MU budget cuts to remain after Nixon signs higher education bill


COLUMBIA - Gov. Jay Nixon signed a $1.3 billion higher education budget yesterday, which will enact a tuition freeze for the fourth time since Nixon has been in office.

The budget also creates a four percent boost in performance-based funding, which comes to about $37 million for Missouri colleges. $17 million of those funds will go to the UM system.

This comes after many in the Missouri legislature contested the UM system receiving any funds following the events on the MU campus in November. In addition to the $17 million, the UM system will also undergo a $3.8 million cut to the administration.

Rep. Donna Lichtenegger, R-Jackson, says it was important to have the cut because it sends a message.

"When we did this I was very proud to do the cut at first. We needed to send a message and that message was heard loud and clear. Now the administration is working to fix things," Lichtenegger said.

MU News Bureau's Christian Basi praised the governor for including the university in the budget plans.

"The budget is going to allow us to continue our mission of serving the state as one of our biggest assets. We touch nearly every Missourian in every county almost every day," said Basi.
Basi added that despite MU receiving a portion of the funds, planned budget cuts on the campus will still happen due to the expected decrease in enrollment numbers.

Q & A: Ralph Butler, MU Research Reactor

1. **What happens at MURR?** MURR provides research and development, products, and services that directly benefit citizens worldwide. We engineer customized solutions for leading researchers as well as biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies; conduct a wide range of sensitive analyses; and enable discoveries. In the nuclear medicine arena, MURR is at the heart of a network of internationally recognized scientists, engineers, and technicians who are fighting the war against cancer using radioisotopes supplied by MURR.

2. **What makes you a unique reactor?** Our reactor’s compact and elegant design is renewable and adaptable. Its unique design allows us to safely operate the reactor for more hours in a given year than any other research reactor in the world. This operating capacity is a key factor to ensuring the nation’s supply of medical isotopes. With a staff of 200, the MURR Center leads the nation as the highest power research reactor at a university, with multidisciplinary research, education, and service programs that span hundreds of projects in Missouri, the U.S., and the world.

3. **Why are radioisotopes so important?** Radioisotopes impact our everyday lives in so many ways. They are integral components in smoke detectors, help analyze archaeological artifacts to better understand our history, and are indispensable tools for diagnosing diseases and treating cancer.

4. **Are there any radioisotope projects you’re currently developing?** We are working to bring several different radioisotopes to the medical community for which there is no current U.S. supply. The first radioisotope we are developing is Iodine 131, which is used for diagnosis and treatment of thyroid cancer and other thyroid conditions in more than 800,000 U.S. patient procedures per year. We are currently commissioning the supply line to be in routine production later this year. Another one of our radioisotopes in development is Lutetium 177. Our Lu-177 is the active ingredient in a new drug called Lutathera, which is used to treat neuroendocrine
tumors, including pancreatic cancer. Lutathera has received FDA Fast Track designation and is expected to receive FDA approval in early 2017.

5. **You’re requesting $10 million in funding from the state. Why?** The requested funding will be used to construct a specialized training and education facility, which would allow us to directly address a primary need cited by nuclear medicine companies that have explored relocation to central Missouri: the limited supply of a specialized technical workforce to support nuclear medicine development and supply. These funds would also allow us to house much needed research space.

6. **How would an increased trained technical workforce impact MURR and the community?** A training facility located at MURR is a strategic link in Missouri’s ability to attract companies to central Missouri to form a nuclear medicine innovation district. Such a district would make Columbia a focal point in the nuclear medicine industry, ultimately leading to more high-tech jobs in central Missouri.

7. **What are MURR’s future goals?** Our future goals include building on MURR’s momentum in nuclear medicine R&D, fueled by the supply of isotopes for medical diagnosis and treatment — a powerful opportunity for MU. Beyond the $10 million expansion at MURR, the vision for a nuclear medicine innovation district includes a new isotope processing facility, a 70 MeV cyclotron for proton-rich radioisotopes, and ultimately, a larger research reactor — all at or near Discovery Ridge Research Park.

8. **How would these goals impact the business community?** Construction of these new facilities would create new, permanent, high-paying jobs and potentially attract nuclear medicine companies to Columbia, all of which translates into more consumers and further support for our local economy.

9. **Why is Discovery Ridge important to MURR?** Due to the short half-lives of medically relevant radioisotopes, locating commercial entities close to MURR and major distribution points (e.g. Columbia Regional Airport, St Louis and Kansas City airports, and I-70) lowers transaction costs, creates efficiencies in marketing and service, and increases supply.

10. **What are the biggest challenges MURR is facing right now?** The largest challenge we are facing today is a lack of space and qualified individuals. Every square foot of MURR is occupied. We are unable to support all of the requests we receive for R&D support that we are otherwise well-suited to provide.

11. **What do you wish the public knew about MURR?** Today, many thousands of patients benefit every year from nuclear medicine research and the supply of active ingredients (radioisotopes) that originate at MURR. Our vision to expand the facilities at MURR and Discovery Ridge with a nuclear medicine innovation district would lead to even more life-saving treatments.
Lawmaker asks students to rethink going to Mizzou

JEFFERSON CITY - A Missouri lawmaker is urging students to reconsider attending the University of Missouri in Columbia following campus turmoil last year.

Democratic Rep. Courtney Allen Curtis of Ferguson said in a statement Thursday he’s concerned about the welfare of minority students.

His warning follows student demonstrations at the Columbia campus over what protesters saw as administrators’ indifference to racial issues.

Protests culminated with the resignations of the University of Missouri system president and Columbia chancellor.

University of Missouri has since been under national and state scrutiny, including from lawmakers calling for change.

Curtis, a member of the Legislative Black Caucus, slammed legislation to create a commission to review the system. He says there is no requirement that members will be diverse and no penalties if recommendations for change are not followed.
MU's Take Back the Night march raises awareness of sexual assault on campus

BRIANNA STUBLER, 10 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — In September, MU released the results of a campus survey on sexual assault and sexual misconduct.

Three in 10 female undergraduates reported being victims of nonconsensual sexual contact by their senior year, a big reason why more than 150 students, staff members and Columbia residents gathered at Traditions Plaza on Thursday evening for MU's Take Back the Night event.

The group chanted “Hey hey, ho ho, rape culture has got to go!” and “Blame the system, not the victim!” as they marched through The Columns and the MU Student Center.

“This is such an important issue that people don’t talk about but need to, especially here,” said Emma Gambaro, an MU junior and member of Stronger Together Against Relationship and Sexual Violence, also known as STARS. “We want to play a role in stopping that violence.”

Take Back the Night is a nonprofit organization that raises awareness of sexual violence through events, rallies, vigils and marches.

For the second consecutive year, STARS and the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center partnered to bring Take Back the Night to MU.

On the way to the Student Center, sophomore Clara Fields, a staffer at the RSVP Center, said she works to help those in bad circumstances because she understands what they’re going through and can relate.
“I want the survivors to know they’re not alone,” she said. “We can combat the problem if we can talk about it and find a solution.”

When the marchers returned to Traditions Plaza, they observed 107 seconds of silence in solidarity with victims. The time was a reference to the amount of time between each assault in the U.S., according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network.

Afterward, some marchers spoke out about their personal experiences and against the campus climate.

Fields acknowledged that some marchers may want to keep their experiences to themselves, but she said she urges anyone affected by rape or sexual assault to use resources such as the RSVP Center and know they are not alone.

The MU Police Department releases reports on campus rape and sexual assault the last week in September every year. In 2015, there were three reported rapes, but the total amount of sexual assaults for last year will not be officially released until this September.

MU Police Maj. Scott Richard also pointed out that the statistics are not exact as some cases go unreported, and a report is only recorded when an arrest is made.

Several RSVP staffers said the reporting process and unrealistic statistics are part of the problem and need revamping, but RSVP Center coordinator Danica Wolf said she adamantly believes it can be overcome.

“Some people think it’s naive, but I call it desperately hopeful,” Wolf said. “That’s where it needs to be — we need to be on the same page to change our culture.

“Eventually it will stop — we will get there. Our ultimate goal is to put ourselves out of business.”
Michael Yetman is outreach coordinator for the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri.

If it is April, I can guarantee my shoes are going to get wet.

For the past 3 years, I have been on staff at the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri, and every year, Float Your Boat for the Food Bank is the one event I make sure I am a part of.

**Float Your Boat is mid-Missouri’s only cardboard regatta and raises money for the Food Bank. MU’s College of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources teamed up with the Food Bank in 2012 to host the first boat race. This month, we are celebrating its 5-year anniversary.**

Float Your Boat, held at Bass Pro Shops Lake, pushes the boundaries when it comes to cardboard boat racing. A couple hundred different designs have taken to the water, growing in complexity and theme each year. I have never been in a boat, but you don’t have to captain a vessel to enjoy the day.

Lines for registration on Saturday will fill quickly and within hours, Bass Pro’s parking lot will go from store front to impromptu fair. There will be food, decorations and exciting entertainment. My shoes will still be dry at this time, but the teams will be readying to brave the water. They will set up camp around their boats and play music, show off their costumes and encourage guests to vote for their boat to earn the prestigious "People’s Choice" award.

Just after 11 a.m., the first two boats will hit the water. Stands full of family members, co-workers and gawkers will line the shore convinced their favorite boat will win. The next couple
of hours are a blur of paddles, lifejackets and dunked racers. Some teams will break time records while others will find dignity and humor in their boat’s demise. Volunteers and staff will help load and unload boats from the water. Soon, I’ll be knee-deep in the lake dragging the S.S. Minnow from a valiant attempt to cross Bass Pro Shops Lake.

But Float Your Boat is more than a fun family event. It has become an important fundraiser for the Food Bank. Last year, the Food Bank was able to acquire and distribute 400,000 meals with the money raised at Float Your Boat.

My involvement over the past 3 years has left me with soggy shoes but also a deep appreciation for the creativity of my community. The sponsors that participate, the teams that build, and the fans who watch make the day incredible while creating hope for their community.

I invite you to join me at Bass Pro Shops Lake on Saturday, to take part in the fun and cheer on the teams, all while supporting a great cause. No wet shoes required.

**MISSOURIAN**

**Remembering a lynching: MU group creates memorial for James T. Scott**

LIZ RAMOS, 22 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Almost four years ago, community members gathered to celebrate the life of James T. Scott with a headstone for his unmarked grave in Columbia Cemetery.

A group on campus is taking an extra step to remember Scott's story.
Members of the Association of Black Graduate and Professional Students raised money for a plaque in memory of Scott that will be placed near the site of the old Stewart Road bridge where Scott was hanged.

While the exact location hasn't been determined, the plaque will be located at Providence and Stewart roads near the site of the former bridge.

"We believe that the placement of the marker will serve as a reminder of our past and encourage our community to continue to move forward and make Columbia a better place for all," Angela Haeny, president of the organization, told the Columbia City Council on April 18 when the plaque was donated to the city.

The student association hopes to have an unveiling ceremony for the plaque at the beginning of the fall semester.

Scott was jailed on suspicion of sexually assaulting the 14-year-old daughter of an MU German professor in 1923. A mob used cutting torches to remove him from his jail cell and lynched him at the Stewart Road bridge in front of hundreds of spectators.

The plaque will be among at least 30 markers in an African American Heritage Trail designating locations in Columbia to bring visibility to the contributions of African Americans in the community.

"The reasoning is to bring the contributions of the African-American community to the forefront," said Tiffanesha Williams, president-elect of the student organization.

The black, 26-by-36-inch plaque with gold lettering provides an account of Scott's death and how its proximity to MU attracted national attention, as well as a reminder that leaders of the mob weren't convicted.
"Let this site remind us of the injustices of our historical legacy as we continue to fight against systems of oppression. Let us reflect on how we can better our community for all Columbians," the memorial reads.

To raise money for the plaque, a GoFundMe page was created that gathered 48 donations totaling $1,935.

MU psychology professor Ken Sher helped come up with the idea for the memorial.

"It’s important to show our triumphs as well as those things we should be ashamed of," Sher said. "It’s important to remember where we came from but to keep moving forward."

The plaque was part of the "Lest We Forget" campaign that sheds light on the symbols and monuments that have been forgotten in the community, Brittani Fults of the student association said.

Fults said the campaign is "us taking the eraser out of the hand of the individuals set on ignoring this lynching. The purpose is us having control in our history and culture being told and having symbols around to remind us of that."

Williams said the memorial will serve as a starting point for conversations about race.

"Now that we have this marker in town, it puts a dark moment in our history on display for all to see," she said. "When you put something on display where you can’t deny it, you have to confront it."

In February, the event "Lest We Forget: Lynching at the Stewart Road Bridge" honored blacks who died from lynchings and other violent acts. Williams said it gave community members a "front-row seat to these malicious acts in history."

Williams found Scott's story intriguing because his death occurred in the community where she's living and getting an education. We had that personal connection of being in the same community, being affiliated with the same institution," she said.