Kendrick: University of Missouri might see 10 percent state cut

By Rudi Keller

The University of Missouri will likely see a cut of 10 percent in annual state support in the budget proposal being prepared by Gov. Eric Greitens, state Rep. Kip Kendrick said Friday.

Kendrick, D-Columbia, appeared on a panel with three other lawmakers and said state revenue is growing at a weak pace despite a state economy with unemployment below 4 percent.

“It is all critical when we talk about this,” Kendrick said. “Whenever you have an economy, I understand people are struggling but it is doing fairly well, and you have to make these significant cuts, it is damaging to funding our priorities.”

Lathrop Gage law firm sponsored the event that also included state Rep. Cheri Reisch, R-Hallsville, Speaker Pro Tem Elijah Haahr, R-Springfield, and state Sen. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia. Former Republican state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, a partner at the law firm, moderated the event and warned the audience of about 100 to refrain from focusing on the scandal surrounding Greitens and a woman he had a sexual relationship with in 2015.

“I don’t think anyone will raise this and that is the elephant in the room and it is everything going on with the governor right now,” Schaefer said.

The panel was invited before news of the scandal was broadcast on KMOV television, Schaefer said. In that report, the station played a recording where the woman said Greitens photographed her while blindfolded and partially nude and threatened to make the photos public if she told anyone about their relationship.

There were no questions about Greitens’ future or his ability to remain in office.

On the budget problems, Rowden said revenue shortfalls are issues in many states.

“I am not sure it makes it right or makes it easier but it certainly is a part of the new reality of state budgets across the country,” Rowden said.
If cuts are necessary, he said, they should be made elsewhere because higher education has already suffered.

“We are going to fight it,” Rowden said. “Everybody on this stage should fight it and the reasons are pretty obvious.”

Repeated cuts to higher education undermine the state’s competitiveness, Haahr said. The states that are doing the best made large investments in higher education and workforce training 20 to 30 years ago, he said.

“The problem we have in Missouri is we have eight-year term limits so it is really hard to get a lot of our legislators to look past what they can pass that what will see fruit beyond those eight years,” Haahr said.

When the state budget was written for the current year, Kendrick said, lawmakers cut $500 million from state spending and Greitens restricted another $250 million. Missouri spends about $27.8 billion annually, with about $9.1 billion in general revenue, which is where the cuts occurred.

Greitens also restricted funding for higher education soon after taking office. Higher education funding for the current year is 9 percent below fiscal 2017 levels.

As a result of the state cuts and lower tuition revenue, the UM System cut $101 million from its $3.1 billion budget, intending to reallocate about $40 million internally. That effort, to support the strategic plans of recently installed President Mun Choi, is endangered by additional cuts, Rowden said.

“Our universities have to have continuity, they have to have stability,” Rowden said. “We are asking them to think three to five to seven to 10 years ahead and then not equipping them with the resources to be able to do it.”

The university would have to repeat the process of identifying things to cut if the state makes additional cuts, MU Vice Chancellor of Operations Gary Ward said after the forum. The university is already studying its finances, enrollment issues and program offerings in an effort to save money.

“We have to bring together all of our university family and talk about the things we do that we can no longer do, just like you would have to at home,” he said.

Additional cuts would make the process of streamlining harder, Ward said.

“It certainly makes it difficult to strategize for long-term when you don’t know what kind of ground you are on,” he said. “Every time you have a plan and you have a disruption like that you have got to re-adjust your plan.”
One source of relief, Rowden said, would be to repeal the law limiting tuition increases to the rate of inflation. That would allow governing boards to recover some or all of the money withdrawn by the state, he said.

“This bill would give some relief to institutions,” Rowden said.

All the lawmakers said they supported or would be willing to consider the tuition legislation.

“We need to get the legislature off their backs, because it seems like every time there is a cut to the state budget, it is always higher education,” Reisch said.

MU in support of budget "flexibility" after bill filed to change tuition cap

By ALYSSA TOOMEY

University of Missouri leaders said they are in support of budget flexibility after a new bill was introduced that would lift the state cap on tuition.

Sen. Caleb Rowden (R- District 19) filed the bill this week. He said the bill would give universities the flexibility to raise tuition in years when the state cuts funding for higher education.

"We are definitely in favor of obtaining some type of flexibility to our budget," MU spokesperson Christian Basi said when asked if the university is in support of the legislation.

Current state law limits the amount of tuition increases to the consumer price index. Basi said that's been extremely low over the past several years, and it's not enough to keep up with cuts to state funding.

Last year, the state cut funding for higher education by 9 percent. Rowden said he expects additional cuts to be announced next week.

"We're asking higher education institutions to think big and to think long term and we need to give them the tools to do that," Rowden told ABC 17 News.
"This bill would allow us to have a little more flexibility in our budget when the state is also facing a difficult fiscal year," Basi said.

Last year, state cuts and a drop in enrollment forced leaders at MU to make some tough decisions, including hundreds of job cuts.

"That was a very difficult time, and we're hoping that we can continue to be as flexible as we can moving forward," Basi said.

University officials said they are still extremely committed to affordability. Since June, MU has announced six affordability initiatives.

"We are, again, adamant that we will keep tuition as low as possible," Basi said.

In an email, Rep. Chuck Basye (R-District 047) said he would "likely support this effort if the tuition hike wasn't drastic."

"They're smart enough to know that if they would jack up tuition by 20 percent in one year or something, yeah, that would have a devastating impact on enrollment, which is why they would never do that," Rowden said.

**Our opinion: Look for savings, find it**

A recent focus on cost-savings in vehicle fleets managed by the state of Missouri should be a lesson for government at every level.

Millions of tax dollars will be saved or repurposed annually thanks to this effort that required little more than direction from the top, a focus on efficiencies and a realistic assessment of what expenses truly could be justified.

The Office of Administration announced earlier this month more than $520,000 in potential savings through a reduction of 30 vehicles from 170 in a consolidated pool for Jefferson City-based workers.

The University of Missouri System then said it would update policies and implement cost-cutting measures for its vehicle fleet which could generate savings of $1.5 million to $2 million.
A few days later, officials said they had achieved another $2.2 million in savings by reducing the vehicle fleet for the Department of Natural Resources for fiscal year 2018. Officials said the cut amounted to 86 government vehicles, or about 14 percent of the department’s fleet.

Importantly, officials contend all of the proposed savings can be achieved without sacrificing service levels in the affected employee groups. In some cases, the cuts were as simple as determining how many vehicles were needed on any given day.

What prompted this success? A year ago, Gov. Eric Greitens appointed Drew Erdmann to become the state’s first chief operating officer to focus on eliminating unneeded regulations and seeking cost efficiencies. Erdmann then convened a task force on management of the vehicle fleets to look at costs, safety and other possible improvements.

The task force included both state officials and industry experts from entities including Ameren, AT&T, Enterprise Holdings, Ford Motor Co., Hogan Transportation, Kansas City Power & Light, McKinsey & Company and GPS Insight. All the experts volunteered their time.

Many of those involved praised the joint effort and the willingness of participants to adopt best practices from private industry where appropriate.

We are encouraged by what this means for the state and taxpayers, but also recognize much more work remains to be done. The state spends “approximately $98 million each year to transport state employees for official business,” the task force reported, and is expected to continue to seek ways to drive down these costs.

Meanwhile, government at every other level has similar costs worth similar close examination.
Search committee to hold open forum about desired qualities in new Mizzou provost

By KRISTI CRAWFORD


COLUMBIA, Mo. - Mizzou is moving forward in the search for its next permanent provost.

The University of Missouri provost search committee will hold an open forum Monday morning to find out what qualities the campus community wants in its provost.

Jim Spain, the current interim provost, replaced previous provost Garnett Stokes this month. Spain said he will not put his name in as a candidate for the permanent provost position.

The provost search committee wants students, faculty and staff to attend the open forum so they can voice desired characteristics and qualifications they want the university's next provost to have.

Mun Choi, the University of Missouri system president, previously said the university hopes to name a candidate for the permanent provost position by the end of the spring semester.

The open forum will be held in the Great Room in the Reynolds Alumni Center from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Monday.
The University of Missouri is using its Extension program to bring the faculty, research and students to Missouri residents so that the school is more accessible.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports that Extension is a partnership between the University of Missouri and each of the state's 114 counties. The university employs most of the specialists and each county funds office space, among other things.

There is usually a land-grant emphasis on agriculture, mechanical arts and other practical skills. But with the onslaught of technology and the gradual growth of cities, the population's needs and expectations changed.

"Our general mission is still the same," said Jody Squires, associate regional director for Extension in the St. Louis city office. "The challenges change but the goal is always to provide resources to overcome those things, whatever they may be."

Extension leaders said they're ready to provide financial planning classes, leadership training and dozens of other programs that vary by region.

By the end of the year, each county office will have a specialist who will focus on one of three issues: Education and workforce development, health and access to health care, and the economy.
"They'll be uniquely positioned to focus on one of those top issues," said Marshall Stewart, vice chancellor for Extension and engagement at the university's Columbia campus. "They'll have content expertise but a focus deep in that county to see how that expertise can be helpful.

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch**

**St. Charles County officials at odds over whether Legislature must OK river bluff subdivision**

By Mark Schlinkmann St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. CHARLES COUNTY • Four decades ago, environmentalists and the Missouri Legislature prodded the University of Missouri into selling the bulk of 8,000 pristine acres it owned along Highway 94 for a public conservation area instead of to developers.

Now a St. Charles County councilman contends that a state law passed during that effort and still on the books requires the Legislature to sign off on a pending plan for a home development on a portion of the land the university still owns.

That approval would be in addition to a rezoning request that will go before the County Council to allow the new development proposed for the Missouri River bluffs near Highway 94 and Highway 40 (Interstate 64).

“There was a state law passed in 1977 to protect that property from something like that happening,” Councilman Joe Cronin, R-St. Paul, said in an interview. “It’s still binding.”
But the county government’s attorney, Keith Hazelwood, has a different take on the law, which bars the university from subdividing or selling any parcel in excess of 2,500 contiguous acres unless approved by the Legislature and the governor.

Hazelwood, the county counselor, points out that property records indicate that the university now owns far less acreage in the immediate area, including the 397 acres on which the subdivision would be built.

“The university is now down to 539.6 (acres), well under the 2,500 threshold,” Hazelwood said.

University officials say the total owned actually is closer to 700 acres. In any event, Christian Basi, a spokesman for the university system, said the university agrees that no legislative approval is needed for selling some of its current acreage for the home subdivision.

In 1978, the year after the state law was passed, the university reached agreement to sell 7,230 of its 8,000 acres to the Missouri Department of Conservation, which now calls the tract the Weldon Spring Conservation Area. The Legislature then ratified the sale in 1979.

Much of the remainder kept by the university was eventually turned into the UM-sponsored Missouri Research Park, which houses various corporate offices and labs.

Some companies bought their sites from the university and others lease. Basi, the university spokesman, said UM believes that land sales to companies locating in the research park didn’t require approval by the Legislature and that none was ever sought.

The tiff over the 1977 law is the latest wrinkle in the controversy over the proposal by developer Greg Whittaker to build 315 single-family homes and 120 attached units on the periphery of the Missouri Bluffs Golf Club near the research park.

A company affiliated with Whittaker currently leases the golf club from the university.
Some boosters of the nearby Katy Trail and others contend that the plan would mar the landscape and detract from the experience of bicyclists and walkers using the trail.

Whittaker, meanwhile, insists that the area’s atmosphere won’t be adversely affected. He says the whole point of the project is to blend into the surroundings and to preserve much of the forested, hilly terrain.

The issue is now before the county Planning and Zoning Commission, which will make a recommendation to the County Council.

The commission held a second hearing on the plan Wednesday and is expected to take up the matter again Feb. 21.

The university received the 8,000 acres for $1 as federal surplus property in 1948.

After fulfilling the stipulation that the land be used only for research for 20 years, the university gained the right to sell it.

The Legislature passed the 1977 law giving it and the governor veto power over a large land sale after learning that the university was considering selling the land for commercial development.
Current mental health screenings alone not enough to help students

By MAIA MCDONALD

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: Current mental health screenings alone not accurate enough to help elementary students, MU study finds


COLUMBIA - Researchers at the University of Missouri have found that 80 percent of state students who needed treatment for serious mental health issues, did not receive sufficient public health support. According to the study, there was a high variance between mental health screenings performed by teachers and administrators for more than 97,000 young Missourians in 2015.

"We were looking at the accuracy of mental health screenings done for elementary students and we used data that reflected three different districts from across three different states and we're basically looking to try to understand how much of the variance between student ratings was coming from the students themselves or other sources," Melissa Maras, a research consultant at MU’s Assessment Resource Center.

According to Maras, they wanted to find out whether teacher differences or other factors may have had an effect on mental health screenings for potentially at-risk students.

"We're trying to identify students who need additional support, looking not only to the teachers who are terrific reporters but also if there’s a school counselor or administrator, asking there parent or guardian, other adults who may be involved in their lives, a coach or someone out in the community." Maras said.
Maras said getting information for multiple sources like this can help to create a more well-rounded picture of a student’s needs. She also said that the data helps shed a light on the issues Missouri faces.

"Our schools are doing a really great job with the resources they have but unfortunately they have very limited resources. In terms of statewide data none of the ratios in terms of student to professional are at the recommended level. So we just simply don't have enough school counselors, school psychiatrists, school psychologists to meet these needs," Maras said.

Currently, the ratio of school-employed mental health professionals to students in Missouri for the 2016-2017 school year was 1 social worker for every 2,065 students while the ideal ratio is 1 social worker for every 250 students. Daniel Rector of the Hook Center for Educational Leadership and District Renewal, who works alongside Maras, said there's a lot that can be done to support young students.

"When I think about how we can best support all students I think there should really be a focus, an emphasis, across the state, across the nation is really systems for collaboration. What I think about when supporting the child, what does the school do, what does the parents do, it's really about how do we come together as a structure as an entire process to support our kids," Rector said.

**Research finds berries effective in cancer treatment**

By JOE ROSSETTI


COLUMBIA - A visiting MU researcher is working to fight cancer with blueberries - specifically the extract of the fruit.
Dr. Yujiang Fang says a key component in blueberries is resveratrol, which can be used to treat cancer.

"Plus blueberry also contains other chemicals like flavonoids, which has been shown to have killing effect to cancer cells," he said. "So it's very, very reasonable to assume that blueberry can be used as a radiosensitizer because of it contains resveratrol, plus it contains flavonoids."

Radiosensitizers are often used to help increase the effectiveness of radiation therapy, while also lowering the dosage necessary.

At the moment, Fang's research is focusing specifically on cervical cancer.

Fang said it's one of the most common cancers in females worldwide, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, around 12,000 women are diagnosed each year.

In the latest stages of cervical cancer, Fang said it's necessary for patients to undergo radiation therapy.

"The problem's that if you give higher dosage, it not only kills cancer cells, but also kills healthy cells," Fang said. "So we need to find a chemical, or something which has little side effect, but is productive, very effective to kill cancer and at the same time reduce killing healthy cells".

At the moment, Fang said his research is in the early stages. He and his team are currently applying the blueberry extract to cancer cells directly - in vitro.

In the study, Fang and his team divided the cervical cancer cells into four groups. The groups included a control group receiving no treatment, a group receiving only radiation treatment, a group receiving only blueberry extract and a group receiving both.

Fang said the group receiving only radiation decreased cancer cells by about 20 percent, the group receiving only blueberry extract reduced cancerous cells by 25 percent, and because of the synergistic effects, the group receiving both experienced a 70 percent decrease in cancerous cells.

"We didn't see any harmful effect," Fang said. "So that's why we think compared with chemicals, drugs, this really has a lot of advantage.

He said blueberry extract will be beneficial because of it's multiple effects.

"In this study, we emphasize that you need to use radiation first, and adding blueberry is going to help you to get a better treatment," Fang said. "The reason's that blueberry adding to radiation can inhibit proliferation of cancer cells, and promote death, or apoptosis, of cancer cells."

The next step for Fang and his team is studies on mice and eventually human trials.
Research: Activist Investors Are More Likely to Target Female CEOs

By: Daniel B. Turban, Vishal K. Gupta and Sandra Mortal

Daniel B. Turban is a professor of management and the holder of the Emma S. Hibbs/Harry Gunnison Brown Chair of Business and Economics in the Trulaske College of Business at the University of Missouri. His research interests include gender-role stereotyping, self-regulation process and motivation. His research has been published in various journals including the Academy of Management Journal, Journal of Applied Psychology, and Personnel Psychology.

Mary Barra, Meg Whitman, Indra Nooyi: These are just three of the women who have successfully broken through the notorious “glass ceiling” to become CEOs of large public firms. Although women are still underrepresented at the top of corporations, there is growing interest in understanding whether men and women have different experiences as CEOs.

Our research examined whether male and female CEOs are treated differently by activist investors, who pressure firms to alter or change their strategic policies and decisions. We found that female CEOs face a greater threat of shareholder activism than male CEOs.

Shareholder activism is on the rise in American financial markets. Managers generally view activists antagonistically, as bullies who publicly express dissatisfaction with management and demand changes in the firm. At Yahoo, for example, activist shareholders were quite vocal in 2008, asking the firm to accept an acquisition bid from Microsoft, though it was not consistent with the CEO’s strategy for the firm at the time. And likening activists to those “playing fantasy football” as opposed to “actually playing the field,” Irene Rosenfeld, former CEO of snack-food giant Mondelez, noted in 2015 that “advising others to act in a certain way doesn’t seem hard for people who don’t have to do it themselves.”

Much of the activism discussed in the media involves a large investor telling the CEO what to do. Sometimes, however, multiple activist investors engage in what’s called a wolf pack attack, and simultaneously target the firm. Some high-profile examples of companies targeted by wolf
pack attacks in recent years are Darden Restaurants (owner of the Olive Garden chain) and PetSmart. Activists are prohibited by law to group together against management without publicly disclosing their efforts. But because it is difficult to prove activists have formed a group, activists are often able to act together.

We wanted to know whether a CEO’s gender influenced whether their firm would be targeted by activist investors. Our reading of the relevant academic literature suggested three potential, but conflicting, answers:

No, men and women are not treated differently, because activist investors are “gender blind.” Since investors are focused on maximizing the value of their holdings in the firms, they should not care much about the gender of the CEO. Therefore, there would be no difference in whether they target men- or women-led firms, accounting for firm performance.

Yes, female CEOs are targeted less frequently, because investors view women more favorably. With the additional barriers that women have to cross to become CEO, female CEOs may appear to be more competent than male ones, and thus women-led firms will be seen as better managed. As a result, female CEOs should be less likely to be targeted by shareholder activism.

Yes, female CEOs are targeted more often, because investors have a “think manager, think male” mentality. This suggests that because of gender stereotypes, people tend to see managers as more similar to men than to women. Many academic studies have reported that attributes associated with the manager role (decisiveness, aggression, competitiveness) are often antithetical to those associated with women in our society. Such gender stereotypes may lead to the perception that women are not fit to be managers, resulting in more activism being directed at firms led by female CEOs.

So if activists are gender blind, they will be agnostic to CEO gender. If activists view women as more-competent managers than men, they will be biased toward female CEOs. And if activists view men as more suited for the managerial role, they will be biased toward male CEOs.

We hypothesized that the third answer would be true: We expected that investors were susceptible to the pervasive bias associated with gender role stereotypes, and would be more likely to target female CEOs than male CEOs. Gender stereotypes are pervasive, and tend to have more influence in ambiguous situations, which is often the case when linking CEO decisions with firm outcomes.

To test this, we analyzed data from 3,026 large U.S. firms between 1996 and 2013. We identified activist investor activity by looking at Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) records. Shareholders who acquire more than 5% of the voting stock of a public company with the intention of influencing management are required by the SEC to file a Schedule 13D form. We found over 1,500 13D filings for 1,090 firms in our sample.
We tried to account for any other differences besides gender that might affect activists’
decisions. Because firms that hire female CEOs may differ from firms that hire male ones, we
controlled for a relatively large set of variables, including firm size, profitability, leverage,
dividend yield, and industry competition, in a probit model. We also utilized a statistical
procedure, propensity score matching, which is designed to match female-led firms and male-led
firms that are similar on key dimensions. More broadly, we conducted several additional
analyses to rule out alternative explanations. Regardless of our control variables, econometric
specifications, and regression techniques, our results about CEO gender were consistent.

We found that firms in our sample led by male CEOs were targeted by an activist 6% of the time
during the study period, versus 9.4% when the CEO was female. Wolf pack attacks occurred for
male and female CEOs at 1% and 1.6%, respectively. Even though these differences appear
small, this means that firms with female CEOs were 50% more likely to be targeted by activists
and approximately 60% more likely to be targeted by multiple activists.

Although activism is rare overall, it tends to be a highly publicized event, and the fact that
female CEOs are targeted more than male CEOs is troubling, as it may perpetuate negative
gender stereotypes of female executives. People perceive activism to be an indicator of how well
a firm and its CEO is performing, so greater activism against female CEOs may reinforce the
notion that they are not able to manage firms as well as men.

Our research design does not allow us to examine exactly why activist investors target female
CEOs more. However, our findings are consistent with the “think manager, think male” logic,
since the other potential reasons are already statistically accounted for in the regressions. We
were able to observe only activist investor activity that was highly public; filing a Schedule 13D
with the SEC involves a formal declaration by an investor. But activist investors also engage
firms through behind-the-scenes actions, and gender bias is likely to be more salient when
investors act in less public ways.

In effect, it seems that activist investors are seeing CEOs through the lens of gender stereotypes:
They don’t see female CEOs as being less effective than male CEOs, and thus they provide
women more (unsolicited) direction for how to properly run the firm.

This gendered lens, which we believe affects how activist investors view the world, likely
operates below conscious awareness, such that most investors are probably not aware of their
own biases. When it is unclear why the firm is not performing as well as it could, gender
stereotypes may become salient and influence how activists assess the CEO’s competence.

 Activists and boards need to be aware that such biases exist and seek to counteract them. This
matters because CEOs expend considerable time and effort dealing with activist investors.
Consider the activism by investor Nelson Pletz against Indra Nooyi of Pepsico, which dragged
on for about two years before they reached a truce in 2015. CEOs have to give detailed presentations about the strategy and direction of the firm, fight proxy battles for board seats, and hold intense meetings with various stakeholders to convince them that management is leading the firm well. Time spent dealing with activist investors means CEOs have less time to actually manage the firm. Thus activist investors may undermine the effectiveness of the CEO. And if female CEOs face more activist threats, their careers may suffer more.

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**College students may soon be required to take civics test to graduate**

By MACKENZIE HUCK


JEFFERSON CITY - Rep. Dean Dohrman, (R-La Monte) has introduced [House Bill 1528](http://www.komu.com/news/college-students-may-soon-be-required-to-take-civics-test-to-graduate) to the Missouri Legislature. The bill requires that "any student attending a public or private institution of higher education score at least 70% of the Missouri Higher Education Civics Achievement Examination as a condition of graduation from the institution."

The exam would consist of between 50 and 100 questions and may be administered online.

Dohrman said the exam would be similar to the United States citizenship exam, including questions which cover the United States Constitution, the United States Bill of Rights, governmental institutions, historical manifestations of federalism, and history of constitutional interpretation and amendments.

As an American government teacher himself, Dohrman said the test would just put a framework around the learning that currently takes place.
"We passed a similar statute a few years ago for high school students," Dohrman said. "They're required to take a civics exam and I looked at that and said, 'That's a good piece of legislation on our part.' It's a class we can use all our lives."

**MU political science professor Peverill Squire said he thinks the effort is admirable, but not necessary.**

"It's a laudable goal to aim for a more informed citizenry," Squire said. "However, I don't think it's needed at this time in Missouri. All students are required to take an introductory course on American government or history so they learn this content already. It's just whether or not we want to institute another requirement and have them go through another set of tests to demonstrate their mastery of the material."

Dohrman said the test would not have any costs associated with it.

"What people may be unclear about if they just glance at the bill is that this test can be integrated within any other exam that is administered on this kind of material," Dohrman said.

Squire said he is concerned about costs associated with the addition of another test.

"It's going to come with some costs and time and energy both with administering the test and on the part of the students," Squire said. "The cost is probably not exorbitant but it comes at a time when universities are being cut so it's not like there are a lot of slack resources around to cover those costs."

Jared Kester, an MU student, said he would initially feel frustrated at an additional workload, but he appreciates the sentiment.

"I like that they want students to have some basic level knowledge of how our government works," Kester said. "I just don't particularly want to take another test."

House Bill 1528 is currently in committee.
MU’s Kinder Institute joins efforts to mark Missouri bicentennial

Generated from a News Bureau direct pitch

On Aug. 10, 1821, after the longest and most bitter political controversy the nation had faced to that point, Missouri became the 24th state to enter the Union. In celebration of the 200th anniversary, the University of Missouri’s Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, with the support of the MU History Department, recently entered an alliance of Missouri nonprofits and state government agencies that will develop public education, events, community outreach and scholarly research projects related to the Missouri Bicentennial.

The formal partnership, the Missouri Bicentennial Alliance, was recognized at a signing ceremony at the Missouri Governor’s Mansion recently. Senator Mike Kehoe presented a legislative resolution declaring Jan. 8, 2018, to be Missouri Bicentennial Alliance Day. Other organizations included the State Historical Society of Missouri, the Missouri Humanities Council and the Missouri Council on History Education.

Created in 2015 by a generous gift from the Kinder Foundation, a family philanthropic foundation started by Rich and Nancy Kinder of Houston, Texas, the Kinder Institute supports the research and scholarship of MU faculty, undergraduate and graduate students who seek to explore questions related to the history, theory and practice of constitutional democracy.

The Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy will provide expertise on early American and political history to the Bicentennial Alliance in two major projects. First, Kinder faculty and graduate and undergraduate students will collaborate to produce the content for the Missouri Humanities Council’s “Struggle for Statehood” exhibit, which will travel statewide beginning in 2019. Christa Dierksheide, assistant professor of history and former historian at Monticello, will be teaching a spring 2018 “History in the Public” class devoted to the exhibit where students will research and develop content for it as part of their assignments.

“This is the kind of project the Institute was created for,” said Jeffrey L. Pasley, professor of history and journalism at MU and associate director of the Kinder Institute. “The Missouri Crisis of 1818-1821 was one of the watershed events of the early 19th century – the end of the founding era and the moment slavery became a national issue for the first time. The Civil War almost started here in Missouri, four decades early. Students, citizens and scholars in our state should know more about how it got started.”

Additionally, the Kinder Institute will sponsor a series of scholarly conferences and lectures, culminating in the publication of an edited volume of historical essays on the Missouri Crisis, its origins and its consequences during the Bicentennial year of 2021. Major historians from around
the world will be invited to participate in a workshop in Columbia in 2019 that will lead to a series of public lectures in 2020 and finally the publication of a multi-authored book in the Kinder Institute’s Studies in Constitutional Democracy series with University of Missouri Press.

“We’re excited that it will be Missourians, including the Kinder Institute, who will get to help put Missouri’s major national moment back on the map of American history,” Pasley said.

Participating MU scholars will include Pasley, Dierksheide and Lawrence Celani, a doctoral candidate who is writing a dissertation related to the Missouri Crisis. Other local contributors include Justin Dyer, professor of political science and director of the Kinder Institute; and Jay Sexton, professor of history and Kinder Institute Chair in Constitutional Democracy.

SANDY DAVIDSON: Missouri lawmakers must stay a step ahead and pass a 'revenge porn' law

By Sandy Davidson, Ph.D., J.D., teaches communications law at the Missouri School of Journalism.

“The best revenge is massive success.” So says that great American philosopher, or at least crooner of love songs, Frank Sinatra. But, when a love affair or marriage ends, sometimes the aftermath gets nasty. Perhaps the ultimate in nasty is so-called “revenge porn.”

Usually, but not always, revenge porn occurs when a man posts images of his undressed ex. Their love affair derailed, and he’s going to shame her. The pictures are from a happier time, when she consented to his photographing her.

Currently, 38 states and the District of Columbia make revenge porn a crime, according to the Cyber Civil Rights Initiative. Revenge laws criminalize posting or otherwise distributing sexually explicit pictures or videos of another without that person’s consent to do so. Unfortunately, in Missouri, posting compromising pictures WITHOUT consent made WITH consent, is not clearly a crime.

If pictures are made with no consent, then that is a crime in Missouri, regardless of whether or not the pictures are distributed. That’s Missouri’s invasion of privacy law, first passed in 1995. The year before, in Buffalo, a creep, who doesn’t deserve the recognition of having his name used, secretly videotaped 83 women using his tanning salon; some wanted no tan lines. Media coverage proliferated, including in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the Associated Press, the
Springfield News-Leader and the Buffalo Reflex, which might be called the Buffalo Gag Reflex under the circumstances.

Then-Attorney General Jay Nixon hit upon a partial answer: the creep had violated Missouri’s child-abuse law by videotaping 10 minors. Some news reports said the creep could be sentenced up to 70 years; but the creep, who was the mayor’s son and a former Buffalo alderman, entered into a plea agreement and got a slap on the wrist—two months in jail, three years of probation.

What about the women who weren’t minors? Missouri’s criminal law gave them no more cover than they had in a tanning bed. No statute specifically covered the repulsive, non-consensual situation, and an ex post facto law—a law purporting to apply to activity that occurred before the law passed—is illegal under the U.S. and Missouri constitutions.

Legislators need to be prescient; they must pass laws against activity they don’t want in their bailiwick BEFORE the activity occurs. Perhaps they need crystal balls in some circumstances, but not when 38 states have already recognized the problem and taken action.

Another falling-between-the-cracks happened in Missouri with a tragic cyberbullying case that sparked nationwide outrage. Apparently 13-year-old Megan Meier and another girl in her St. Charles neighborhood had a falling out. So, the other girl’s 49-year-old mother posed online for six weeks as 16-year-old “Josh Evans,” her MySpace creation. At first, Josh courted Megan, but then Josh turned on her. The night before Megan’s death, Josh sent Megan a message telling her “the world would be a better place without you.” On Oct. 16, 2006, Megan Meier hanged herself. The following day, she died.

When the identity of the cruel prankster became known, calls for her prosecution in Missouri failed—not from lack of will, but from lack of legislation. Missouri law didn’t criminalize cyberbullying, so prosecutors had no legal authority to go forward. They couldn’t prosecute activity Missouri law didn’t prohibit, and laws couldn’t be expanded backwards to ensnare Megan’s tormentor.

For snaring a snarling cyberbully, no law was squarely on point, and criminal law demands precision. A person must clearly be put on notice that an activity is illegal. The law must be on the books at the time, and the law must be clear. Vague laws that don’t give adequate notice are “void for vagueness”—the legal kiss of death for legislation.

In prosecutors’ full-court press to find her guilty of something, the cyberbullying mother landed in a California federal court. A federal prosecutor asserted jurisdiction over her because MySpace servers were located in Los Angeles. A jury found her guilty of violating the federal Computer Fraud and Abuse Act because her fraudulent “Josh Evans” postings violated MySpace’s terms of service. The New York Times reported on Nov. 26, 2008: “Los Angeles—A federal jury here issued what legal experts said was the country’s first cyberbullying verdict..., convicting a Missouri woman of three misdemeanor charges of computer fraud for her involvement in creating a phony account on MySpace to trick a teenager, who later committed suicide.”
Although the prosecutor wanted the cyberbully sentenced to the maximum three years in jail and a $300,000 fine, in July 2009 Judge George Wu threw out her conviction, explaining: "You could prosecute pretty much anyone who violated terms of service."

In the meantime, Missouri lawmakers had reacted to the Megan Meier tragedy; in June 2008, Missouri’s governor signed a cyberbullying law. It tweaked Missouri’s existing law on harassment, expanding the language requiring that the communication be written or done via telephone. The new language in Missouri Revised Statutes § 565.090 made clear that harassment via electronic devices was also illegal. Further, if perpetrated “by a person twenty-one years of age or older against a person seventeen years of age or younger,” the crime moved from a class A misdemeanor to a class D felony.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, as of November 2012, all 50 states had cyberstalking and cyber-harassment laws.

All states need revenge porn laws, too. Missouri should be proactive by passing a revenge porn law before another Buffalo creep or cyberbullying mother situation arises, where activity that should be a crime happens before Missouri law makes it a crime.

Here’s a sentiment perhaps expressed first by French novelist Pierre Choderlos de Laclo in 1782, “Revenge is a dish best served cold.” Maybe so, but revenge porn needs to be taken off the menu. Missouri legislators should criminalize revenge porn now.

**A war of words on college campuses**

*Cover Story reported by Rita Braver*

*January 21, 2018*

In the 1960s college students demanded the right to talk about anything on campus, from civil rights to opposing the Vietnam War. All ideas seemed up for debate. But is that still true today?

At Yale University in Connecticut, a faculty member is yelled at by students. The reason? His wife (also a Yale instructor) had suggested students should be free to wear any Halloween costume they choose, even if slightly offensive. A month later, the teacher resigns.
At the University of Missouri, students and faculty try to stop a student reporter from covering their protest. "This is a First Amendment that protects your right to stand here, and protects mine!" the photographer said.

And at the University of California at Berkeley, when conservative commentator Ben Shapiro showed up to speak, there were multiple arrests. The school was on virtual lockdown, and more than half a million dollars was spent on security.

Even comedian Bill Maher faced student calls to cancel his Berkeley commencement address in part because he'd made jokes about Islam.

"Whoever told you, you only had to hear what didn't upset you?" Maher quipped.

But at campuses around the country, some speakers were dis-invited, or simply backed out in the face of student opposition, such as former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, head of the International Monetary Fund Christine Lagarde, and the rapper and actor Common.

It's got a lot of people asking, what is going on?

Story continues: https://www.cbsnews.com/news/a-war-of-words-on-college-campuses/

‘Anemic’ State Funding Growth

Nationally, state support for higher education increased 1.6 percent from 2017 to 2018, its slowest growth in five years.

NO MU MENTION

By RICK SELTZER

States’ financial support for higher education grew only slightly between the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years, with more than a third of states decreasing their funding and another dozen increasing it only slightly, according to an annual survey released today.

Across the country, state fiscal support for higher education grew by just 1.6 percent, according to the Grapevine survey, which provides an early look each year at states’ funding for higher
education. That was down sharply from a 4.2 percent increase last year and represents the lowest annual growth in the last five years.

### National Annual Percent Changes in State Fiscal Support For Higher Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Change From Previous Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“We’ve seen only anemic growth nationwide, with the exception of a few states,” said James Palmer, Grapevine editor and a professor of higher education at Illinois State University. The Grapevine survey is a project of the university’s Center for the Study of Education Policy and the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association.

“This probably suggests the struggle of many states to sustain the revenue needed to increase funding for colleges and universities,” Palmer said of this year’s slow growth in higher ed funding. “In other words, the fiscal capacity to increase funding for colleges and universities doesn’t seem to be there.”

Still, funding conditions vary significantly from state to state. A total of 19 states reported decreases between the 2017 fiscal year, which spans 2016-17, and the 2018 fiscal year, which spans 2017-18. Ohio was home to the smallest of the decreases, 0.1 percent. North Dakota’s was the largest, a drop of 14.6 percent.

Another 12 states increased funding by less than 2 percent, and 18 reported increases of more than 2 percent. Florida showed the largest increase in funding -- the Sunshine State boosted higher ed funding by 11.3 percent.

Meanwhile, funding in one more state, Maine, was essentially flat. Washington, D.C., which is being included in the survey for only the second year, increased funding by 2 percent. Data for Puerto Rico, which was included for the first time last year, was not yet available following the upheaval there caused by Hurricane Maria.

This year’s survey did include data for Illinois, which broke out of a multiyear budget impasse that prevented it from being included in Grapevine tables last year.

Regardless of whether 2018 funding is sufficient for the year, the national picture could cause some concern for those worried about adequate money for public higher education over the long run. The national economy performed well last year, which theoretically should have provided more tax revenue for states and allowed them to spend more. Some of the connection might be
lost in individual state budgeting and timing details, but the fact remains that higher ed funding generally rose only incrementally.

And reporting last year from the National Conference of State Legislatures found that for the first time since the Great Recession, a significant number of states were facing budget shortfalls. Most states' budgets were stable, but growth in state revenues was often not keeping pace with demand for government services. Nor have revenues been keeping pace with the rest of the economy.

“It’s really hard, sometimes, to be optimistic about increased funding for higher education when we juxtapose the anemic growth this year against the background of what seems to be an otherwise OK economy,” Palmer said.

Many states seem to be stuck between competing priorities. On one hand, the free tuition movement has grown from two-year colleges to include a free four-year program in New York State. On the other hand, states generally do not seem to be inclined to raise taxes to pay for free tuition.

“Much will depend on the political will,” Palmer said. “How do you balance those competing priorities?”

Amid that discussion, it should be pointed out that New York’s support for higher education only grew by 1.9 percent between 2017 and 2018, to $5.9 billion. The fall semester was the first for the state’s Excelsior Scholarship, a free-tuition program for full-time students from families earning less than certain income thresholds. The scholarship is being implemented over several years with income limits increasing, but nonetheless it has gone to tens of thousands of students.

When pushing to enact the scholarship program last year, Governor Andrew Cuomo’s office budgeted a cost of $87 million in its first year because New York already has other generous grant programs for students. The estimate seemed low to some, meaning the state’s spending on higher ed will be closely watched.

Cuomo has already drawn fire from education advocates over funding for public universities, both at the end of last year and after he unveiled a new budget proposal this year.

The Down States

Of course, New York did increase funding in 2018 -- something not every state can say. Officials in North Dakota attributed the fact that the state had the largest year-over-year higher ed funding drop in the country to a state budget hurt by the energy and agricultural sectors.

“The largest economic drivers in our state are agriculture and energy, which includes oil and coal,” said Tammy Dolan, vice chancellor of administrative affairs at the North Dakota University System. “As the last few years have not been kind to those industries, they have had an impact on the amount of state funds that are available.”

North Dakota has a biennial budget, so officials know state funding will not increase next year. They’ve put in place several strategies to deal with the decreased funding, including task forces
to find efficiencies at the system and institutional levels. Since 2016, about 500 full-time staff positions have been cut across 11 institutions, Dolan said. The university system has a total of about 7,000 full-time employees.

Examining several years of data for North Dakota shows the state's higher ed funding dropping back down after a brief increase. The state's higher ed funding totaled $358.5 million in 2018 after coming in at $419.7 million in 2017 and $405.7 million in 2016. Funding is now closer to its 2013 level, which was $343.8 million.

Nationally, comparing the latest state funding picture to one from two years prior shows some long-term gains in state funding. State appropriations to higher education across the country grew by 5.9 percent between the 2016 and 2018 fiscal years. The growth is skewed upward because of an extreme 30.2 percent two-year increase reported by Illinois, which rebounded from its institutions receiving a diminished amount of stopgap funding during the state budget standoff.

A total of 34 states besides Illinois show two-year gains in funding, with Arkansas recording the lowest increase, 0.1 percent, and Hawaii reporting the highest, 18.7 percent. The other 15 states decreased support for higher ed between 2016 and 2018 by amounts ranging from a slip of 0.1 percent in New Jersey to a drop of 13.3 percent in Mississippi.

Comparing the 2018 data to figures from five years in the past reveals that, nationally, state support for higher education has risen by 20.7 percent. A total of 40 states had five-year increases since 2013. The smallest increase, 1.1 percent, was in Arizona. The largest, 52.5 percent, was in California.

The other 10 states dropped funding for higher ed over the five-year span. Of that group, New Mexico had the smallest decline, 0.5 percent. West Virginia had the biggest plunge -- 20.6 percent.

Grapevine data cover tax and nontax state support for college and university operations. They also include support for other higher ed activities. States are asked for information on their funding for four-year institutions, community colleges and vocational-technical colleges, as well as appropriations to coordinating and governing boards, appropriations to state student financial aid, funding bound for higher ed but appropriated to other state agencies, and appropriations for private higher ed institutions. They are asked not to include appropriations for capital costs, debt service, money drawn from most federal sources, funds drawn from student fees and auxiliary enterprises.

Grapevine warns that the data are an early, tentative look at higher ed funding and that some estimates are subject to change. The data are broad -- figures don’t indicate any single institution’s funding.

Nor does the survey account for changes in the number of students enrolling, which can vary significantly from state to state and institution to institution. That means per-student analyses aren’t possible -- an important point since declining funding can mean a very different thing in a state where overall enrollment is falling than it does in a state where enrollment is rising. Nationally, college enrollment has been declining for six straight years, although four-year
public institutions have fared much better than other types of institution. Community colleges and especially for-profit institutions have seen the most significant loss of students.

The report typically comes a few months before a more comprehensive State Higher Education Finance report issued by the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association.

Editor’s note: The following information is noted for the state of Missouri.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>1-Year Change</th>
<th>5-Year Change</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Missouri</td>
<td>988,536,584</td>
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