MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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Colleges warn international students, faculty to avoid travel outside country

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
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Universities in Missouri and Kansas are pledging support to international students and faculty who could be affected by President Donald Trump’s executive order on refugee policy.

Many school officials have urged their international students and faculty not to start planned study or research overseas. Indeed, those individuals should not travel outside the country for any reason, the school officials say.

Trump’s order, issued Friday, blocks any visitor — including tourists, students and business people — from seven predominantly Muslim countries for 90 days. Those countries are Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Trump’s order also bars entry for refugees from anywhere in the world for 120 days, and bans refugees from Syria indefinitely.

University of Kansas Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, in a weekend message to campus, said she was “deeply concerned about the well-being of KU students, faculty and staff who may be affected by the new federal restrictions.”

“All nationals from the affected countries (should) avoid international travel until there is some clarification of the situation,” Gray-Little said. “This includes passport holders, citizens, nationals and dual nationals from the impacted countries.”

Kansas State University President Richard Myers said his university “deeply values” contributions of its international faculty and students and is “concerned about the detrimental effects of this policy on those pursuing academic studies and research.”

An initial count, Myers said, indicates that K-State has 63 students and three post-doctoral fellows from the seven countries that the U.S. is blocking.

Not all schools have said how many of their students could be directly affected by the order.
University of Missouri-Kansas City Chancellor Leo Morton also communicated with his campus over the weekend, saying the university extends its “support for international students, faculty and staff who make important contributions, enrich our university, and are integral members of our community."

“The academic programs at UMKC and the University of Missouri System are enhanced by the diverse contributions from students, faculty and staff who hail from more than 100 countries,” Morton said.

UMKC planned a forum Monday for students and faculty with concerns about the order to talk in a “safe space” closed to news media and the general public. And in individual conversations, UMKC officials are advising students impacted by the order not to travel outside the country.

University of Missouri interim chancellor Hank Foley sent out a campus notice telling students or faculty who might be affected by the travel order to call on him. “I care and want to reassure you,” Foley wrote. “I am optimistic this will work out.

“You are an essential part of our university community. We welcome you and value you. My leadership team and I are here to support you in any way possible.”

In the days ahead, Foley said, MU leaders will work closely with federal and state lawmakers. The voices of higher education leaders “are being heard loudly and clearly in Washington,” he said.

MU has 140 international students from the countries mentioned in the executive order — 52 from Iran, 78 from Iraq and about 10 from Libya, Sudan, Syria and Yemen; none are from Somalia.

It also has about 15 scholars from Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Gray-Little, Morton and Foley said university administrators were reaching out to national education organizations to get a better handle on how the president’s order will affect international students and faculty.

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities lauded the scientific, cultural and economic contributions that international students have made to their campuses and surrounding communities.

“America’s state colleges and universities have been strengthened by the presence of students and faculty from around the globe, including those from the seven countries specifically targeted by the president’s executive order,” the association said in a statement.

The association said that while state schools share in the collective commitment to protect national security, “we respectfully urge the administration to reconsider its recent action.”

More than 17,000 students from the seven countries listed in the president’s order were enrolled at U.S. schools in the 2015-2016 year, according to the Institute of International Education. At the same time, more than 2,000 such teachers and researchers were at U.S. colleges and universities.
University of Missouri not yet sure how immigration order affects international students, scholars

By MEGAN FAVIGNANO

University of Missouri officials are trying to figure out how President Donald Trump’s executive order temporarily barring people from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States will affect students, faculty and staff.

Trump’s order bans people from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen from entering the country for at least the next 90 days, freezes refugee entry into the United States for 120 days and stops the admission of Syrian refugees indefinitely.

The MU campus has 140 students from those seven countries, most of them from Iraq and Iran. MU spokesman Christian Basi said several students have contacted the International Student Center with concerns and that staff are working to answer their questions. He said many have asked what impact this has on the university and its students.

“There are so many individual circumstances. We’re still gathering information,” Basi said Monday morning.

Siham Nour and Duha Shebib, senior biology majors at MU and members of the Muslim Student Organization, said the community’s support at a rally Sunday was comforting. A large crowd marched from Peace Park to the Islamic Center of Central Missouri to show support for local Muslims.

Shebib was born in the United States. Her parents are from Iraq and came here to study at MU.

“It’s a feeling of fear and a loss of hope,” Shebib said of Trump’s order. “You don’t really know what is going to happen. The reaction toward this executive order also brings hope and happiness.”

Nour, a refugee from Somalia, came to the United States with her family when she was in middle school. When she first heard about the executive order, her thoughts shifted to her grandfather, who visits from Somalia about once a year for checkups and to get diabetes medicine. She is
worried that this executive order might prevent him from coming in the future and that it might cause people to look at her and her family differently.

“We’re already different. Are we going to have more eyes on us?” Nour said. “We came here for the opportunity. Is that going to be taken away from us?”

Columbia also is home to refugees from some of the seven countries in Trump’s order. Last year 19 Syrian refugees settled in Columbia. Others came from Sudan and Somalia. In total, 234 refugees settled here in 2016, which is 100 more than in 2015. Though he is not a refugee, Iraqi business owner Shakir Hamoodi said his Iraqi friend who holds a green card was turned back in Jordan as he tried to return to the United States.

“Under normal circumstances, that should not have been the case,” Hamoodi said. “But we are living in an extraordinary time. This is not a normal time.”

Hamoodi said Trump’s order was “out of touch, out of reality.”

University leaders and a student group representing graduate student workers issued statements Sunday about Trump’s order and its effect on the university.

The Coalition of Graduate Workers sent interim Chancellor Hank Foley a letter that asked MU to guarantee that international students will not be penalized by the university if they cannot re-enter the country because of the order.

In a message to students, faculty and staff, Foley said multiple national research university groups, including the Association of American Universities, are sharing the concerns of universities with government leaders in Washington, D.C. The university “will continue to work closely with our federal and state senators and representatives on this matter,” Foley said. He stopped short of saying MU officials were lobbying directly against the executive order.

“Our success depends on your intellectual capital and drive, and our future depends on your excellent teaching and high-level research in all disciplines, including the scientific, medical and technological fields that fuel human progress,” Foley said about international students. “We could not do what we do without you. We will make clear to our representatives the value of your place here and the importance of your roles in our enterprise.”

University of Missouri System interim President Mike Middleton and incoming President Mun Choi in a joint statement expressed support for students, faculty and staff who might be affected. The two leaders described the impact of the executive order as fluid and said the university would monitor the changing rules closely.

“If these changes are affecting you or your ability to be a successful student or scholar, campus resources are available to assist you, including the counseling center, staff within your student affairs divisions, academic advisors, and professors or colleagues in your department or college,” the statement said.
Choi and Middleton’s statement also said the UM System is “enhanced by the diverse contributions from students, faculty and staff who hail from over 100 countries.”

UM System spokesman John Fougere said the University of Missouri-St. Louis has 18 students from the seven countries listed in the order, Missouri University of Science and Technology has 117, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City has 27. When asked whether the system opposes the order, Fougere said UM will always follow state and federal laws.

Immigration ban leaves MU community uncertain about future

DAPHNE PSALEDAKIS, 11 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Some MU students who are from countries named in President Donald Trump's executive order regarding refugee and immigrant travel are uncertain what the future holds for them.

"There's definitely anxiety and fear," Iranian Student Association President Omid Kamran-Disfani said. "We are heartbroken, to be honest."

Trump's executive order bans immigrants and refugees from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. Students traveling for school have been among those detained at airports around the country as a result of the executive order.

Iranian Student Association Vice President Mojtaba Khajeloo, 31, is just one student uncertain about how the executive order will impact him and his family. He is in his third year of a five-year extended doctoral program. His wife, however, is in her first year. If the travel ban is still in effect when his visa expires at the end of his program, Khajeloo said he will be forced to leave his wife while she finishes her degree.
"This is one of my biggest concerns," Khajeloo said.

None of the members of the Iranian Student Association is directly affected by the executive order at this time, Kamran-Disfani said, but many worry that it is only the beginning.

"I don't see this as a temporary thing, or the only thing that is going to happen," Khajeloo said.

If the travel ban extends beyond the planned 120-day block for refugees and 90-day block for citizens of the seven countries, more students will be affected. In fall 2016, around 140 of the 2,644 international students at MU were from the seven countries listed in the ban, according to the MU International Center.

In that case, Kamran-Disfani said the Iranian Student Association would take action to help its members.

"We're hoping that the situation will change for better," Kamran-Disfani said. "But if somebody gets affected, then we will try and do our best (by) talking to the university or maybe getting some legal counsel in this matter."

MU Faculty Council on University Policy released a statement on its resolution concerning refugees and U.S. immigration policy. The statement urged readers not to forget the transatlantic liner St. Louis that carried passengers bound for the U.S. from Europe in 1939. They were denied entry and forced to turn back with some obtaining refuge around Europe, and others losing their lives at places such as Auschwitz and Sobibor.

"Based on the foregoing, the MU Faculty Council on University Policy urges campus and system administration to use all lawful means to support students, staff and faculty who are affected by recently enacted changes to U.S. immigration law, as well as any changes that may be forthcoming," the council wrote in the statement.

The council also urged MU to provide legal counsel to affected students, staff and faculty.
Columbia residents have rallied in support of those affected by the executive order. On Sunday, hundreds gathered in Peace Park and marched to the Islamic Center of Central Missouri, where they laid yellow flowers on the steps in a sign of friendship.

That evening, MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley issued a statement pledging MU's support to its international students. He affirmed that the administration would work closely with federal and state representatives on the issue.

Foley's statement echoed another from UM Interim President Michael Middleton and President-designate Mun Choi. Both statements listed resources international students can use if they have concerns.

MU News Bureau Director Christian Basi could not specify a plan to help students affected by the order, saying each person's circumstances are different.

The presidents of Columbia and Westminster colleges also issued statements supporting students, staff and faculty.

Columbia College President Scott Dalrymple advised students with concerns to contact the school's International Student Services office or the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Chair Keith McIver.

Benjamin Ola. Akande, president of Westminster College in Fulton, said that of the 108 international students who attend the school, six come from one of the seven countries listed in the president's travel ban.

"The executive order has sent shockwaves across college and university campuses throughout Missouri and the nation, and for good reason," Akande wrote.
MU shows support for international students

By: Lexi Larson

COLUMBIA - The MU Faculty Council approved a resolution Monday showing support for the university's international students.

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley issued a statement Sunday offering his support as well.

The statements came less than a week after President Trump issued an executive order banning travelers from Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia and Libya. The travel ban also temporarily stops the U.S. refugee program and bars all Syrians from entering the country.

138 MU international students are from one of the seven countries.

In the chancellor's statement, Foley said he, along with UM System President Middleton and President-designate Choi, will work closely with the federal and state senators and representatives on this matter.

"We could not do what we do without you," Foley said. "We will make clear to our representatives the value of your place here and the importance of your roles in our enterprise."

Several MU students do not support the ban on immigration. Journalism student Adrienne Luther said she thinks the ban is hateful.

"I think it’s ridiculous," Luther said. "I think that it’s cold and heartless, and I think that there’s no reason why we should be doing this in our country."

Luther also said she thinks the American people need to be educated on the matter.

"I think that the words that are being used right now are bringing up a lot of hatred in our society," Luther said. "I think that those micro-aggressions kind of build up so that the people that are being impacted really need to take care of themselves."
One MU Professor who requested to remain anonymous for security reasons said she feels insulted and disappointed by the ban.

"I think that Iraqis are victims of terrorism, they are not terrorists," the professor said. "Most of ISIS fighters in Iraq are recruited from foreign countries, they are not Iraqi. These ISIS members killed thousands of Iraqis, made them lose their houses, jobs and relatives."

The professor said she thinks the efforts should be concentrated on terrorists specifically, instead of all citizens from the seven countries.

According to the Washington Post, Senator Roy Blunt said government's top priority should be to keep Americans safe.

“He is doing what he told the American people he would do," Blunt said. "I would not support a travel ban on Muslims; I do support increased vetting on people applying to travel from countries with extensive terrorist ties or activity. These seven countries meet that standard."

President Trump’s travel ban impacting Mizzou

by Mark Slavit

COLUMBIA — MU officials gathered new information to help support their international students because of President Trump’s temporary travel ban on 7 countries.

The President’s executive order could have impacted dozens of Mizzou students in the coming days.

MU students had different reactions to President Trump’s temporary travel ban.
“I think it is really sad that our government has decided to discriminate people on religion and color and race out of fear,” senior Beth Sperry said.

“I hope he gets us back on track to where we need to be and make other countries happy,” junior Alex Dowell. “Hopefully, Syria gets it all figured out. In the meantime, we just need to keep our country safe. I think that’s what he is doing.”

The seven Muslim-majority countries targeted in the travel ban were first called "Countries of Concern" under the Obama Administration. President Trump’s executive order stopped citizens from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen from entering the United States for the next 90 days. University officials told KRCG 13 they had 140 international students from 6 of those 7 countries. Mizzou had 52 international students from Iran, 78 from Iraq and about a total of 10 from Libya, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. The school had none from Somalia. Mizzou also had 15 scholars from Iran, Iraq and Syria.

MU Spokesman Christian Basi said school administrators wanted to gather as much information as they could about the executive order as well as personal stories from their international students on any impacts. MU officials planned to work with students to provide them as much support as they could in the coming days.

University officials planned to hold an information session on Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the Memorial Union for students who might be affected by the executive order. Students would have the chance to ask questions while school officials learned more about individual circumstances. The session would not be open to the media because of privacy issues.

Officials encouraged their international students to use campus resources, such as counseling centers, academic advisers and professors if they faced any problems with the temporary travel ban.

Mizzou's Muslim Student Organization speaks out against travel ban


By: Kirstie Crawford
COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri has at least 130 international students from two of the countries listed in President Donald Trump's travel ban.

The university sent out a statement Sunday afternoon that offers campus resources to students and faculty members who might be affected by the ban.

Zakaria El-Tayash, president of the Muslim Student Organization at Mizzou, said he and his fellow students feel confused as to why the executive order was issued, but they are happy to see the community come together and show compassion toward the Muslim community.

El-Tayash said he thinks the ban goes against this country's Constitution and that Trump was very inconsiderate to enact the order.

El-Tayash also said that the executive order doesn't hurt only Muslims, it hurts the whole country. He said that seeing everyone come out to march against the ban on Sunday was a blessing.

El-Tayash said Mizzou has been extremely supportive. He said that he trusts the university to do what is best for its students.

Columbia College has four students who may be affected by the travel ban. The school's president sent out a statement that said the college welcomes all international students, regardless of their nationality or religion, and that its staff is monitoring the situation.

Westminster College has six international students who are from some of the countries listed in the executive order. The college's president has sent out a statement to the students recommending that they, or any faculty members or other students who may be affected, refrain from traveling outside the United States.

The statement also said the college's administration will contact those students affected to hear their concerns.
By Alisa Nelson

The University of Missouri System has more than 300 students from countries affected by President Trump’s executive order involving immigration. Trump has suspended for at least 90 days the U.S. entry of people from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, while he says the government finds tougher vetting procedures.

MU system chief communications officer John Fougere tells Missourinet that it’s offering support and guidance to its students and faculty who are affected by the travel ban. University counseling centers, student affairs staff, academic advisors and professors within its departments and colleges are available to help.

“The University of Missouri System values its outstanding international students and faculty and will always support and welcome all of our students,” says Fougere. “But, as a public institution, we’ll also always follow all state and federal laws.”

University leaders are also working with national groups like Association of American Universities and Association of Public Land Grant Universities.

“We are working with them to communicate with the administration how this order affects not only our international students and scholars, but our ability to carry out our institutional mission. So we’re making sure that message gets through our national associations,” says Fougere.

The University of Missouri has students, faculty and staff from more than 100 nations.

Area university leaders: Immigration ban negatively affects students and campuses

The heads of colleges and universities in the St. Louis area say the travel ban for people from seven countries by President Donald Trump negatively affects their students and the higher education community.

Several school presidents issued statements over the weekend, offering support for international students, while also advising them to reconsider overseas travel. Saint Louis University President Fred Pestello said this in his statement, while noting he was attending a conference on campus inclusion:
I want it to be abundantly clear that Saint Louis University supports our students, faculty, physicians, and staff from the affected countries and all who are immigrants, refugees, asylees or otherwise at risk; you are part of the SLU community. You are not alone. We stand with you. You make our University stronger.

The order, titled "Protection Of The Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into The United States," bans travel to the United States for 90 days and refugee resettlement for 120 days for people from seven Muslim-majority nations: Iraq, Syria, Iran, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia and Libya. Green Card holders, foreign-born people with permanent American citizenship, are being allowed into the country, the White House later clarified.

Over the weekend, travelers from those countries were detained at U.S. airports, or denied boarding planes at their points of origin. It sparked protest at several airports, including here in St. Louis. Protests also took place at Poelker Park across from St. Louis City Hall to express opposition to the order and support of immigrants and Muslims.

Missouri Sen. Roy Blunt and many other top Republican leaders praised Trump for taking action. Blunt said in a statement he does not support a ban on Muslims, but does support increased vetting of travelers from the countries listed in the ban. "Our top priority should be to keep Americans safe," he said.

Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens, a Republican, has also said religion should not be a test, but vetting should be increased.

Pestello and other college executives noted the interpretation and enforcement of the executive order is still fluid and they are studying its implications on students. There are 17,000 students studying in the United States from those seven countries, according to the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities.

Trump's "order has caused adverse effects on our university community and the United States research community as a whole," said Mark Wrighton, chancellor of Washington University. "It is having a very direct, negative impact on specific members of our community and the executive order should be withdrawn."

Washington University is an internationally renowned school that attracts students from all over the world. Webster University has several campuses around the world, and has students from 140 different countries enrolled. "Our international community has strengthened the University’s core values of diversity and inclusion," President Beth Stroble said.

**As for the University of Missouri System, Interim President Michael Middleton and Mun Choi, the president-designate, offered support and guidance from the university for international students in a joint statement. They recommended students postpone trips and reach out to the international office for assistance.**

The St. Louis campus of the UM System will hold an open discussion Tuesday afternoon from 2-4 p.m. in the student center.
Trump wants voter registration investigated. This is how 20 states are already doing it.

By Mary Stegmaier and John Lindback January 30 at 7:00 AM

In a Wednesday morning tweet, President Trump returned to his campaign refrain of widespread electoral problems and called for “an investigation into voter fraud, including those registered to vote in two states.”

Within hours, it was revealed that at least five people close to Trump — daughter Tiffany, son-in-law Jared Kushner, adviser Stephen K. Bannon, treasury nominee Steven Mnuchin and press secretary Sean Spicer — are registered to vote in more than one state.

They are not alone. A 2012 Pew Charitable Trusts report estimated that 2.75 million Americans were on the voter rolls in more than one state and that 1.8 million dead people remained on the rolls.

Like Trump’s family members and associates, these are people who registered to vote legally, but when they moved or passed away, their names were not deleted from voter lists.

It’s not illegal to be registered to vote in more than one state, but it is illegal to vote more than once. By holding more than one registration, a voter could conceivably drive across state lines to cast ballots in different places. Or a voter could request an absentee ballot in one state and vote in person in another state. Such scenarios, even if only a few instances have actually occurred, concern many Americans.

Whose responsibility is it to ensure that voter lists are accurate?

Is it the job of the voters? When they move and register in a new state, should they remember to contact the clerk’s office in their former state to cancel their registration? Should relatives or friends of a person who just passed away be charged with notifying the county clerk?

Some diligent Americans do this. But most expect that the state will find out about a move or a death through government records. This is where the system breaks down.

There’s no national voter registry

In many other democracies, elections are administered at the national level. But in the United States, the states run elections. That means that, instead of having a national voter registry, the United States has 50 state voter lists. It’s up to the states to figure out how to maintain the integrity of those lists, including how much time and money to invest in regularly updating the rolls.

On average, Americans move more than 10 times during their lives: Students move to college, workers move for better jobs, and retirees move to sunnier climates.

Further complicating matters, some people keep residences in several states.
People who want to vote must register in their new state. What happens to their previous registration depends on which state they are in and whether that state is a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center.

**But wait, there’s the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).**

The Electronic Registration Information Center was established in 2012 with logistical and financial support from the Pew Charitable Trusts. Seven pioneer states agreed to coordinate efforts, share information, and make better use of government records and technology to enhance the integrity of their electoral rolls.

ERIC is now an independent organization, fully funded by member states, with no philanthropic support. Membership has steadily grown to 20 states and the District of Columbia. ERIC has so far reported to its members more than 5 million inaccurate and outdated registrations, including 166,000 deceased voters whose names were still on the rolls in these states.

ERIC works to identify inaccurate registrations by electronically analyzing and matching U.S. Postal Service change-of-address records, federal death records, vehicle registrations and voter registration records from member states.

ERIC has also analyzed data from its members to provide estimates of the number of inaccurate and out-of-date voter records for nonmember states.

Recently, ERIC provided an analysis for elections officials in Florida that estimated that nearly 1 million voter records in the state needed updating because voters had moved or died. Despite Florida’s pivotal role in presidential elections, constant media scrutiny of its election processes and calls by county elections officials who want their state to join ERIC, Florida is not yet a member.

**Why aren’t more states members of ERIC?**

Twenty states and D.C. are members of ERIC, leaving 30 that have not yet joined, including Arizona, California, Florida, Missouri, New York and Texas. With all the attention to voter registration inaccuracies during the campaign, why aren’t all states on board with efforts to enhance the accuracy of their electoral rolls?

**It takes a financial commitment and political will to pass state legislation to join ERIC.**

In some states, vocal concerns about the accuracy of voter registration rolls have not been met with the same level of commitment or urgency to correct them. Some officials have used cost as an excuse, even though the costs of ERIC membership are modest compared with most state expenditures. Elections officials and lawmakers in some states have been able to ignore the problem because there has been no political cost and no adverse publicity associated with ignoring it.

But Trump’s tweets have highlighted the issue in a new way. His claims of fraud are not based on evidence. But there’s plenty of evidence of inaccurate records and, therefore, vulnerability to fraud.

Fixing the problem doesn’t require politicians to create a new system. ERIC is already there.

*Mary Stegmaier is an assistant professor at the Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri. Her research focuses on elections in the United States and abroad.*
John Lindback is the executive director of ERIC. He previously served as director of elections for the Oregon secretary of state and, in 2008, as president of the National Association of State Election Directors.

MU nuclear reactor gets 20 year license from NRC

Generated by an MU News Bureau press release: MURR® Receives New 20-year Operating License from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

By Jason Taylor

A major Missouri contributor in the fight against cancer will be on the job for 20 more years.

The University of Missouri Research Reactor Center, or MURR, has had its license renewed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

Over the past year, scientists at MURR produced and distributed more than 1,000 shipments of approximately 30 radioisotopes used in the treatment of cancer.

MURR Associate Director Les Foyto says the isotopes are delivered from the campus nuclear reactor to hospitals before reaching their final destination. “They are eventually put into a patient, to hopefully either kill the cancer or maybe increase their quality of life by allowing them to live longer in a healthier setting.”

Foyto notes there are 32 research reactors within the U.S., 25 of which are on college campuses, along with similar facilities throughout the world. He says none of the others operate close to the rigorous 24-hour schedule at the Columbia site, which produces isotopes for cancer treatment.

“There is no other research or test reactor, not only in this country but internationally, that runs on our schedule, just because we have to be reliable of sending those isotopes to these patients that really need them” said Foyto.

MURR operates 6 and a half days a week, 52-weeks a year. Foyto says maintenance is performed in the brief window when the reactor’s shut down.

The Atomic Energy Commission issued a construction permit for the University’s reactor in 1961. It opened in 1966. Foyto says the facility has been going through the re-licensing process for about 10 years to satisfy the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
“It’s a very exhaustive, lots of questions from the NRC because they’re concerned about ‘OK this facility has operated 40 years, but what have you done to increase its reliability or increase its safety’.”

The NRC’s given MURR a 20 year operating license. MURR is a 10 megawatt facility, more powerful than a 6 megawatt reactor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Foyto claims it produces very little waste which is easily shipped away for storage.

In addition to manufacturing isotopes for cancer treatment, it’s used for research in fields such as archeology, epidemiology and zoology. Foyto notes the facility has been referred to as the A-to-Z reactor because of its range of functions.

In a statement regarding the reactor’s new licensing arrangement, MURR’s Executive Director, Ralph Butler said “Having just celebrated 50 years of cutting-edge research accomplishments, including collaborations that brought new radiopharmaceuticals to market, this milestone accomplishment of a new NRC operating license is great news for cancer patients, university researchers and economic development in the state of Missouri.”

The facility announced the state legislature is considering funding a much-needed $10 million building expansion.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: Higher ed budget cuts
MISSOURIAN OUTREACH TEAM, 1 hr ago

As Gov. Eric Greitens prepares to release his 2017-18 budget this week, one of the areas that will get the most scrutiny is the plan for funding higher education. $38 million in funding cuts is already being made to the University of Missouri system, $20 million of that to MU.

On Wednesday, we asked our readers: "Are you in favor of budget cuts to higher education? Why or why not?" — and received a bevy of responses.

Some didn't think the cuts are as bad as they sound.
Tim Kridel, posting on Facebook, said, "The UM System budget is about $3 billion, right? If so, then $38 million is about 1.3 percent."

Jeff Hill, also posting on Facebook, said, "Quit building new dorms at Mizzou while shutting down other dorms when enrollment is down. Think of the savings!"

The criticism sparked conversation on Facebook.

Allen Vaught responded, "I think most of the criticism about how Mizzou spends money, like on a building, is misguided. Money usually has legal conditions as to how it is spent and on what. Buildings are often built on funds donated specifically and only to build a building (often with the donor's name on it). A lot of money is anchored to conditions, so it's not adequate to say "Hey, it's just 1%, they'll be fine." I imagine the staff and the students will end up paying for these cuts more than anything."

Cindi Runowski said: "Wrong way to go. The costs will be passed on to students who are already in too much debt. We should be supporting education, make it a priority, and making it affordable. ... Not a good direction."

Most other responses were against creating further cuts.

- Lisa Groshong, Columbia: "I am not in favor of budget cuts to higher education. Missouri's colleges and universities are a key driver of our economic health and must be supported."

- Heather Booth, Columbia: "I am absolutely not in favor of the budget cuts. The cuts to education as a whole aren't in the best interest of the people of Missouri. The lack of actual factual information in this election cycle, and the apparent inability to tell fake news from real news, are indicative of a need for more education funding, not less. MU, and other higher education institutions in this state, are educating the future leaders of this state, and others. A cut to the education budget is going to decrease opportunities for education for bright young people throughout the state who might not be able to afford what is inevitably going to be the increasing cost of tuition."
• Lillian Mills, Columbia: "As a student, this means that tuition prices to all will increase, which is already steep for an out of state student. They have already made cuts to programs I found important, such as the free flu shot clinics on campus. The world depends on us to become world leaders and lead productive lives, but how can we do that with further limits to resources and excessive student loans?"

Higher education will continue to be a highly discussed topic until the budget for the upcoming year is finalized. Join us in continuing the conversation on Facebook and Twitter.

MU launches new program to battle food insecurity

By: Dan Patterson

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri’s Columbia campus has launched a pilot program to help students who are food insecure.

The Meal Transfer Program allows students to transfer unused meals they've purchased to use at the dining halls to students in need. The students who need the assistance will be able to redeem those meals anonymously. The pilot program will allow students to donate up to 10 meals at a time.

Students can donate by going to the Tiger Pantry website, and simply fill out a form with their name, account number and how many meals they want to donate. To receive the donated meals, students will fill out a simple form, which will be processed by Campus Dining Services. Students in need can also visit Tiger Pantry for dry goods monthly and produce weekly.
After forced closure, Craft Studio reopens in Gentry Hall

By Sam Forbes

After renovations to Memorial Union forced the Craft Studio to close indefinitely, the MSA auxiliary has reopened in Gentry Hall.

The Craft Studio, which first opened in 1973, was located directly above a deteriorating sewer line and would have been required to pay higher post-renovation utility prices had it kept operating in its original space. MSA President Sean Earl said last year this was not feasible for the studio and would result in indefinite closure if a new home was not found.

“We don’t want to stifle any other service because of the situation,” Earl told The Maneater in September. “At the end of the day, we honestly have to ask ourselves, ‘What services does the 21st century student want to see?’”

By the time the studio closed its doors in December, faculty, students and alumni had already been working hard to find a new space.

“There was a tremendous outpouring of support from students on campus, and alumni especially, who value the Craft Studio and wanted to make sure that it would continue to exist,” MSA/GPC adviser Amy Hay said.

Hay attributed finding the Craft Studio a new home largely to the efforts of Department of Art chairperson Jo Stealey, Architectural Studies professor Lyria Bartlett and Department of Architectural Studies chairperson Ruth Tofle.

The new location is part of a joint venture between the Craft Studio and the Department of Architectural Studies to create an “interdisciplinary fabrication laboratory,” according to a press release. This will consist of several new programs aimed at enhancing students’ artistic experiences.

“[Stealey, Bartlett and Tofle] have plans to develop this space over the course of the next few years into a broader learning laboratory for MU students that is more collaborative,” Hay said.

Hay said the Craft Studio will keep most of its original services, including Makerspace Nights, Crafternoons and the ceramics studio. Replacing the former darkroom in Memorial Union, which was the last of its kind in Columbia, would require a buildout and funding, but Hay said she hopes to see it “come back online.”

Despite the studio’s downsize from four rooms, each with a different art medium, to one classroom and a laboratory, Hay is confident her staff will adjust to the space and make it their own.
"We had our first staff meeting last week, but I think our staff are going to adapt to the space pretty quickly and pretty well," Hay said. "The [Gentry Hall] faculty and their students have been Craft Studio members throughout the years. This is all of our people, so we are happy to be in a building full of our friends."

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Why the Travel Ban Probably Hits Iranian Professors and Students the Hardest

No MU Mention

By Ian Wilhelm January 31, 2017

As reports of the impact of the Trump administration’s travel restrictions emerge, one population in higher education seems disproportionately affected: Iranian academics and students.

To some, that may come as a surprise. For almost four decades, Iran and the United States have had difficult, even hostile relations. But America has long been — and remains — a popular destination for Iranian students to study and for Iranian scholars to pursue their careers.

Here’s a snapshot of the higher-education ties between the nations, how the links developed, and what President Trump’s executive order, which temporarily limits entry for Iranians, among others, may mean for them.

Current Ties

Of the seven Muslim-majority countries that the Trump administration’s order targets — Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen — Iran by far sends the most students to American colleges. In 2015-16, more than 12,000 Iranians studied in the United States, with a majority of them — almost 78 percent — in graduate programs, according to the Institute of International Education. Iraq sent the next-largest cohort — 1,901.

America is "still the country of first choice" for most Iranian students, said Shaul Bakhash, an emeritus professor of Middle Eastern and Iranian history at George Mason University. "It’s striking that that popularity has continued through the Islamic Revolution, barriers to studying abroad, and the years of financial squeeze" due to international sanctions and economic problems in Iran.
Mr. Bakhash, who was born in Iran and earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Harvard University, says America is a "strong magnet" because of the large Iranian-American community in California and other states and because of its universities’ global reputation in engineering and other scientific fields.

*Story continues.*

**Boycotting the U.S.**

Amid concerns over entry ban, calls to boycott academic conferences in the U.S. begin. International Studies Association, which will meet in Baltimore next month, is criticized for not condemning Trump's actions.

**No MU Mention**

*By Elizabeth Redden January 31, 2017*

The new target of the academic boycott movement is the United States.

More than 3,000 academics from around the world have signed on to a call to boycott international academic conferences held in the United States in solidarity with those affected by Trump’s executive order barring entry by nationals of seven Muslim-majority countries. The ban on entry into the U.S. has left some students and scholars with valid visas stranded outside the country while others are stuck inside it, unable to leave the U.S. for personal or professional reasons for fear they won’t be let back in.

The entry ban, which affects nationals from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, has been widely condemned as discriminatory and as undermining values central to American higher education such as inclusion, openness and internationalism. Civil rights groups have described it as a pretext for banning the entry of Muslims, which Trump explicitly called for during his campaign.

“When we saw the recent news about what’s been dubbed the Muslim ban, we questioned what we could do as academics,” said Nadine El-Enany, a lecturer in law at Birkbeck School of Law at the University of London and an organizer of the call to boycott conferences.
Signatories to the document calling for a boycott of international conferences held in the U.S. pledge not to attend them while the ban is in place. The document goes on to state, "We question the intellectual integrity of these spaces and the dialogues they are designed to encourage while Muslim colleagues are explicitly excluded from them."

Story continues.