AAU.” This means that the survey itself will be privately owned, which in turn means that the survey questions and methodology can be kept from public eyes.

If the survey omits important topics or asks questions in a way that downplays the problem, nobody will know in advance. Expert academic researchers in sexual assault, of which there are scores in the United States, will not be able to provide feedback in advance of what may well become the only survey on their campuses.

One of the most respected scientists in this field, Louise Fitzgerald, a professor emerita of psychology of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, said about the planned AAU survey: “To ignore the combined experience of the country’s most prominent and
experienced researchers and attempt to reinvent the wheel is intellectual arrogance of the worst sort. Worse, it risks compromising the validity and thus policy usefulness of the project.”

Even so, the AAU is promising colleges that the results from their campuses will be kept secret from other colleges, the public, and politicians. It emphasizes in its letter to each president that “university-specific information will be shared only with that university.” The possibility of doing comparative analysis to determine which colleges have policies that actually work may become impossible.

It seems unlikely that this promise can be fully kept, in light of robust public-records laws in most states. The National Science Foundation’s guide for grants stresses that researchers are “expected to encourage and facilitate” sharing. But some colleges will try to abide by AAU restrictions. With freedom-of-information requests the only way to get information, any comparison of data between one campus and another will be relegated to future researchers, instead of being provided to policy makers who need the information in a timely fashion—and to young students who want to know where safety and danger lie.

Colleges committed to open access to information, scientific methods, and free speech need to approach the problem of campus sexual violence with the same rigor, reflexivity, and transparency that they demand of the peer-reviewed research that remains a cornerstone of their mission.

The betrayal of rape is made even more scarring by the behavior of those in institutions that students believed would help them—what Jennifer Freyd, a professor of psychology at the University of Oregon, has labeled “institutional betrayal.” Colleges need to understand that secret studies of sexual assault will continue the harm already being done to survivors.

If colleges accede to concerns about public image and lobbying efforts by privatizing information about sexual violence on their campuses, they risk being seen by the courageous and persistent survivors who have shined a light on this problem as caring more about their public images than about the lives of the young women and men who seek educations on their campuses and expose themselves to risk of life-shattering sexual violence in the process.

What will individual colleges and the public learn in the next few months? Will it be accurate? We may never know.

*John E. Bonine is a professor of law at the University of Oregon.*
As more sexual-violence incidents at colleges across the country come to light, the need to understand campus sexual cultures becomes increasingly important. The University of Virginia is now under scrutiny for its handling of sexual-violence cases, revealed in an investigative report in Rolling Stone magazine. Administrators at UVa and elsewhere might lean heavily on the White House’s “Not Alone” recommendations for responding to and preventing sexual assault, but those recommendations do not go nearly far enough. A fully comprehensive approach is necessary to truly understand campus sexual cultures and thus begin to change them. At UVa, in Charlottesville, Va., for example, a host of issues need detailed consideration, starting with the Sexual Misconduct Board:

Confidentiality. The head of the misconduct board, an associate dean of students, Nicole Eramo, was not obligated to maintain the confidentiality of students who came forward with rape and assault allegations. Eramo and other administrators were concerned that pressuring students into pursuing formal charges would dissuade them from filing rape and assault reports. But consider the great impact of that failure to create a fully safe, confidential space for those students.

Conflict of Interest. As the head of the board, Eramo would hear about cases of rape and sexual assault, while as associate dean of students, she was expected to balance the competing demands of ensuring students’ well-being with the demands of ensuring that the university’s risks were minimized. What’s more, investigations of allegations involve two “impartial investigators in the Office of the Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Office,” who assess whether enough evidence exists to hold a full hearing. The investigators, of course, may also have competing interests. How can this possibly be in the interests of the students—or the university?

Training. According to Eramo, new board members receive two days of training (one day for returning members), from a lawyer specializing in risk management. In 2013-14 only four cases were heard by the board. With such infrequent opportunities to employ their training, members’ skills may grow rusty. Is that good training? Has it ever been assessed? And why have only lawyers and risk managers trained faculty members, staff members, and students? People hearing sexuality-related cases also need specific training on some of the complexities of sexualities in American culture.
Jurisdiction and Procedures. Although apparently the president’s office was aware of allegations of sexual felonies, including gang rapes, it also appears that the Charlottesville police were not asked to investigate until recently. Why are colleges and universities investigating allegations of felony sex-related crimes without having to involve local law enforcement? Given the paucity of the training, is it reasonable to expect board members and university staff members to investigate and adjudicate such serious criminal allegations? Board members are also expected to base their findings on a preponderance of evidence (for example, a 51-percent likelihood that a crime was committed). That standard may dissuade board members from finding the accused guilty.

Sanctions. No one has ever been expelled from UVa for “sexual misconduct.” According to Eramo, a potential sanction of a “two-year suspension with requirements to return is quite a stiff penalty.” (The “requirements” may include something like reducing or eliminating contact with the complainant.) Yet although university administrators apparently knew about the gang rape that was the focus of the Rolling Stone article and who perpetrated it, there were no sanctions. Complainants who elect an “informal resolution” approach appear to be choosing a route with no sanctions, even if the accused admits guilt in a resolution meeting.

We need to examine broader aspects of campus sexual culture and climate, and not just at the University of Virginia. It is unclear what statistics, if any, are kept about the frequency or location of assaults, but the Rolling Stone article revealed that multiple women had been sexually assaulted and/or raped at the same fraternity, Phi Kappa Psi. Scholars and commentators have documented the power of campus fraternities to structure everything from social life to hook-up mores to alcohol consumption. It is time to reconsider how those “brotherhoods” can use their power and traditions to positively influence members. Systematic and focused sexualities inequalities may be one answer, along with the bystander-intervention training recently recommended by the federal government, in a program known as “It’s On Us.” But that’s still not enough.

The social construction of gender is clearly at work in the peer pressure the Rolling Stone article revealed. Fraternity men goaded one another into the gang rape that is the focus of the article. Men and women overtly pressured the survivor of that rape (and the others reported) to keep quiet and to make social status and relationships a priority above all else. Where, and when, do we talk with students about the far-reaching implications of that? It’s clearly time that we do.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

From dishwashing to delicacies: Executive chef advocates natural foods, expanded palates

Thursday, November 27, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CST
BY T.J. THOMSON

COLUMBIA — Architects have their buildings, and composers have their scores. What is left for chefs, though, after they slave and fuss over sometimes temperamental ingredients for hours?

Robbed of monumental edifices or landmark recordings, chefs have only their senses.

Sight, sound, smell, touch and, yes, taste.

Although their creations are transitory, they, and the often hundreds of clients they cook for, savor them while they last.

Perhaps no other work of art so heavily involves all five senses quite like a fruit-filled phyllo purse served next to a lemon Champagne sabayon swirled with blackberry merlot gastrique.

The delicate crunch of the phyllo purse contrasts with the soft squish of juicy blackberries mixed in a port wine sauce and sprinkled with a generous helping of cinnamon and sugar. It's a dessert as unmistakably exotic as its European-inspired trappings.

Art fuses with industry as a production line supervised by Daniel Pliska, executive chef for the University Club of MU, and his staff churn out dozen after dozen of these artisan desserts for a 90-head gala Oct. 14 at MU's Reynolds Alumni Center.

Mass producing artisan creations for hundreds on tight deadlines doesn't phase him. He has a staff of up to 40 culinary artists and service crew to ensure that each day's masterpiece is served at the optimum temperature, with flair and accompanied by a minihistory lesson for those patrons who are curious not only about what they're eating, but where it came from.
Pliska's upbringing, concerns for food sourcing and a desire to leave a legacy all have informed who he is as both chef and person.

Pliska used his first job, at 15, as a dishwasher to get closer to the kitchen. A few years later, he bought a ticket and set out for Dusseldorf, in western Germany, where he began work in a pastry kitchen. Rather than pursuing formal training, he instead achieved his current post and multiple certifications through decades of on-the-job training.

"I didn't have any formal training," Pliska said. "I didn't go to culinary school." Despite this, Pliska's more than 35 years of kitchen experience, coupled with the extensive collection of cooking books that line his office in the Reynolds Alumni Center, enable him to learn not just about how to make something taste good, but also about the science behind why.

Taste can be faked, Pliska said.

"When we buy processed foods, they're chemically engineered to taste good," he said. "So, you get a bag of popular chips, there's a spice blend in there that's enhanced to react to our taste buds. If you read a label and you know two of the things on the top and the other 20 things, you don't know what they are, you probably shouldn't be eating too much of that."

About 90 percent of the food made in Pliska's kitchen is crafted from scratch. "Try to eat natural food as much as you can," he said. "It doesn't have to be organic or naturally grown, but try to stay away from processed foods as much as possible. Eat during the season."

People derive comfort from the familiar, which can make them hesitant to experience new foods or try new flavors.

"People get so used to a certain taste, when they taste something different, they put a block in their mind because they think they won't like it," Pliska said. "Try to have an open mind when you taste things."

Pliska's background in pastry-making compelled him to write a book about the baked goods, which he published this summer. It's called "Pastry & Dessert Techniques."

"It has big sections in it on savory pastries, which you don't see a lot in most pastry books," Pliska said. "Most pastry chefs delve only in the sweet. This book, being that I'm an executive chef first and a pastry chef second, it delves a lot into savory pastries."

He hopes to write at least two other books, one on hot foods and another on cold ones.
"I want to use that to give back to the next generation, to other people that might appreciate culinary arts and pastry techniques," he said.