Rising Pay for Presidents Draws Public Scrutiny

By Sandhya Kambhampati

The typical public-college leader who served for the entire 2014 fiscal year earned just over $428,000, almost 7 percent more than the median from the year before, according to a Chronicle analysis. Two presidents earned more than a $1 million in 2014, one fewer than the year before.

Public-college presidents receive pay and benefits well beyond what most others on their campuses receive. In addition to common perks, such as free housing, cars, and meals, they are often rewarded with special forms of compensation available to only a small number of executives within the institutions they lead.

Such was the case with Rodney A. Erickson, whose $1.5 million in earnings as Pennsylvania State University’s president made him the nation’s highest-paid public-college president for 2014. His predecessor, Graham B. Spanier, earned nearly $2.3 million in the same period. In both cases, Penn State’s former presidents received large payouts when the university ended its practice of offering customized life-insurance policies to top-ranking administrators.

The Chronicle’s analysis reflects the pay of 238 chief executives at 220 public colleges and systems, including all public doctoral universities in the United States and all state college and university systems or governing boards with at least three campuses and 50,000 students in the 2013-14 academic year. The data were collected from surveys of those institutions and reflect the 2014 fiscal year, which ran from July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014, in most states.

This year’s survey also asked about former leaders who remained on the payroll. A total of 42 were still receiving some compensation from the institutions they once led. Many of them were working as professors or in advisory roles to the president.

The other president who earned more than $1 million in 2014 was R. Bowen Loftin, who earned just over $1.1 million at Texas A&M University at College Station, including a severance payment of $850,000. (The university had erroneously reported that payment in last year’s survey, causing Mr. Loftin to appear as the second-highest paid on The Chronicle’s ranking for 2013; he should have been 39th.) Mr. Loftin is now chancellor at the University of
Missouri at Columbia, where he has been since February of 2014 and where he earned close to $323,000 in the 2014 fiscal year.

Presidential benefits continue to be a hot-button political issue, as evidenced by the scrutiny they have recently received in Illinois. Members of the state’s Senate Democratic Caucus released a report last month in which they asserted that the state’s university and community-college leaders enjoy a "fantasy world of lavish perks," many of which have been awarded without taxpayer input. The report cited such benefits as club memberships, retirement plans, and retention bonuses, which the lawmakers said were sometimes provided as part of secret deals that show disregard for taxpayers.

The report stemmed from an investigation into presidential compensation that followed a controversial severance deal for Robert L. Breuder, former president of the College of DuPage.

But it cited concerns about pay and perks for other leaders in the state, too, including Paula Allen-Meares, who was chancellor at the University of Illinois at Chicago until January. She ranked fifth in total pay for 2014 in The Chronicle’s analysis, earning just over $872,000, more than double what she received the year before. Of that, $450,000 came in the form of deferred compensation, a common tool for keeping college presidents on the job longer.

Some benefits might be justifiable if a board can show it is paying a president well below the going rate, said State Sen. Bill Cunningham, the Democrat who led the investigation into presidents’ pay. But even then, he says, the awarding of perks can demonstrate tone deafness on the part of colleges.

"The average taxpayer just can’t fathom a public-university president getting a free country-club membership on top of a $400,000 salary," Senator Cunningham said in an email to The Chronicle. "If the folks sitting on university boards can’t sense the outrage that kind of thinking inspires, then they are too disconnected from the people they’ve been elected or appointed to represent."

The senator said he hoped to hold hearings on the report this summer.

Colleges trustees and university leaders defend the pay, saying they need to offer more money and large benefit packages to be competitive with the marketplace and to compensate executives for managing large and complicated enterprises.
Nonetheless, some presidents themselves have shown sensitivity to the optics of earning large salaries, particularly when tuition is rising and budgets remain tight. Some leaders have given back part of their pay to their universities. At Rutgers University, for example, Robert L. Barchi, the president, returned his bonus of $90,000 in 2014. He asked the university to put it toward financial aid for undergraduates.

Elsewhere, the new leader of the University of Texas at Austin went even further. He turned down a million-dollar salary because he feared it would hinder his ability to work with the Legislature and would be seen negatively by students and professors. The president, Gregory L. Fenves, who took over at Austin this month, instead asked for an annual salary of $750,000, plus $50,000 in deferred pay.

A president’s compensation has many parts and can be counted in different ways. The Chronicle changed its survey methodology this year to no longer include in compensation totals money that was set aside but not paid out, like deferred compensation. That money is at risk of being forfeited if the president does not fulfill the terms of service. This year’s analysis also excluded payments the university made for retirement on behalf of the chief executive, unless the money was paid out in that year, as in the case of Mr. Erickson and Mr. Spanier.

For comparison, the new methodology has been applied to data from previous years for leaders at both public and private institutions.

Since the 2010 fiscal year, nine public college leaders have earned more than $1 million, some more than once. E. Gordon Gee, former president of Ohio State University and now president at West Virginia University, was among the millionaires in three of those years. His pay of just over $5 million in the 2013 fiscal year made him the highest paid public-college leader in any year of The Chronicle survey.

The Chronicle analyzes the pay of private-college leaders separately, based on reviews of colleges’ IRS Form 990 and filings with the U.S. Department of Education. The data for leaders of private and public colleges are not directly comparable as the two analyses include slightly different categories of pay and reflect different periods of time. Three dozen private-college presidents earned more than a $1 million in the 2012 calendar year, the most recent year for which data are available, with the typical leader earning close to $400,000. Shirley Ann Jackson of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute was the highest-paid private-college leader in 2012, earning just over $7.1 million.
In the public-college survey, Mr. Erickson of Penn State rose to the top in large part because he took ownership of his balance in a university-sponsored life-insurance plan that Penn State ended. Mr. Spanier, who was forced out of the Penn State presidency in 2011, was the highest-paid former leader in 2014 for the same reason.

Mr. Erickson received just over $586,000 in 2014 because of the life-insurance program’s elimination, and Mr. Spanier received almost $1.7 million because of it.

The university ended the insurance plan — a "split-dollar" plan to which both the employees and the university contributed — because it had become a "compliance risk," according to Penn State officials. Many universities and companies have recently revised or ended their split-dollar life-insurance arrangements in the wake of changes made by the Internal Revenue Service in how those plans are taxed.

Mr. Erickson, who was president until May of last year, replaced Mr. Spanier after the longtime leader lost his job amid a child sex-abuse scandal involving a former coach. Over the past several years, the university has worked to turn the page on the scandal, settling more than two dozen lawsuits with the victims of Jerry Sandusky, a former assistant football coach who was convicted on 45 counts related to child molestation. The university hired a new president, Eric J. Barron, last year, hoping to begin a new era for the institution.

But the latest earnings disclosures threaten to reinforce perceptions that Mr. Spanier, who has been criminally charged with covering up Mr. Sandusky’s abuse, has experienced a financial windfall amid a career downfall. (Mr. Erickson has not been charged or accused of any wrongdoing.) In the 2012 fiscal year, the period during which he was ousted, Mr. Spanier was the highest-paid public-college president, earning just over $2.8 million. He was placed on administrative leave in November 2012. According to university officials, Mr. Spanier will receive an additional $860,637 in contractually entitled severance that was deferred until June 2017.

Presidents’ pay, meanwhile, also draws criticism when the gap is large between leaders’ earnings and faculty paychecks. For the 2014 fiscal year, the average president made nearly 3.8 times as much as the average full-time professor, based on most recent faculty data available from the Department of Education, which reflects the 2013-14 academic year. The greatest gap between a leader and his or her faculty in this year’s analysis occurred at Washington State University. There, Elson S. Floyd’s base pay of $725,000 was close to seven times the average salary of full professors, according to data the university reported to the Education Department. The president’s total
compensation was just over $877,000 in the 2014 fiscal year, making him the fourth-
highest paid over all.

Mr. Floyd’s base salary has been $725,000 since he began at the university in 2007,
but he voluntarily took an annual pay cut of $100,000 from 2008 to 2012 as the
university faced budget cuts. In fiscal year 2012, Mr. Floyd was the third-highest-paid
president, earning a little over $1.1 million, largely due to deferred compensation.
Kathy Barnard, executive director of university communications, said Mr. Floyd,
besides reducing his pay, has also been an advocate for affordability. During his
tenure, she added, the university’s research expenditures nearly tripled, from about
$200,000 to $600,000.

The university provides Mr. Floyd with a $75,000 retention incentive every year,
which gets paid out every other year. Mr. Floyd’s compensation in 2014 includes a
payout of $152,250 plus interest that was accrued over two years. Effective June 1,
2015, he will receive a 6.9 increase in his base pay, bumping it up to just over
$775,000, and he will no longer be taking a voluntary pay cut. (The university
announced Friday it had granted Mr. Floyd immediate medical leave for cancer
treatment.)

The other president ranking in the top five in 2014 was Joseph A. Alutto, interim
president at Ohio State University, who was the third-highest paid and earned just
over $996,000.

Meanwhile, at more than half of the public universities The Chroniclesurveyed, the
president wasn’t the highest-paid person on campus. At those colleges, that title
instead went to people like athletic coaches and medical faculty. Of the highest-paid
people in those two groups, 62 earned more than $1 million.

A Closer Look at the Typical President’s Pay in 2014

Most public-college leaders don’t make a million dollars. Here’s what paychecks
looked like closer to the median.

- The typical president earned $400,000 in base pay, a 7-percent increase from 2013.
- The average president made nearly 3.8 times as much as the average full-time
  professor.
- The typical president made 50 times the average student tuition.
- Eighty percent of the leaders surveyed received housing and cars.
Half of the leaders surveyed were not the highest-paid employee on campus. To view a list of executive compensation at public and private colleges, visit: http://chronicle.com/factfile/ec-2015/#id=table_public_2014

Mizzou's Loftin one of 2 public college presidents paid over $1M in annual ranking

By Jennifer C. Kerr Associated Press

June 7, 2015

WASHINGTON • Fewer public college presidents hit the $1 million mark in earnings in 2014 compared with the previous year, according to a new survey.

The Chronicle of Higher Education study found that two college presidents at public universities received more than $1 million in total compensation in the 2014 fiscal year — Rodney A. Erickson, former president of Pennsylvania State University, and R. Bowen Loftin, former president of Texas A&M University and current chancellor of the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Loftin, the former Texas A&M president, earned $1.1 million. Most of that was a severance of $850,000 that was paid out in 2014, the survey said. His 2014-15 salary at Missouri was $450,000, according to a university database.

The Chronicle’s survey for the previous fiscal year found nine college presidents exceeding $1 million in pay, though data from one school was later readjusted, leaving eight presidents earning more than a million.

The survey released Sunday examined pay for chief executives at 220 public universities and school systems. It found the median salary for presidents who served a full year was $428,250.

Total compensation for former Penn State President Erickson was nearly $1.5 million, but the Chronicle said a significant portion of that was because he took ownership of his balance in a university-sponsored life insurance plan valued at $586,000.
The Chronicle calculates total compensation for public college presidents as base salary, plus bonus, severance and deferred compensation that was paid out. Used as a retention tool, deferred compensation is typically lost if a college president leaves the school early.

Erickson retired in May 2014 after 37 years at Penn State as a faculty member and administrator.

Among the other presidents on the Chronicle’s list of top earners are Elson S. Floyd at Washington State University, who earned just over $877,000, and Patrick T. Harker at the University of Delaware, with $800,156 in compensation.

The Chronicle takes a separate look at private-college pay. Its most recent review of data from 2012 found 36 private college presidents earning at least $1 million.

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**COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE**

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**Burst pipe sends water flowing through Lewis Hall**

*It will be a few days before University of Missouri Campus Facilities can estimate how much damage water from a burst pipe caused Friday to Lewis Hall.*

MU spokesman Christian Basi said a leak on the eighth floor of the building was discovered at about 5 p.m. Friday and that facilities employees quickly turned off the water and started to clean up. Offices beneath the burst pipe on each floor sustained some damage, and the basement flooded with several inches of water, Basi said.

Some areas were still wet as of Saturday afternoon, but no standing water remained, he said. No one was injured because of the flooding.

Crews Saturday were still assessing the damage and determining what could be salvaged, Basi said. University officials don’t know when the pipe burst or why, but Basi said it likely was not long based on the amount of flooding. People were working in the building at the time, he said, so it was unlikely that the leak would have gone undetected for long.

“It happened rather quickly as far as the water flooding,” Basi said.

The MU School of Health Professions and some offices for Mizzou Online are housed in Lewis Hall.
Water line bursts in MU's Lewis Hall, soaking every floor

June 6, 2015
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, MO.
A water line break on the top floor of the University of Missouri’s Lewis Hall sent water cascading throughout all eight floors and into the basement.

The Columbia Missourian (http://bit.ly/1ARVNUX ) reports that the break happened Friday behind a cinderblock wall. University spokesman Christian Basi said nobody noticed it until after business hours.

Lewis Hall houses offices for the School of Health Professions and Mizzou Online.

Basi says crews will assess the damage over the weekend, and administrators will make decisions about relocating offices next week.
Campus debate erupts over proposals targeting frat house sexual assaults

By Rudi Keller

A proposal to require drug testing of all fraternity and sorority members living in Greek housing has been dropped from a list of possible new University of Missouri policies that spurred online debate before a June 20 meeting called by Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

The MU Fraternity Alumni Consortium included the idea in a list of possible policy changes suggested about two months ago, former consortium chairman Ted Hellman said Thursday. The ideas have not been adopted but instead are intended to help set the agenda for the “Chancellor’s Summit on Sexual Assault & Student Safety in Fraternity Houses,” which Hellman said will be held at Memorial Union.

Other ideas being discussed include banning all alcoholic beverages except beer in fraternity houses, banning out-of-town formals and prohibiting fraternity members from having female guests between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. on weekends.

“They have been discussed by a wide range of people and the university administration, but no action has been taken,” Hellman said. “Some are still under consideration, some are not. We are very, very early in the process, and the things you are seeing are coming from a document over two months old and dated information.”

Fraternities and sororities at MU have been critical of the ideas and see them as misdirected.

“The women of the Panhellenic Association Executive Board and the Panhellenic chapter presidents deemed the very premise of the proposal problematic and found many of the policies to be ineffective and uneducated,” the Panhellenic Association and the Interfraternity Council said Friday in a news release.

The Panhellenic Association is an umbrella organization for sororities on campus. In an April 29 letter signed by 24 leaders, the association supported some of the ideas, including a ban on out-of-town formals. The association was critical of other policies, including the prohibition on late-night visits to fraternity houses.

“By restricting women under the guise of ‘safety,’ this policy lends itself to the notion that women cannot make choices for themselves,” the letter said.
Members of the council, which represents fraternities on campus, “have many serious concerns with the proposal,” the release said.

The alcohol proposal from the consortium mirrors a policy already in development for fraternity houses, the release said, but the fraternities question the effectiveness of other ideas.

The consortium’s ideas fit the need to change behaviors to prevent sexual assault, said Colleen Coble, executive director of the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

“The proposals all do address what research has found to be risk factors of sexual assault of college women,” Coble said. “They are not the cause, but they can certainly be contributing factors to those who are looking for advantages.”

The date of the summit is inconvenient, but holding it on a Saturday will make it possible for some Greek leaders to return to Columbia to attend, said Parker Briden, vice president of public relations for the Interfraternity Council.

“It would be ideal to have no barriers to student leaders participating in the dialogue, but I don’t believe that the date was set to keep students out,” Briden said in an email. “If you’ve been following social media, you know that students are already making their voices heard.”

A Twitter account, @stopLoftin, was created to generate opposition to the ideas on the grounds that they unfairly target Greek groups. One tweet said none of the assaults reported last academic year took place in a fraternity house.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said the summit will not be open to the public. “This is specifically for the Greek student leaders and the chancellors and the Fraternity Alumni Consortium,” he said.

Loftin was not available for comment.
Greek groups call women's safety proposals ineffective, uneducated

Watch story: [http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=29189&zone=5&categories=5](http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=29189&zone=5&categories=5)

COLUMBIA - Groups representing MU's fraternity and sorority students say they disagree with some of the administration's proposals aimed at keeping women safe on campus.

Among the proposed changes is a ban on any hard liquor in fraternity houses, a restriction on female guests in fraternity houses 10 p.m. through 3 a.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, and mandatory drug testing for all Greek members.

In a statement released today, the University of Missouri Panhellenic Association and Interfraternity Council called the proposals "ineffective and uneducated."

Chancellor R. Bowin Loftin has been working with the MU Fraternity Alumni Consortium (FAC), which came up with the proposals in response to a series of sexual assault and violence cases on campus, including four rapes since the beginning of 2014.

The FAC is an unofficial group of Greek alumni the university administration said it reaches out to from time to time as an advisory group. The consortium calls its proposals, "Safety of Women Students in Fraternity Houses."

Following the release of these proposed changes, the Mizzou Panhellenic Association (PHA), the governing council of a majority of MU's sororities, sent an email to Loftin, outlining its concerns and complaints regarding the premise of the proposal.

The letter was signed by all ranking PHA executive members as well as every sorority house president. The letter calls the proposed changes "overreaching." The major complaint from PHA was the fact that no females were involved in the creation of the plan.
"The goal is to address the safety of women students in fraternity houses, but the proposal was written by men who are not entrenched in daily campus, fraternity or sorority life," the letter states (original emphasis).

The letter said the PHA does not oppose all of the proposals made by the consortium, such as limiting out-of-town social events, commonly called "formals," and educating new students about sexual violence.

Ted Hellman, who acts as the consortium's spokesperson, said much of the controversy surrounding the proposals are based on half facts perpetuated on social media, including a recent article written by "Total Frat Move" on MU's potential changes.

Hellman said the process is still ongoing, and no proposals have been approved, and no policy has been changed.

The statement released Friday from the IFC and PHA executive boards said, while they were "optimistic" about the summit, they "strongly" disagree with part of the proposal. The release also includes an attachment of PHA's letter to Loftin.

The news release states PHA leaders find "the very premise of the proposal problematic," and "not in the best interest of the members of the Panhellenic Association."

Loftin will host a closed summit June 20, which will include members of the consortium, MU Greek chapter presidents, and choice ranking members of PHA and the Interfraternity Council (IFC).

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Proposal to drug test members of MU Greek life is dropped

COLUMBIA — Fraternity representatives have dropped a proposal to drug test live-in members of sorority and fraternity houses.

The proposal was one of four — along with banning all alcohol at fraternity parties except beer, banning out-of-town formals and barring women from fraternities on weekend nights — put together by the Mizzou Fraternity Alumni Consortium to combat sexual assault.

MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin asked the Alumni Consortium to draft the proposals. University officials declined to make him available for comment, and on Twitter he has diverted questions to the Alumni Consortium.
Administrators and Greek life leaders are scheduled to meet June 20 for a five-hour sexual assault summit, where they will discuss the proposals along with the "context for these issues," according to a flier circulating on social media.

The Alumni Consortium no longer considers drug testing a priority, said Ted Hellman, a spokesman for the group, which consists of men who serve on fraternity housing boards or as fraternity advisers.

The Interfraternity Council, which represents 33 fraternities, has been kept abreast of the Alumni Consortium's proposals since April, Hellman said. "People are saying students haven't been involved — that's not accurate," he said. "Some student leaders have been involved in this for quite a while."

For instance, he said, Interfraternity Council officers and presidents were heavily involved in drafting the alcohol proposal.

Members of the Alumni Consortium will attend the summit, Hellman said, and the group will meet before the summit to make sure everybody's on the same page.

The Panhellenic Association, which represents 16 sororities, and the Interfraternity Council posted a statement Friday denouncing some of the proposals as "ineffective and uneducated."

The sorority leaders "deemed the very premise of the proposal problematic," the statement read, especially because no women were involved in the process. "A majority of the proposed policies were not in the best interest of the members of the Panhellenic Association."

Proposal to drug test members of MU Greek life is dropped
COLUMBIA, MO (AP) -- A proposal to require drug testing of fraternity and sorority members living in Greek housing has been dropped.

The MU Fraternity Alumni Consortium had included the idea in a list of possible policy changes. Other ideas under discussion include banning all alcohol at fraternity parties except beer, banning out-of-town formals and barring women from fraternities on weekend nights.

Former consortium chairman Ted Hellman said the ideas are intended to help set the agenda for the "Chancellor's Summit on Sexual Assault & Student Safety in Fraternity Houses," which is scheduled for June 20. None of the ideas have been adopted.

Groups representing fraternities and sororities have raised concerns about some of the ideas.

Tensions rise as application review nears for proposed hospital

A proposed new hospital in south Columbia will help University of Missouri Health Care address future growth, MU Health CEO/COO Mitch Wasden said Wednesday.

The Missouri Health Facilities Review Committee will consider a certificate of need filed by Fulton Medical Center LLC, a partnership of Nueterra and MU Health Care, during a July 13 meeting in Jefferson City. The application spells out plans for a 10-bed, $38 million hospital, a 51,500-square-foot building at 4130 and 4150 Lenoir St. that will displace residents at Ed’s and Sunset Hills mobile home parks.

The certificate of need focuses on a geographic region that excludes Columbia’s population and spans east into Callaway County. The application contends that the new Columbia hospital will be more convenient for Fulton and Callaway County residents.

The Nueterra/MU Health partnership also is renovating a portion of the former Callaway Community Hospital in Fulton.

Wasden said University Hospital will be “maxing out our bed capacity” in three to four years. He said the proposed hospital would give MU Health the ability to accommodate more “low-acuity beds” for patients who are less ill. Partnering with Nueterra, which owns 65 percent of Fulton Medical Center, also allows MU Health to avoid using all of its bonding capacity.
“We don’t have to take all the financial risk,” Wasden said, adding that the arrangement with Nueterra allows MU Health to “be involved enough that we can have input in the quality of care and share information.”

Wasden said the arrangement is similar to methods MU Health used in its partnership with HealthSouth, which operates Rusk Rehabilitation Center. MU Health owns 25 percent of Rusk.

Nueterra and MU Health worked together about 18 months ago to submit a proposal to run Cooper County Memorial Hospital in Boonville. The partnership did not materialize because the duo’s proposal was not accepted. Wasden said Nueterra approached MU Health about purchasing Callaway Community Hospital, thinking MU might be interested because it already has a 40-year history and a residency program at the Fulton hospital.

“We wanted to expand the digital footprint” of MU Health, Wasden said. “Everybody has to expand their clinical footprint and grow, because health care is very competitive right now. If you’re not growing and trying to increase that clinical footprint, it’s very hard to survive.”

The certificate of need application does not directly address the proposed hospital absorbing future bed needs for University Hospital. The application identifies Fulton Medical Center as the only hospital in the selected geographic region, even though five other hospitals in Columbia are located four miles or less from the site.

“If this is going to be for low-acuity beds, that will help our growth because we think we’re going to be out of beds in the next few years,” Wasden said.

He said MU Health would like the hospital to be “close enough” to accommodate staff scheduling.

“There’s kind of a sweet spot on where it needs to be,” he said. “That calculated into some of our thinking on it.”

Amy Leiker, vice president of global marketing for Kansas-based Nueterra, said in an email that expanding the Fulton Medical Center “will provide residents in Mid-Missouri with another option for health care close to home.” She declined to respond to additional questions.

The decision to locate a Fulton Medical Center campus in south Columbia received swift, negative reaction from officials at Boone Hospital Center, one of five Columbia hospitals. Boone Hospital President Jim Sinek said the attempt to select a geographic region that ignored the existing hospitals was “gerrymandering” and “an attempt to create a false impression that there’s a large population base that’s not being served.”

Boone Hospital is a county-owned hospital leased by BJC HealthCare; it has 397 beds. University Hospital has 361 beds, and the Fulton hospital has 37 beds.

The certificate of need application says there would be “no impact” for hospitals closest to the proposed hospital’s service area.
Meanwhile, Boone Hospital has initiated an online petition. The petition states that the proposed hospital “will duplicate resources already provided by our strong local hospitals” and “will fragment health care and weaken our world-class local providers while siphoning profits off to Kansas.” Residents of Ed’s and Sunset Hills mobile home parks, which are owned by Whirlwind Properties, were notified in April that the parks would close on Oct. 1. Local attorney Ron Netemeyer, owner and manager of Whirlwind Properties, is giving the tenants free rent and utilities until they move.

Local hospital against proposed hospital in Columbia

Watch story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=29200&zone=5&categories=5

COLUMBIA - A local hospital has a petition against a proposed hospital in southern Columbia.

The Fulton Medical Center is working with the University of Missouri Health Care and private healthcare management company Nueterra to build a 10-bed facility that would replace two mobile home parks off Highway 63.

The Boone Hospital Center said it is against the proposed facility because it said the city doesn’t need another hospital when there are already several others in the area.

The University of Missouri Health Care and Nueterra filed a certificate of need asking the state for approval to build the facility.

The proposed hospital would cost about $36.1 million dollars.
Hospital administrators fight over proposed facility


COLUMBIA, MO -- A fight is brewing over a proposal by Fulton Medical Center administrators to build a 10-bed hospital in South Columbia.

Boone Hospital Center administrators said people in Mid-Missouri do not need the proposed facility when there are several others already serving the area.

Administrators with Kansas health care management company Neuterra want to be the majority owners of a proposed facility. They want to build the hospital where 2 trailer parks are going out of business. **Neuterra would operate the hospital through a partnership with MU Health Care.** Boone Hospital Center administrators said the Certificate of Need application for the project is deceiving because it claims there are only 18 hospital beds in the service area of the proposed facility. There are actually 5 full-service hospitals and 1,100 hospital beds within 5 miles of the proposed site.

Boone Hospital Center President Jim Sinek said, “It’s what I would consider to be gerrymandering a region that had enough population in it and had very few beds in it, in spite of the fact that right next door to the hospital that they want to build there are 1,100 beds. About half of those beds are being used today.”

Representatives from MU Health Care and Neuterra were not available for comment. Neuterra administrators indicated the new hospital would improve their company’s finances in their application with the Missouri Health Facilities Committee. Boone Hospital Center administrators started a petition against the application last month.
If approved by the state committee, the new hospital would cost $36 million. That includes $4 million to purchase the property of the closing trailer parks. State committee members are scheduled to vote on the Certificate of Need application on July 13.

The Missouri Health Facilities Committee scheduled a public hearing on Neuterra’s proposal for Monday morning at the State Capitol Building.

That hearing was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts.

More support for new medical training campus in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) - University and hospital officials say they plan more steps to support a new medical training campus in Springfield.

Planning for the University of Missouri School of Medicine's new Springfield Clinical campus began nearly a decade ago. Supporters also are planning a new occupational therapy program at Missouri State. It would be the first such program in southern Missouri.

Last week, several new supporting efforts were announced. CoxHealth plans to provide $500,000 for scholarships for medical students training in Springfield, while Missouri State and Mercy Springfield will open a clinic for uninsured, low-income residents.

Also, the University of Missouri says it wants to work with Missouri State, CoxHealth and
Mercy Springfield in several ways, including expanding clinical research, health care training and medical residency programs.

MU Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton retiring in August

After decades of working on everything from equality to athletics, Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton is set to retire Aug. 31.

Middleton received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Missouri in 1968. After graduating from MU’s law school in 1971, he spent time working as a civil rights attorney in Washington, D.C. He returned to Columbia in 1985 to work as a law professor at his alma mater. He started as interim vice provost for minority affairs and faculty development in 1997 and was hired as deputy chancellor in 1998.

During his time at MU, Middleton helped Athletic Director Mike Alden recruit several basketball coaches and assisted in rewriting and reorganizing the school’s formal grievance process.

Middleton is perhaps best known for his civil rights work. He worked to improve diversity among MU’s faculty and helped turn the university’s women’s studies and black studies programs into their own departments.

“When you look at where the university is, compared to where it was 50 years ago, we’ve advanced quite a bit in terms of race relations and in making this university acceptable to all people in the state of Missouri,” Middleton said. “I’m very happy with the progress that the university has made, and I’m proud of the part I played in moving that along.”

Chancellor Emeritus Brady Deaton first met Middleton when Deaton was serving as chief of staff under then-Chancellor Charles Kiesler. Deaton said he admires Middleton’s law background as well as how he tackles issues.

“He was always a very calm, reasoned individual who gave you a very careful, deliberate analysis with every issue we dealt with,” Deaton said. “He was so valuable to me in that regard, because he was just the voice of reason in a sometimes hectic situation. I counted on him a great deal.”
History Professor Russell Zguta came to MU in 1967, while Middleton was still a student. Middleton was among the first black graduates of MU’s law school.

Zguta said his most meaningful interaction with the administrator came in 2006. Zguta, who was chair of MU’s Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at the time, said financial issues were preventing him from hiring a “very good, young faculty member” from Africa who was finishing his doctorate at the University of Iowa.

Middleton was able to assess the situation and successfully hired the young man, who Zguta said is now a tenured faculty member.

Middleton “was an invaluable asset in something that the university has had a problem with, and that is the ratio of black to white faculty members,” Zguta said. “Because he cared very deeply about improving that ratio, he may be hard to replace.”

Zguta said he thought of Middleton more as a faculty member than as an administrator. He said it was always easy to communicate with Middleton because of “his candor and his hopefulness” and the fact that he “did not speak bureaucratese.”

After Middleton, 68, wraps up his final months as deputy chancellor, he said he will transition into a part-time role to help Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin “design and implement the next approach to inclusion and diversity on this campus.”

A decision has not been made as to whether there will be a replacement for his position.

“A lot of what I do is simply give support and advice to the chancellor,” Middleton said. “There a lot of supporters and advisers around, so it may be that my position can be covered by lots of people.”

Nixon OKs more than $300M in bonding for building repairs

June 05, 2015 3:53 pm • By SUMMER BALLENTINE

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon signed a package of legislation Friday that provides more than $300 million in bonding for repairs and renovations to state-owned buildings and college campuses.
Nixon announced approval of the bills during a state veterans’ convention in Springfield, touting the $33 million set aside for seven veterans’ homes.

"We need to ensure our veterans receive the best care we can provide, and today I am here to deliver on our promise to them," Nixon said in a statement.

More than $150 million is planned for repairing state-owned buildings with things such as replacing fire alarm and sprinkler systems, as well as renovations to the bariatric showers in the veterans’ home in Mexico. And $40 million will go toward repairs at the aging Capitol, where stalactites are growing in the substructure due to water leaks.

A project to transform the Missouri Department of Transportation headquarters into a space for some legislative and executive branch employees also will get $35 million.

**Public colleges and universities are allotted more than $160 million for delayed maintenance and other repairs. About $56 million will go the University of Missouri System, on top of roughly $38.5 million already released by Nixon for Lafferre Hall at the Columbia campus.**

University System spokesman John Fougere said the funding will help address a roughly $1.3 billion backlog in maintenance and repairs, calling renovation projects that now can move forward "critically important." Fougere said the projects are at buildings that will be used by students in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields, such as science laboratory renovations for Benton Hall at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Also included in the package of bills was $35 million for the State Historical Society of Missouri.

The money is planned for a new headquarters for the society, which will be in downtown Columbia. Spokeswoman Mary Ellen Lohmann said the new space will help showcase Missouri art and said now only a fraction of one percent of the society’s collection can be displayed.

Work by the artists Thomas Hart Benton and George Caleb Bingham will be displayed, but Lohmann said other works also will be rotated in for public viewing.

'Eat MO Carp' campaign takes on Mid-Missouri
COLUMBIA - Mid-Missouri is working with an MU professor to help solve the growing Asian carp problem in the Midwest.

Broadway Brewery hosted the first official event to familiarize the community with Asian carp Saturday. The Asian carp was imported from China in the 1970s to help purify the water in U.S. streams. After escaping captivity and wildly reproducing the species has become out of control and threatens the balance of the ecosystem.

"It's displacing out native species, from the river systems, but we're trying to stop the fish from getting to the great lakes," Dr. Mark Morgan, 'Eat Mo Carp' project leader and MU associate professor in the School of Natural Resources, said. "This threatens and could damage a multi-billion dollar commercial and recreational fishing industry. We're not doing enough as a nation to address this particular problem. What better way than to eat it?"

According to Morgan, the owner of Broadway Brewery is a former biology professor and was excited to get on board. The invasive species was featured on the menu during the Concert Against Rogue Piscines (CARP). Local musicians Pippa Letsky, Noah Earle and Ian Vardell played while attendees were able to ample specially crafted carp dishes from executive chef Eric Seidler.

"It mesmerized me how mild the fish is, how well it takes on other flavors, and how easy it is to manipulate into other things," said Seidler.

Six establishments in downtown Columbia have considered adding the fish to their menus.

"It's a low-fat source of protein that's affordably priced," Morgan said.

All of the proceeds from the "Eat MO Carp" events will go toward an Asian carp fund created by Morgan, to assist in research, public events and educational efforts.

"Of course we're not trying to solve it; we're not going to remove all the carp from the rivers and streams. It's just a matter of educating the population in a fun and tasty way," said Morgan.

Up next for the campaign is the National Bow Fishing tournament in Springfield. The Eat MO Carp team will be serving carp and was also given a large donation from the Springfield Bass Pro Shop.

"Its research into action," Morgan said.