About half of eligible UM administrators accept voluntary buyout

By Ashley Jost

Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 5:33 pm

Nearly half of the eligible academic administrators at the University of Missouri have accepted a voluntary buyout option, but the university has no intention of revealing the identities of those administrators.

Missouri’s open records law has an exemption for “individually identifiable personnel records,” but citing that exemption as a reason for not disclosing names of employees who are eligible for or who have accepted a buyout has not been challenged in court.

“The employees choosing to participate in this voluntary buyout program remain current university personnel as they go through this process,” Kelly Peery, strategic communications manager for the UM System, said in a statement. “For this reason, they are closed… Once these employees are indeed retired, the information of their dates of service and compensation would become open record.”

The exemption cited by the UM System does not apply to names, positions, salaries and length of service, but does apply to individually identifiable personnel records, performance ratings or employee and applicant records.

Jean Maneke, attorney for the Missouri Press Association, said there is no case law that addresses issues with releasing names in a situation like this.

“The law clearly says that the names of employees are public record and length of service is public record, so once there’s no question that when they’re not employees anymore that information will show up,” Maneke said. “I don’t really see why whether someone has taken a buyout would be confidential.”

A total of 28 out of 48 total academic administrators — including deans, among other academic roles — were eligible for the voluntary buyout.
The buyout was available to administrators who are tenured faculty, provided they were at least 62 and eligible for retirement by Aug. 31. The requirements were similar to the buyout for university faculty that took place in September.

Of the 261 eligible faculty members, 110 professors chose to take the payout, with an overall cost of about $17.7 million. The university said the buyout saved about $17 million in salary and benefits, which will be used to hire new faculty.

Without knowing which administrators have accepted the buyout, it is not possible to gather more information about what administrative shifts will be made to address the pending retirements.

Only a few eligible administrators responded to inquiries of whether they accepted a buyout. Mike O’Brien, dean of the College of Arts and Science, said he has declined the option.

Hal Williamson, executive vice chancellor of health affairs, has accepted the buyout. Williamson announced his retirement earlier this month, and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin gave notice of the elimination of that position and an overhaul of reporting structures.

Details about how much money is being saved by the administrative buyout were not available, nor were details about how many of those who accepted the buyouts were administrators in colleges versus those who worked in upper-level offices, such as vice chancellors or employees of the provost’s office.

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**THE KANSAS CITY STAR.**

**KC University of Medicine and Biosciences plans to open campus in Joplin**

BY ALAN BAVLEY
03/26/2015 6:04 PM

The Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences announced Thursday that it plans to open a campus in Joplin that will enroll up to 150 students per class and turn the unassuming institution on Independence Avenue into what may become the largest medical school in the nation.
The new campus, set to open in 2017, is aimed at turning out large numbers of primary-care doctors who will practice in rural areas where health care providers often are in short supply.

“This will be a rural medical school for rural America,” said Marc Hahn, president of KCU, an osteopathic medical school. “The southwest part of Missouri is a great place for that.”

The school’s enrollment has been growing steadily over the past decade. This school year, its total enrollment for the four-year program for a medical degree was just over 1,000 students. Such numbers make KCU the largest medical school in Missouri and one of the largest nationally, university officials said.

“We’ve quietly had an impact on not just medical care, but on access to medical school,” Hahn said.

If KCU adds a total of 600 students at the Joplin campus, the school’s enrollment will exceed that of such mammoth medical schools as Indiana University and the University of Illinois. They both enroll slightly more than 1,400 medical students and currently rank as among the largest.

The civic and medical communities in Joplin had been trying for at least seven years to persuade a medical school such as KCU to open a campus in the city.

“We knew that where health care was going, we needed to attract more physicians,” said Gary Pulsipher, president of Mercy Hospital Joplin.

KCU also was being courted by Springfield at the time. But discussions sputtered. When Hahn assumed the university presidency in July 2013, talks were renewed and quickly progressed.

Key to the agreement was Mercy Hospital’s offer to put the new medical school campus in a 150,000-square-foot building that was constructed as a temporary facility after the hospital was destroyed by the tornado that ripped through the city in 2011. Mercy opened its new, permanent hospital over the weekend.
Another factor in KCU’s decision was its longstanding relationship with another hospital system in southwest Missouri, Freeman Health System. Freeman operates hospitals and other health care facilities in Joplin and has provided clinical training to third- and fourth-year students from the university.

Freeman also has residency programs in internal medicine and several other specialties, which will offer KCU graduates in Joplin opportunities to continue their training.

“That will be a very essential piece of the medical school’s success,” said Freeman CEO Paula Baker. Baker said Freeman will cover the cost of expanding its residency programs to accommodate the university graduates. “We consider that a great investment.”

Rural areas have long found it hard to recruit physicians and other health care professionals, who prefer the lifestyle attractions, more regular schedules and professional opportunities of cities and suburbs. While 38 percent of Missourians live in rural areas, only 18 percent of the state’s physicians practice there.

“They want a life. They don’t want to be on call all the time,” said Mary Becker of the Missouri Hospital Association. “It’s a continual challenge for hospitals. They have a difficult time recruiting physicians to live in a rural area.”

Physicians practicing in rural areas of Missouri also tend to be older than their urban counterparts. “We’re not gaining any ground,” Becker said.

Baker of Freeman said she expects a medical school in Joplin “will be a huge boost to recruitment and retainment of physicians.” She expects many of the students to come from southwest Missouri.

“It will be a path for many students who wouldn’t otherwise go to medical school because of limited resources,” she said.

Only about 3 percent of students now entering medical school say they plan to practice in rural areas. But studies have shown that medical students who grew up in underserved rural and urban areas are much more likely to practice in such
communities. There’s now a trend toward locating new medical schools in places such as Joplin.

Columbia University’s medical school in New York City opened a rural medicine track in upstate Cooperstown, N.Y. In 2011, the University of Kansas School of Medicine opened a campus in Salina. With just eight students, it’s considered the smallest four-year medical program in the nation.

The University of Missouri has plans for a campus in Springfield that would train an additional 32 medical students in their third and fourth years. The university also has programs that provide advance admission to medical school to promising college students from underserved rural and urban areas and that provide medical students with training opportunities in rural practices.

Osteopathic medical schools like KCU, which grant a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree, provide essentially the same education as the more numerous allopathic schools, which grant a Doctor of Medicine degree. But osteopathic schools have a greater tradition of producing physicians who go into primary-care specialties, such as family medicine and pediatrics, that treat patients for a broad array of conditions. They are in particular demand in rural communities that can’t support specialists who focus their practices more narrowly.

More than half of KCU’s graduates are in primary care, and 40 percent of its graduates who practice in Kansas or Missouri are in rural areas, Hahn said.

Because Mercy is a Catholic hospital, final approval of the donation of its temporary facility awaits approval from the Vatican. Once that is obtained, the university will begin renovations to add lecture halls and laboratories.

Hahn expects KCU to hire about 50 to 100 staff members. It also will recruit hundreds of physicians from the Freeman and Mercy health systems to provide students with clinical training at the hospitals and community-based practices.
The Joplin campus will be the first new medical school location in Missouri in 44 years, university officials said.

Mizzou confirms Fuller's departure

3/26/15 • By Dave Matter

COLUMBIA, Mo. • When the Missouri basketball team was eliminated from the Southeastern Conference tournament on March 11 to end its season, associate head coach Tim Fuller was the first person out of the locker room at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville while head coach Kim Anderson and his other assistants stayed with the players while they dressed and talked to reporters. It was a fitting way to exit after the Tigers’ 9-23 season. **On Thursday, Missouri officially announced that Fuller will not return to the coaching staff, as the Post-Dispatch and other news outlets reported on Tuesday.**

“Our program at Mizzou is grateful for Tim’s contributions during his time here,” Missouri coach Kim Anderson said in a prepared statement. "We wish Tim all the best in his future endeavors.”

Anderson will conduct a national search to hire Fuller's replacement, the statement said, and will not discuss the situation further.

Fuller was unavailable for comment.

Multiple sources told the Post-Dispatch in recent days that Fuller is not expected to pursue another job in college coaching. He previously worked with Nike where he developed relationships with NBA players and organizations.

Fuller, 37, came to Mizzou to work under former head coach Frank Haith in 2011 and stayed on the staff when Anderson replaced Haith last year. Fuller was 5-0 as Missouri’s interim head coach at the beginning of the 2013-14 regular season while Haith served an NCAA suspension for his role in the recruiting scandal at the University of Miami.

Fuller, a former walk-on player at Wake Forest where he first met Haith, then an assistant coach at the ACC school, was coaching on Rick Pitino’s Louisville staff when Haith hired him at Mizzou four years ago. Fuller also previously worked at Nike.
Hailed as the staff’s top recruiter, Fuller produced mixed results in that role at Mizzou. He helped deliver a handful of Division I transfers, including Alex Oriakhi, Keith Shamburger and current NBA rookies Jordan Clarkson and Jabari Brown. He was also responsible for Louisville transfer Zach Price, who never played a game for the Tigers and was dismissed last spring after getting arrested twice on the same day for assaulting teammate Earnest Ross.

As far as high school recruits, Fuller helped land Johnathan Williams III, the leading scorer and rebounder on this year’s team. Fuller’s record also includes 2012 high school recruits Dominique Bull, Negus Webster-Chan and Stefan Jankovic. All three transferred before contributing much to Mizzou. Another Fuller recruit, 2013 signee Torren Jones, was kicked off the team last summer for violating team rules. Among current freshmen, Fuller was the primary recruiter for Jakeenan Gant and D’Angelo Allen.

When Mizzou hired Anderson last year, Fuller considered other options and interviewed for the head coaching position at Florida A&M. Instead, he opted to stay and work under Anderson. He helped retain the two high school recruits who signed under Haith, Gant and Namon Wright. At the time, MU extended Fuller’s contract through the 2015-16 season and increased his salary from $270,000 to $325,000.

Where does Anderson turn next for Fuller’s replacement? Former Missouri player and current head coach at Mineral Area College Corey Tate could again emerge as a candidate after interviewing for Anderson’s staff last year. Tate also serves as the head coach of the St. Louis Eagles under-17 team that features Chaminade teammates Jayson Tatum and Tyler Cook. This STLtoday.com premium story includes an expanded list of possible candidates.
Most medical researchers have a mantra about relationships with industry, financial and otherwise: disclose, disclose, disclose. It’s a position with which most professors (and journal editors) in other fields -- even those without life-and-death implications -- agree. But should colleges and universities be held to the same standard, and just how much disclosure is enough?

Those are questions faculty members at the University of California at San Francisco are raising this week, ahead of a decidedly controversial medical conference co-sponsored by the university and the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, a conservative think tank that the professors view as anti-science and pro-tobacco. The university meanwhile, says that such questions are important but that the event in question is about the future of medicine, not partisan politics.

On its face, today’s joint conference, called “Data and Technology: Keys to Precision Medicine and 21st-Century Cures,” is pretty innocuous. Both the university’s and the Manhattan Institute’s logos appear at the top of invitation, along with a list of speakers including professors from San Francisco and elsewhere and representatives of the health care and technology industries.

The finer print says that “remarkable discoveries” are happening the field of precision medicine -- or advanced, individualized health care treatments -- but that “outmoded legal, administrative, funding/reimbursement and regulatory policies pose barriers to building the massive connected databases and analytic tools that will be needed to identify, test and deliver” such care.

The invitation further signals a political -- albeit nonpartisan -- agenda, saying, “President Obama and bipartisan Congressional leaders have signaled their support for initiatives and legislation that can accelerate the development of precision medicine technologies and strategies.”

But some faculty members on campus say that level of disclosure about the political nature of the event isn’t enough, and that the invitation should include information about what the Manhattan Institute is and does -- along with the fact that it pitched the event to the university.

“We’re talking about the politicization of the university setting, with the university getting involved in a very partisan organization that is fundamentally anti-science,” said Stanton Glantz, a professor of medicine and American Legacy Foundation Distinguished Professor of Tobacco Control, who did pioneering research on the health effects of smoking and secondhand smoke. Glantz also helped San Francisco build Legacy Tobacco Documents Library, a massive archive of tobacco industry communications about the antismoking movement. Documents suggest that the Manhattan Institute
which promotes policy that is often critical of government regulation of health care, the environment and other areas -- accepted money from the tobacco industry and worked to reframe the antismoking debate to emphasize personal choice, not science, over the past few decades. The institute also has published policy papers criticizing the government’s regulatory stance on precision medicine. In “Unlocking the Code of Health: Bridging the Gap Between Precision Medicine and [Food and Drug Administration] Regulation,” released earlier this month, the institute argues that the F.D.A. “has been slow to incorporate biomarkers into the regulatory procedures for drug approval and, as a result, has significantly slowed the development of safe and effective treatments for many diseases.”

The paper recommends that the F.D.A. retain ultimate regulatory authority, but that it refer much of the grunt work to panels of experts equipped to more efficiently “develop substantive standards for the use of biomarkers in the drug-approval process. Separate expert panels should be convened to develop standards that address the statistical tools needed to analyze biomarker data.”

Although the Manhattan Institute policy on precision medicine is not without supporters, Glantz said the think tank is part of a larger problem of partisan organizations “parading” as legitimate research partners. For that reason, he said, the university has no business co-sponsoring an academic event with any such organization, from either side of the political aisle. His criticism wouldn’t necessarily apply to a faculty member opting to work with the institute, but is related to the university appearing to declare the institute a worthy partner.

"I’m not saying they should not be allowed to set foot on campus, but they should not be allowed to do so as a wolf in sheep’s clothing, with an institutional endorsement,” he said, noting that the institute -- not the university -- originally pitched the idea to Keith Yamamoto, San Francisco’s vice chancellor for research.

Earlier this week, Glantz and fellow members of board of the U.C.S.F. Faculty Association, an independent organization for professors, sent a letter expressing their concerns to Yamamoto, who is organizing the conference on campus.

The letter says that the Faculty Association is concerned about the Manhattan Institute’s “regrettably long history” of “subverting scientific efforts to research the adverse health impacts of tobacco and climate change,” as documented in the university tobacco archive. The letter says that the association does not oppose the university’s planning a conference with the institute due to its “conservative bent,” but rather because “we do not believe that they adhere to the principles of
academic freedom and free exchange of ideas based on evidence that is central to scientific discourse.”

The letter notes that it is particularly inappropriate that the institute -- not the university -- is collecting R.S.V.P.s for the event, and urges Yamamoto to drop the university's sponsorship of the event. Leaders of the university's Academic Senate, including Ruth Greenblatt, a professor of clinical pharmacology, senate co-chair, also reached out to Yamamoto in concern. Greenblatt said she wasn’t necessarily opposed to the university co-sponsoring the event but that the invitation should at least include more information about the Manhattan Institute.

“They do major political policy advocacy work related to F.D.A. regulation,” she said. “So I was concerned the announcement that went out doesn’t really indicate that they’re an advocacy group.” Greenblatt said health scientists are supposed to “disclose, disclose, disclose” their affiliations with industry sponsors, and that the same principle should be applied by the university here. She noted she was previously unaware of the Manhattan Institute’s work, and that her opinion had nothing to do with politics; even an advocacy organization as sympathetic as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, for example, should include its position on event notices, she said, so that participants can be informed.

The Manhattan Institute in a statement said that it holds events on some 50 campuses per year, all of which are aimed at “moving the discussion forward” on a number of issues. It referred additional questions to Yamamoto, who said he was more than willing to engage in a universitywide dialogue about levels of disclosure regarding sponsorship of events -- but not “36 hours before the meeting.” He also denied that the meeting had any partisan bent.

Yamamoto said that he was in talks during the last Congress with the House Energy and Commerce Committee about the future of precision research, and that those talks have now evolved into proposed legislation on the matter. Working with members of the committee, the Manhattan Institute is helping organize series of panel discussions at colleges across the country -- he said one already has taken place at Tufts University -- to gather expert input on the topic. So although he was approached by the institute to host the event, Yamamoto said he has been entirely in charge of inviting speakers and creating the discussion agenda. He also said he doubted whether the institute was collecting R.S.V.P.s for any of the “nefarious” purposes that have been alleged by faculty critics, including a desire on the part of Manhattan to claim various high-profile attendees as political allies.
“I think this is a totally appropriate thing for the university to be doing,” Yamamoto said, adding that not to participate would be a missed opportunity for the medical sciences campus to participate in the Congressional initiative, called 21st-Century Cures. “The institute may have politics with which some may vehemently disagree, but they are not really germane in this case, in my opinion.” Yamamoto added, “The faculty concerns that have been raised I think are legitimate matters for us to debate, in terms of setting campus policy, but I don’t think we should be doing it in a reactionary way.” He said the event this afternoon will go on as planned, and that he hopes it will be a valuable use of everyone’s time.

The American Association of University Professors says that it’s a matter of academic freedom that professors retain the right to partner with whomever they choose for research -- as long as they freely and clearly disclose the relationship. But what about institutions? Robert O’Neil, former president of the University of Virginia and a legal expert on academic freedom, said the same logic should govern institutional relationships and sponsorships.

“I would also urge that such support may not be allowed to taint the objectivity or integrity of the grant or subvention, or permit donor/sponsor involvement in selection of, e.g., a faculty grantee or participant,” he said via email. “If this institute avoids such entanglements I believe its support should not be refused or declined.”

**COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN**

**Phillips wants to bring MU student influence to Columbia City Council**

Friday, March 27, 2015 | 6:00 a.m. CDT; updated 7:19 a.m. CDT, Friday, March 27, 2015

COLUMBIA — Chad Phillips would like to dispel the perception that MU students are only temporary Columbia residents who don’t play a major role in the community.

"I think students have a lot to offer to the city," Phillips said. "The student body is obviously essential to the business side of the city but also provides volunteering and service hours."

**Phillips said he decided to run as a write-in candidate for the First Ward Columbia City Council seat, which will be filled on April 7, because he**
thought the other eight candidates were overlooking MU students, a large portion of the First Ward’s population.

As a write-in candidate, Phillips' name won’t appear on the ballot, but he is eligible for election.

"Something that really motivated me to run was when I realized the students don’t have a voice, but we deserve one because of the size of our population," Phillips said. "There are roughly around 7,000 students living in the First Ward, between the dorms, the Greek houses and the student housing complexes downtown."

Two of the other eight First Ward candidates are also MU students. Jake Loft, 20, is a senior information technology major, and Nate Brown, 56, has returned to school to pursue a photojournalism degree.

Phillips, former chairman of the Missouri Students Association’s Campus and Community Relations Committee, said one of his goals in the association was to establish relationships between MU and other people in Columbia.

"A lot of what I did was reaching out to people, so that meant a lot of meetings with public officials, local business owners and anyone who has a stake in the city of Columbia," Phillips said.

He said it was in these meetings that he learned about challenges affecting the city and about possible solutions.

"Some of the issues that were pinpointed in the meetings came from students," Phillips said. "However, a lot of them were from other community members talking about ways the students could help improve Columbia."

Phillips said part of his job was to serve as a point person between MU and various stakeholder groups.

"Columbia is a huge web, and there are a lot of organizations who care about different issues," he said. "I tried to connect all of these dots and to make sure we could get everyone in town to work on these issues together."

When Phillips assumed his position a little more than a year ago, he ramped up the community relations committee’s efforts.
"When Chad initially got into the Campus and Community Relations Committee, the biggest thing it did was an Easter egg hunt with the city," former Missouri Students Association Speaker Ben Bolin said.

Bolin said Phillips hoped to cultivate closer relations between the city and MU.

"The relationship had been severed for years," Bolin said. "Chad started going to City Council meetings and built relationships with the First Ward City Council members."

Phillips’ first project on the committee was to advocate construction of a barrier on College Avenue to boost pedestrian safety near MU. During his term, he also created the "Move the Bus" campaign to allow private shuttles from student housing complexes to drop off and pick up students in front of the MU Student Center.

Phillips said his work with the students association has drawn him closer to Columbia.

"When you start working on the city level, you feel way more attached to the community and like more of a part of it," Phillips said.

Phillips said the leadership skills he has honed would help him if he wins the First Ward seat.

"It really taught me how to recognize everyone's interests in an issue and then give them the opportunity to work on an issue," Phillips said. "I think that ability is lacking on council right now."

Jonathan Sessions, a First Ward resident who is a member of the Columbia School Board, met Phillips on a trip sponsored by the Columbia Chamber of Commerce last fall. Several business and community leaders went on the trip to Knoxville, Tennessee, a city comparable in size and makeup to Columbia.

Sessions said he was impressed by Phillips.

"Here was a young man who was out of his element but who represented his organization very well," Sessions said. "He held his own in meetings in an environment that could be very intimidating."

Sessions said one of Phillips’ most admirable qualities is his willingness to ask other people for advice.
"He's not afraid to go knock on someone’s door and ask a question if he doesn’t understand something," Sessions said.

Bolin also said Phillips sought his guidance upon beginning his term as community relations chairman.

"During our first meeting, Chad said, 'I have a lot of things I want to do, but I don’t know how to go about doing them,'" Bolin said. "That was extremely humbling for him to do because a lot of people sit down and act like they know everything that’s going on."

**Camp introduces middle schoolers to higher education**

By Roger McKinney

Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 2:00 pm

A group of Columbia Public Schools middle school students spent a chunk of spring break visiting university and college campuses as part of Camp CA-POW.

It’s the first year of camp CA-POW, which stands for College Access Planning Our Way. The participating students were from Jefferson, Oakland, Gentry and Lange middle schools.

Intern Paola Protti Nunez said the camp is half information and half inspiration.

“We work on giving the opportunity to local middle school students to start learning about college,” Protti Nunez said.

She said the students learn about resources they can use when making their higher education choices as well as financial aid opportunities.

“We’re hoping we’re going to be able to grow from here,” Protti Nunez said.

*The camp is provided by the University of Missouri College of Education’s Educational Leadership Policy Analysis program, the MU Family Impact Center and the MU Extension 4-H.*
On Wednesday, students visited Columbia College. The group visited State Technical College of Missouri in Linn on Monday, MU on Tuesday and Lincoln University in Jefferson City on Thursday.

Nicki Messimer, an admissions counselor at Columbia College, told the students they must maintain at least a 2.5 cumulative high school GPA and have at least 21 on their ACT or be in the top half of their class academically to be admitted.

“You need to be reading all the time” to prepare for college, Messimer said.

She said Columbia College offers many scholarships to help pay for college.

Dan Boes and Stephanie Snyder, both admissions counselors, led the students on a campus tour. The tour started in the $16 million Brouder Science Center, which opened in 2013. From there, the group walked to Brown Hall, which houses art classes.

“We’re one of the only colleges in Missouri that still has a jewelry major,” Snyder said.

The students had not had a chance to see inside of a residence hall during their tours before Wednesday, but were able to visit several at Columbia College.

They stopped by Hughes Hall, the all-women’s dormitory, which was built in 1939.

“Every floor in this hall has a kitchen,” Snyder said. It’s something not found in most dormitories, she said.

The group also visited the student commons, the administrative offices in St. Clair Hall, the fitness center and the gym.

Cameron Walls, a 13-year-old student at Jefferson Middle School, said she liked touring the campuses and learning about the different majors offered at the universities and colleges. Cameron said she already was planning to pursue higher education after high school, with MU as her top pick.

“It encouraged me more,” Cameron said of the camp.

Giselle Williams, a 13-year-old student at Lange Middle School, said she enjoyed the various campus tours the camp afforded her. At Columbia College, she said, she liked seeing the dorm rooms.

“Columbia College is on my list,” Giselle said.