



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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New UM president addresses legislative rally

**Mun Choi talk precedes
first official day as
university leader**

By Alan Burdziak
Columbia Daily Tribune

JEFFERSON CITY — Facing state budget cuts for the second straight fiscal year, the University of Missouri System will seek to grow revenue via philanthropy,

corporate partnerships and an increase in tuition, President Mun Choi said Tuesday at the state Capitol, the day before he took office.

System officials also will do the best they can to persuade the General Assembly to restore as much of the \$40.4 million in UM funding Gov. Eric Greitens recommended

be slashed as possible. The fiscal year begins July 1. Greitens also restricted \$31.4 million from the current year budget for the system.

"We are going to make the best case that we can, and always in a respectful way, why it is important to make investments in higher education, because it is about making an investment for the future of Missouri," Choi said after a brief Capitol rally for UM.

An increase in tuition higher than the growth of the Consumer Price Index would be subject to a waiver under a state law that caps tuition. A UM review panel recently recommended the law be changed. Greitens has recom-

mended decreased funding for all state higher education institutions, citing slow economic growth and lagging revenue.

Choi was in Jefferson City most of the day Tuesday for UM's 2017 Legislative Day and met with House Speaker Todd Richardson, R-Poplar Bluff, House Budget Committee Chair Rep. Scott Fitzpatrick, R-Shell Knob, Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, R-Joplin, and Sen. Dan Brown, R-Rolla.

Brown, Richardson and Richard did not respond to requests for comment, and aides for each said they were unavailable Tuesday afternoon, but Fitzpatrick said his brief conversation with Choi was about the budget. Fitzpatrick said he told Choi and the four UM campus chancellors that it's a "tough year" and he hopes the system will receive everything it is promised in the fiscal 2018 budget, with further restrictions from the governor's office.

Fitzpatrick said it's "pretty unlikely" that the legislature will reduce Greitens' recommended cuts much, if at all. Fitzpatrick

hopes to trim the state budget and "right the ship" so funding for higher education can be increased in the years to come.

"To me it seems it would be more beneficial to them to get them a budget and they actually get all the money appropriated to them, as opposed to them planning on getting a bunch of money they're not going to get," Fitzpatrick said.

With or without more money from the state, Choi said the system will look to cut costs by eliminating unnecessary programs and increasing collaboration among

the four campuses in Columbia, St. Louis, Kansas City and Rolla. He said he will advocate for a change to the tuition cap law or a waiver but added that the goal is to make college remain affordable.

"Our tuition right now is very competitive, but with the reduction in state support we need to be able to grow our revenue so that we can make investments in the types of programs that will support our students' success," Choi said.

Partnerships with private organizations could result in more scholarships, better job placement and money for faculty research. Increasing enrollment system-wide also can increase revenue, Choi said.

"We have to share our message more effectively, not only to the citizens of Missouri, but also to surrounding states and internationally," he said.

MU officials said recently that freshman enrollment, which was down 20 percent between fall 2015 and fall 2016, is unlikely to rebound in 2017.

Choi was announced as the 24th permanent president of the UM System in November, replacing interim President Mike Middleton. Middleton replaced Tim Wolfe,

who quit amid protests over race issues on campus. Choi was the provost at the University of Connecticut when he took the job as UM president.

At the UM rally in the rotunda, Choi highlighted medical research and making sure the system makes "investments in excellence." He said he plans to talk to stakeholders for input on how to help solve the budgetary woes.

State Sen. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, said Choi's remarks showed "he gets it" and that he understands partnerships between the university and the private sector can be beneficial.

"I look forward to working with him in getting that implemented in as broad and creative a way as possible in our state," Rowden said.

During the 2016 legislative session, funding for the system and MU was a hot talking point, with some Republican legislators advocating for a sharp decrease in funding because of the school's reaction to protests. All but \$3.8 million to system administration was saved before gubernatorial budget restrictions. Rowden said he will continue to advocate for increased funding and lobby other lawmakers to join him.

"You have to keep communicating the narrative to make sure folks know why the university, why higher education is important and make sure that they know it should be a priority," Rowden said. "I'm going to have those conversations until I can't have them anymore."

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MISSOURIAN

Mike Middleton saw interim president job as calming UM's troubled waters

ANDREW KESSEL, 1 hr ago

COLUMBIA — What do you do when your university is in trouble?

That's the question Mike Middleton asked himself in November 2015.

A few months earlier, he had retired from MU, his alma mater, after more than 30 years, first as a law professor and then as deputy chancellor.

That's when a series of racially charged incidents thrust MU into the national spotlight. Things came to a head when MU graduate student Jonathan Butler started a hunger strike, and the Missouri football team threatened a boycott until then-University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe was gone.

On Nov. 9, that day came. Wolfe resigned, and the UM System Board of Curators went to Middleton and asked if he would come out of retirement and step in as interim president.

Fifteen months later, the interim is over. Mun Choi, former provost from the University of Connecticut, takes the reins of the UM System on Wednesday.

Farewell, Middleton from Columbia Missourian on Vimeo.

It was quite a journey for Middleton.

“I retired a happy guy back in August of 2015,” he said. “I had had a great career, and the university pretty much gave it all to me. So I was a bit intimidated about coming back as interim

president, but I really had no choice. I mean, what do you do when your university is in trouble, and they ask you to come back and help?"

For the former Department of Justice lawyer, it was trial by fire.

"Once I took the position, it was really like drinking through a fire hose," Middleton said. "I had been enjoying my retirement, and the pace and the volume of work in this position, it was intense."

At center stage was a series of demands made by activist group Concerned Student 1950. The list included increasing the percentage of black faculty to 10 percent by the 2017-18 school year and creating a long-term plan to address issues of diversity.

Middleton agreed.

"This university needs to be a place where young, intelligent, thoughtful people can feel free to learn, to interact and to grow," he said at his introductory press conference in November 2015.

"Those demands are designed to accomplish that, and we will do everything we can — everything humanly possible and everything institutionally possible — to meet those demands."

Looking back over his presidency, Middleton sees clear marks of progress toward those goals.

Each of the four campuses now has a diversity, equity and inclusion office, which reports to its respective chancellor, he said.

In May, Middleton announced the launch of an independent audit of the system's diversity and inclusion policies. The audit was completed later in 2016, and a task force appointed to analyze the results made additional recommendations in December.

In September, MU announced a goal of doubling the percentage of faculty of color — which also includes Hispanic, Native American and other minority faculty — from 6.7 percent to 13.4 percent over four years.

The MU Counseling Center has since hired two psychologists of color, another demand from Concerned Student 1950.

Middleton is quick to credit the team around him. He heaped praise on Kevin McDonald, who was brought on as the UM System's first chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer.

Middleton worked with McDonald to create a framework of "inclusive excellence," which centralized the diversity work of different college on campus under one department in Jesse Hall.

According to Middleton, that was the easy part.

The real challenge was handling the legislature.

In the wake of the protests and prolonged controversy on how MU should handle a case of former assistant professor Melissa Click, who confronted a student trying to film a protest and called for "muscle" to get him removed, many lawmakers wanted to take action against the UM System.

"When I took the job, they were really threatening to make significant cuts in our base appropriation, sort of as a punishment for allowing the November 2015 issues to explode," Middleton said.

"It was not easy to go down two or three times a week and be chastised by angry legislators, but that was part of the job."

In February 2016, for instance, the House Higher Education Appropriations Committee voted to exclude the UM System campuses from a 2 percent statewide increase in performance-based funding.

The committee chairwoman did not mince words.

“It would be one thing if it just made state news, but this is national,” Rep. Donna Lichtenegger, R-Jackson, said then. “It has made our university a laughingstock, and I’m trying to make people understand that we are not going to be a laughingstock.”

Middleton worked during the spring legislative session to convince lawmakers that punishing the UM System only did harm, not good. It’s an effort he counts among his successes.

The legislature approved a 4 percent performance-funding increase, which did include the system. But lawmakers also cut \$3.8 million from UM administration.

What’s more, the funding increase only partially offsets an estimated \$31.4 million budget gap at MU, which occurred as a result of a steep enrollment drop-off. Estimated fall 2016 enrollment dropped by more than 2,600 from the year before. To make up the rest, the curators approved a tuition increase.

Going forward, Middleton is worried about money. Years of state funding cuts and recent withholdings from former Gov. Jay Nixon and Gov. Eric Greitens have forced the UM System to be more “efficient,” a word Middleton takes issue with.

“We’re at a point now where our efficiencies are beginning to hurt programs, hurt people, hurt our ability to maintain our buildings, hurt our ability to do things that we as a university need to be doing,” he said.

If trends continue, UM will need to find additional revenue through research or tuition increases. The system might need to look at ways to consolidate services shared by the four campuses and further streamline academics.

UM should “perhaps think seriously about what we are as a university,” he said. “We can no longer be everything to everybody.”

Finding additional revenue is at the top of the agenda, he said. Starting Wednesday, that responsibility falls to Choi.

For Middleton, the legacy he hopes he leaves behind is one of fighting for justice and bringing calm to a university inflamed.

“Frankly, I spent a lot of time working after I hired Kevin (McDonald) on what the board asked me to do, which was to calm the waters of this university,” he said. “I mean, people were bad shape when I took this job. To restore trust in the university to restore confidence in the university. ... And if you look at the record, we did a pretty good job at that.”

His role wasn't to launch any major university initiatives, Middleton said, but to settle a volatile campus environment and leave a strong foundation for Choi to build upon. He prides himself on having done that.

Now he's going to enjoy his retirement — for real this time.

He and his wife, Julie, hope to travel in the Caribbean. He has grandchildren in Kansas City and Atlanta he's eager to visit. And he'd like to work on his golf game.

Middleton does plan to stay involved with the new administration, at least for a little while. Choi asked if he would work with him at the start, and Middleton was happy to oblige. He's confident the university is in capable hands.

“I think Dr. Choi will last a long, long time,” Middleton said. “He's a great guy — smart, energetic and very, very eager to take this university to the next level. And I think he has all that it takes to do that.”

But for now, some time to himself would suit him nicely. “I'm gonna rest for about a week, and then see what Dr. Choi needs me to do.”

He laughed.

“I think I've earned a week.”

First permanent UM System president in 15 months starts role today

By Kyle LaHucik

Mun Y. Choi officially stepped into his role as UM System president Wednesday.

When selected for the UM System presidency post, Choi was the University of Connecticut's provost, a role he served in from 2012 until Feb. 1.

Choi is serving in a position that Mike Middleton had filled as an interim since former UM System President Tim Wolfe resigned on Nov. 9, 2015. Pam Henrickson, the former UM System Board of Curators chairwoman, announced the selection of Choi on Nov. 2, 2016.

One of Choi's first decisions regarding MU leadership will come when he makes the final say on who becomes MU's next chancellor. Middleton launched a nationwide search for a permanent chancellor in December. The position has been filled by interim Hank Foley for over a year, since former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin resigned on the same day as Wolfe. Foley may permanently fill the position, as he has mentioned he'd like to drop the "interim" from his title. Choi and Foley have crossed paths in higher education before; Choi beat out Foley for the provost post at UConn.

Choi may have to decide on the selection of another UM System chancellor soon. According to a February St. Louis Post-Dispatch article, Missouri University of Science and Technology's chancellor, Cheryl Schrader, is one of three finalists for Wright State University's president.

According to previous Maneater reporting, faculty wanted a university president with an education background, which Choi has in his more than 24 years of higher education experience.

Choi has also dealt with budget cuts, something MU and the UM System are familiar with as of late. Gov. Eric Greitens cut \$20 million from the MU budget in January. Weeks later, Greitens cut up to \$40.4 million from the UM System's fiscal year 2018 budget. At UConn, Choi oversaw a \$40 million budget deficit.

Middleton sent an email note, with the subject "Thank you," to the UM System on Monday. He reflected on his 15 months with positivity and optimism for the future.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to witness our university come together and I know the future is bright with Dr. Choi as our next president. I hope you will welcome him and work together to take this university to new heights."

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Two arrested on suspicion of anti-Semitic taunts at MU

University of Missouri police on Monday arrested two students suspected of harassing another person with anti-Semitic remarks, both verbally and in writing, dating back to August.

Noah B. Rogers, 19, and Erich J. Eastman, 18, were arrested on suspicion of first-degree harassment, a Class E felony punishable by up to four years in prison. Each was released from the Boone County Jail after posting a \$1,500 bond.

MU police Maj. Weimer said officers were called to McDavid Hall at 8 p.m., where they spoke with the victim, a male student, and arrested the two suspects without incident. It was unclear if any harassment occurred Monday, Weimer said.

“This happened over time,” Weimer said. “It wasn’t necessarily occurring at that moment.”

Both music majors, Eastman is a freshman at MU and Rogers is a sophomore, according to MU’s online directory.

“This behavior is abhorrent and antithetical to our core value of respect,” MU interim Chancellor Hank Foley said in a news release. “It simply will not be tolerated.”

Cases on both men were sent to the Boone County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, where they are under review. Information also was shared with the university’s Office of Civil Rights and Title IX, which investigates allegations of discrimination and sexual assaults on campus. Rogers and Eastman “could face disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the university,” Foley said.

Jessica Caldera, a Boone County assistant prosecuting attorney who was assigned the case against Eastman, said she has yet to receive materials from MU police but she will make a decision on whether to file charges once she does.

Hate crimes targeting Jewish people and immigrants have received a lot of media attention nationwide since Donald J. Trump was elected president in November. Many high-profile incidents have led to organizations to say that has been a rise in hate crimes, including

widespread vandalism at a St. Louis-area Jewish cemetery, numerous bomb threats at Jewish centers around the U.S., a fatal shooting at an Olathe bar last week and reports of hundreds of hate crimes in the month after Trump was elected.

Data on such incidents is elusive, though, The Associated Press reported last week.



[Two MU students arrested for harassment, anti-Semitic remarks](#)

Watch story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/crime/two-mu-students-arrested-for-harassment-anti-semitic-remarks/366363293>

By Marie Bowman

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Two Mizzou students have been arrested for making racial remarks against another student.

Noah Rogers and Erich Eastman have been arrested for harassing and making anti-Semitic remarks to another student, the MU Police Department says. The remarks were made verbally and in a written note. MUPD responded to the incident at McDavid Hall.

Rogers is a sophomore and Eastman is a freshman. Both of the men are music majors.

They have not been charged, but Interim Chancellor Hank Foley did release a statement about the arrests:

"Dear Campus Community,

Yesterday, MU police officers arrested two students for harassing one of our community members with anti-Semitic messages. This behavior is abhorrent and antithetical to our core value of respect. It simply will not be tolerated.

Thanks to quick work by our campus police department, the criminal case is now in the hands of the Boone County Prosecutor's Office and information is being shared with the university's Office for Civil Rights and Title IX, where the students could face disciplinary action, up to and

including expulsion from the university.

Please know we remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that Mizzou is a welcoming and safe campus. We look forward to continuing to build on the foundation of diversity and inclusion we have established. Our values of Respect, Responsibility, Discovery and Excellence continue to guide us as we work to make Mizzou a place where everyone feels welcome to live, study, work and learn."

MISSOURIAN

[Two MU students arrested on suspicion of anti-Semitic harassment](#)

MICHAEL CONNOLLY, 15 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Two MU students were arrested Monday night on suspicion of using anti-Semitic messages to harass a Jewish student at McDavid Hall, MU police said.

Erich J. Eastman, 18, and Noah B. Rogers, 19, were both held on \$1,500 bond at the Boone County Jail on suspicion of first-degree harassment, according to online records. They were both released after posting bond.

MU Police Maj. Brian Weimer said he could not give any more specific information about the harassment.

Both students could face disciplinary action and expulsion from MU, according to an email Tuesday from Interim Chancellor Hank Foley.

The criminal case is being handled by the Boone County Prosecutor's Office, which will share information with MU's Office for Civil Rights and Title IX, according to the email.

"This behavior is abhorrent and antithetical to our core value of respect," Foley said in the email. "It simply will not be tolerated."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

[Two Mizzou students arrested for anti-Semitic messages](#)

By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 15 hrs ago

Two University of Missouri-Columbia students were arrested Monday night for allegedly harassing another student with anti-Semitic comments and notes.

Maj. Brian Weimer of the Mizzou Police Department said officers were dispatched to McDavid Hall, a dormitory, Monday night to take a statement from the student who alleged the harassment.

Weimer said a freshman and a sophomore were arrested at the scene. He said the anti-Semitic comments were oral statements, along with written notes.

In a campus-wide email, interim Chancellor Hank Foley called the students' behavior "abhorrent and antithetical to our core value of respect."

The case has been turned over to the Boone County prosecutor as well as Mizzou's Title IX office.



By Dan Claxton

COLUMBIA — Two MU students were arrested Tuesday for harassing, anti-semitic remarks they allegedly made to a third student.

According to MU Police Major Brian Weimer, officers were called at about 8 p.m. to McDavid Hall on the university campus, where the victim told them he had been the target of anti-semitic messages by the suspects.

A short time later, officers arrested 19-year-old Erich Jacob Eastman and 19-year-old Noah Brett Rogers on suspicion of first-degree harassment. Weimer said the two had made anti-semitic remarks to the victim both written and verbal. Both Eastman and Rogers are were booked and taken to the Boone County Jail, where they each posted \$1,500 bond.

MU Chancellor Hank Foley issued a letter to the campus community, saying "This behavior is abhorrent and antithetical to our core value of respect. It simply will not be tolerated."

The information was turned over to the university's Office for Civil Rights and Title IX. They face possible punishments including expulsion from the university. The criminal case was being reviewed by the Boone County Prosecutor's office.

Similar stories ran on the following outlets:

KTVI

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Review committee recommendation could lead to different tuition rates based on major

By Zia Kelly

After five years of working in the field, the median salary for an electrical engineering major was about \$65,000 in 2014. For an elementary education major working for the same amount of time,

the median salary was \$34,000. **At MU, those students would have paid the same tuition rate to get those degrees.**

But if the UM System adopts a recommendation made by the UM System Review Commission, a group appointed by the state legislature, the student who is now paid nearly twice as much may be paying more for their education.

Differential tuition is a system that has been implemented by universities around the nation as a way to raise revenue in the face of funding cuts from state legislatures. Instead of setting the tuition price for all students, schools with differential tuition systems have different rates for different majors — which are usually determined by the price of providing that degree.

In a differential tuition system, STEM majors that require several lab courses, as well as majors where graduates generally have higher starting salaries, such as business and accounting, are on a higher price scale than other majors.

“Certain programs are simply more expensive than others to deliver,” said John Gahl, an engineering professor and Faculty Council member.

Proponents of differential tuition say that the system allows schools to increase revenue without imposing a significant school-wide tuition increase, and that those with pricier majors are typically in fields with higher starting salaries — making more loans easier to pay off.

On the other hand, some are apprehensive about pricing out some students from these higher-salary majors to begin with, which can specifically affect lower-income students and may therefore lead to decreased racial and gender diversity in those majors. According to some research, this trade-off could compromise how effective differential tuition may be at bringing in revenue.

What we have now

Currently, all students pay the same base tuition rate, regardless of major. But each major also has supplemental fees associated with each credit hour — which are not regulated by the state, nor are they typically included in students’ initial tuition estimates.

Instead, these supplemental fees are levied by individual schools and colleges and are adjusted to cover the fees associated with the major.

“I already pay extra engineering fees for my college to provide for the research-heavy nature of my degree,” engineering student Kelsey Ollis said. “So it is not fair to increase my tuition even more.”

Much is still unknown about how the system would look at UM campuses, or if supplemental fees would be reduced if differential tuition were implemented.

Missouri businessman and former Republican gubernatorial candidate Dave Spence worked on the Workforce Readiness, Program Analytics, and Articulation section of the report. Spence said that they focused primarily on workforce readiness and made the recommendation with the expectation that the Board of Curators would do further research about it.

“We didn’t really do a deep dive on that,” he said. “We just thought it was an interesting concept that was worthy of further discussion.”

Spence said it will be the curators’ job to take a closer look at the differential tuition option. UM System spokesman John Fougere said the curators were unable to comment.

“We continue to review the suggestions from the Review Commission as they relate to tuition and finance, and will consider adopting those suggestions in the report that help us further the University’s mission,” Fougere said in an email.

Other differential programs

As of 2012, 143 public colleges across the nation had some kind of differential tuition system in place.

While most schools typically tailor tuition rates to different academic programs, some differentiate based on level of courses being taken (tuition rate increases for higher-level classes, regardless of major), and some schools only impose different rates for master’s, doctoral or other professional degree programs.

The University of Kansas has differential tuition in place for some of its programs, including its business and engineering schools. KU spokeswoman Erinn Barcomb-Peterson said each of the departments began implementing this system at different times.

“We are confident that our tuition and fee structures are finding the right balance of affordability and quality,” she said.

Despite an apparent decrease in total enrollment from fall 2015 to fall 2016, the percentage of people in both the engineering and business schools, and as compared to other majors, has increased according to the KU’s tuition numbers from the past three years.

However, this is not the case at every school.

The question of equity

Though there are many factors that could affect how tuition is altered to meet the demands created by the budget deficit, Gahl said fairness should be taken into consideration.

“If there is a degree program that costs ‘x,’ and there is a degree program that costs ‘3x,’ do we charge both students ‘2x?’ Is that fair to the student whose degree program only costs ‘x’ to

deliver?” Gahl said. “I think that’s a perfectly appropriate question to ask, and I think a committee should look at.”

Typically, students who have majors in STEM will be more expensive to educate than students in other areas because of the costs associated with lab and research facilities.

Additionally, Spence said that since some majors yield higher starting salaries after graduation than others, charging more for those majors makes sense because, theoretically, those students will have an easier time paying off their education after graduation.

However, that leaves the risk of reducing accessibility for some students on the front end.

Ollis is a senior industrial engineering student who will be continuing her education at MU next semester for graduate school. She said that setting a higher tuition rate for students in her program would make it less accessible to people with lower incomes.

“It’s going to be it making it more difficult for underprivileged students to get a STEM major when STEM majors are already pretty inaccessible,” she said. “I think it is going to decrease the number of STEM majors, as well.”

According to a 2013 study published by the National Bureau of Economic Research, public universities that have a differential tuition system have seen a change in the number of students in different majors, specifically away from those with higher tuition rates. The study analyzed 161 public research universities; 74 of them had differential tuition systems.

With the exception of nursing, which actually showed an increased number of students after differential tuition was implemented, the study found that a smaller fraction of students at these universities were getting their degrees in programs affected by differential tuition.

The researchers found that the number of engineering degrees are the most elastic — meaning those universities saw a greater decrease in the number of degrees than other majors given the same price hike.

The number of business degrees, though slightly less elastic, were still shown to be affected by differential tuition systems.

The study also noted that both female and minority students are disproportionately affected by the differential tuition systems, despite the fact that those two groups typically get more institutional aid than white males.

Steven Chaffin is an MU senior and the executive director of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, which advocates for the interests of UM students at the state legislature. Though ASUM has not yet formed an official opinion about differential tuition, Chaffin said he was concerned that raising tuition in certain degrees — ones that often result in higher starting salaries — may price out students from lower socioeconomic statuses.

“This is worrisome, because it reduces the ability of lower income students from using their college career as a means of upward mobility,” he said.

‘Righting the ship’

According to reporting from the Columbia Missourian, state support for UM System schools, when factoring in inflation, has decreased by 15 percent since 1990. In the past month alone, \$38 million was cut from the UM System for the semester.

The cuts are not likely to stop any time soon. In Gov. Eric Greitens’ proposed 2018 fiscal year budget, about \$40.4 million will be cut from the UM System.

Among other factors, the review commission cited shrinking government support as a reason to consider a differential tuition system.

In the case of MU, dwindling enrollment exacerbates the issue.

Gahl has been a professor in the engineering school for 17 years and serves as the chair of the Faculty Council Fiscal Affairs Committee. He said that MU, like many other universities strapped for state funding, has relied heavily on growth in the student population to maintain adequate income.

“When we were depending on growth so much just to maintain steady state ... if anything were to happen — whether it was controversial or not — in regard to enrollment, it was going to have a dramatic impact on our ability to fund the enterprise,” Gahl said.

Freshman enrollment for 2016-17 fell by 21.1 percent from the year before, which resulted in a \$36.3 million loss in tuition dollars for this academic year.

Spence said action will need to be taken, given the current financial state of the UM System.

“You can’t sit back and say, ‘Woe is us,’ and play the victim,” Spence said. “You’ve got to go out and figure out how to right the ship.”

Looking forward

Though the suggestion to examine differential tuition was made at the end of 2016, a potential switch would not be enacted for at least another year. Since there are only four more months of this fiscal year, which does not leave enough time to create a new tuition scale, Gahl said the earliest a new system would be put in place would be fall 2018.

Earlier this semester, interim Chancellor Hank Foley announced the creation of three campus-wide committees that will examine infrastructure, monetary allocation and revenue issues. The committee that looks at revenue will likely discuss the possibility of implementing differential tuition.

Vice Provost of Finance Rhonda Gibler said the chancellor's office will announce how the committees will be selected soon, but did not give a specific timeline.

Gahl said the committee's focus will be broader than determining how the university will increase its income.

"It is not just a tactical issue of how to raise more money," he said. "There also needs to be a very sober evaluation of what we think the university should be."



[Planning for the 2017 total solar eclipse](#)

Watch story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/planning-for-the-2017-total-solar-eclipse/364766056>

By Joey Parker

Generated from a News Bureau expert pitch.

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Mid-Missouri residents will soon get a rare view of an out-of-this-world event.

We are 175 days away from the total solar eclipse of 2017, and the August 21st event is expected to be epic!

In a 1979 report on the *CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite*, the journalism legend pointed out the total solar eclipse in February of that year was the "last total eclipse of the sun for North America until the year two thousand seventeen."

That once futuristic-sounding year is here and the celestial promise Cronkite foretold is coming. As are the crowds of eclipse enthusiasts.

Dr. Angela Speck is the director of astronomy at the University of Missouri. "Think what it's like for (Mizzou) Homecoming, or when True/False happens, or Roots N Blues N BBQ and how many people come to town. And then think about what it's like at the stadium on a game day. And think about what that's going to be like in a path 70 miles wide all across the state," said Speck.

That 70 mile wide path is called the umbra. Most people know a solar eclipse is when the moon's shadow falls on the earth. The shadow is made of two concentric cones. In the larger penumbra,

people will see a partial solar eclipse. But those of us in the umbra will experience a total eclipse. It's a rare moment many people will want to experience. And accommodating the big crowds could turn out to be an astronomical challenge.

Speck said emergency services will be working overtime but said there's no precedent for an event of this magnitude. Speck said, "It's kind of like a natural disaster; it's just we know it's going to happen and hopefully nobody's going to die."

Megan McConachie of the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau calls the eclipse a big deal! She said her team has been working on the August event for more than a year labeling it "CoMo Eclipse: Show Me Totality!" McConachie said, "We have national and international interest on this. We have the Boston Astronomy Club that will be coming to do their viewing here in Mid-Missouri. We've had calls from London, calls from Georgia, calls from California. So, there are a lot of people who are learning about the eclipse who may already be eclipse enthusiasts and are finding out about Columbia."

She compares the eclipse "a really busy football game on a Monday afternoon." She said the city will try to send the bulk of traffic to two major viewing locations; Cosmo Park and Gans Creek Recreation Area.

If you don't think you can accommodate incoming family and friends in your own house, you may want to tell them to book a hotel room now as McConachie and Speck both expect the city's hotels, motels and even AirBnB properties will be booked solid.

As the planets literally align, you can safely observe the eclipse in a variety of ways. Here is a link to eclipse viewing safety reminders.

ABC 17 News will be following the city and community planning leading up to the eclipse.

But don't miss it! After August, you'll have to wait until 2024 to see another total solar eclipse and it won't be visible from anywhere in Mid-Missouri.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

[DACA Remains Intact for Now, but Students Without It Are More Fearful Than Ever](#)

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By *Katherine Mangan* MARCH 01, 2017

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hen news broke last week that President Trump's plan to accelerate the

deportation of millions of undocumented immigrants would leave so-called Dreamers untouched, it gave some such students a reason to remain hopeful.

But [the memo](#) detailing his strategy offered no consolation to thousands of other unauthorized students, whose already shaky status suddenly became much more precarious.

That's because they lack even the temporary protections their classmates received under President Obama's 2012 executive action, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

The program, known as DACA, granted two-year, renewable work permits and reprieves from potential deportation to many young immigrants who had been brought here as children. But the application criteria are strict (see the accompanying box).

María Hernandez, a 20-year-old junior at the University of Washington at Bothell who asked that her real name not be used, is among those who either came to the United States too late, didn't have the required paperwork, or had other disqualifying factors.

Ms. Hernandez says that every day when she returns from campus, her mother is glued to the television watching the latest reports on immigration crackdowns — including an arrest last month of a DACA beneficiary in her own city of Seattle.

"We've always known that deportation could happen any day, but with Obama it was different," says Ms. Hernandez. "That fear now dominates our lives."

Ms. Hernandez came to Seattle from León, Mexico, in 2008, when she was 12. To qualify for DACA, she would have had to be here by June 15, 2007.

Her mother, a hair stylist, and her father, who is unemployed, thought their three daughters would get a better education and have more opportunities in the United States. A close family friend had moved to Seattle and thought it would be a welcoming place.

It turned out to be just that for Ms. Hernandez, who excelled academically, became a math tutor, participated in Junior Achievement, and mentored middle-school students.

During her first few years in the United States, lawmakers in Washington, D.C., tried and failed to pass legislation known as the Dream Act that would have provided a pathway to citizenship for many young people like her. Frustrated by Congress's inability to get such a law passed, the Obama administration [issued DACA](#), which offers similar but much more limited protections.

President Trump, while campaigning on a promise to end DACA, has since expressed some sympathy for its recipients, and is said to be getting conflicting advice on whether, or how, to end it.

About 750,000 people have taken part in the program. Many refer to themselves as Dreamers, and they've become a powerful and effective lobby, emboldened by their temporary protections to speak out against deportations.

Those who lack DACA protections are generally more hesitant to take part in protests where they will encounter police officers or even to divulge their status to classmates.

Of the 507,000 unauthorized immigrants enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs in 2012, 49 percent were immediately eligible to apply for DACA, although not all of them did, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

Some, like Ms. Hernandez, came here too late to qualify. Others didn't know about the program or couldn't afford the application fee, which has risen to \$495. And some were afraid that giving the government so much personal information, including their addresses and fingerprints, would put them and their families at risk of deportation.

Other factors that could disqualify someone are having traveled outside the country for an extended period of time or having been arrested for an offense like driving under the influence.

Deportation Fears

Those complications are familiar challenges to Karla Perez, a second-year law student at the University of Houston who works in the law school's immigration clinic.

She is among the "DACAdmented" students who have at least some measure of protection. Three years ago, when she was an undergraduate at Houston helping run a DACA clinic, she met an undergraduate mechanical-engineering student and tutor who'd been stymied in his attempts to get DACA benefits.

He had arrived a few months before the June 15, 2007, cutoff for eligibility, he told her, but it had taken his parents a few months to get him enrolled in school, so he had no record to prove he was here.

"He'd help us make posters and do work behind the scenes, but he didn't want to put himself out there because he didn't have DACA," Ms. Perez says.

In the law-school clinic, she frequently runs into other students who missed out: the doctoral student who was over the age-31 cutoff, or the student who spent a summer outside the country visiting a sick relative and couldn't meet the requirement for "continuous presence" here.

These are the students who were particularly alarmed last week when the U.S. Department of Homeland Security released a memo widening the power of immigration officials to detain and quickly deport people who are in the country illegally. It states that the government will

"faithfully execute the immigration laws of the United States against all removable aliens" and directs Immigration and Custom Enforcement, or ICE, to hire 10,000 more officers and agents to expedite the process.

The threat of deportation is, of course, nothing new. President Obama deported record numbers of undocumented immigrants, but generally prioritized those who were considered threats to public safety.

Mr. Trump's approach casts a much wider net. Among the categories of people who should be prioritized for removal, the memo states, are those who have been charged but not necessarily convicted of any crime, have committed acts that "constitute a chargeable criminal offense," or have engaged in fraud.

In Austin, Tex., 28 of the 51 undocumented people arrested in a recent enforcement crackdown had no previous criminal convictions, according to a report [by the Austin American-Statesman](#).

Many were just in the wrong place at the wrong time, in the same car, for instance, as someone who had a deportable order. Immigration officials refer to those as "collateral apprehensions."

Undocumented students at the University of Texas' flagship campus in Austin are fearful "not only for a dad, who's a construction worker, but for themselves," says Denise L. Gilman, director of the flagship's immigration clinic. "Anyone who gets caught up in law enforcement" is at risk, she says.

While the majority of the undocumented students at the Austin campus have DACA protection, many do not. An 18-year-old college student who was brought to the United States at age 10 would, like Ms. Hernandez, have missed the cutoff for eligibility.

Federal officials have confirmed that they are still processing new applications for DACA, as well as renewals.

But for many who would qualify, it's too risky, given the mixed signals coming from the Trump administration.

"Every day, dozens of undocumented students become eligible for DACA, but are not applying because of the reasonable fear that doing so will render them 'known to the government,' and will make them and their parents more at risk," says Michael A. Olivas, a professor at the University of Houston who teaches immigration law and higher-education law.

Mr. Olivas, who is on leave from his law-school job while he serves as interim president of the University of Houston-Downtown, accuses the administration of "terrorizing" undocumented students.

Everyone who received DACA has been submitted to extensive background checks that found them to be crime-free, even of misdemeanors, says Mr. Olivas, "so unless they have done something disqualifying in the meantime — not likely, given the stakes — they are not criminals."

'Hard to Predict'

The advocacy group United We Dream suggests that those without DACA [hold off on applying](#). Apply for renewals only if you can afford to lose the \$495 fee, it says, since the president could end the program at any time.

Stephen Yale-Loehr, a professor of immigration practice at Cornell Law School, calls the administration's vague reassurances about DACA "a double-edged sword."

On the one hand, he says, the president has indicated that he doesn't currently plan to eliminate the program. But that doesn't mean he might not change his mind and revoke the policy after students have turned over information to the government that might be used against them.

"Given the wide latitude this memo gives to ICE officials," says Mr. Yale-Loehr, "it's hard to predict what will be used to justify putting people into deportation proceedings."

The [case in Seattle](#) that caused widespread alarm involved a DACA recipient, Daniel Ramirez Medina, whose protected status was removed after authorities accused him — unjustly, his lawyers contend — of being in a gang. Mr. Ramirez [remains in custody](#), pending a hearing set for March 8.

Gang members are among the people the president has promised to prioritize for deportation, and that alarms immigration advocates like Thomas A. Saenz, president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

"This charge of gang affiliation is often used to target people law enforcement doesn't like," he says. "They'll seize on a tattoo," as he says they did with Mr. Ramirez, or simply engage in racial profiling.

"What is a crime that would render any undocumented immigrant a priority for enforcement? This is where the conflicting signals from the administration are troubling," Mr. Saenz says.

At first, the president talked about going after the "bad hombres" — the criminals who posed a threat to safety. The executive order greatly expands the scope of people considered criminals to include those with misdemeanors or those simply suspected of committing a crime.

"What if you're cited for a misdemeanor for failure to disperse because you're demonstrating on a political issue?" Mr. Saenz asks.

When protesters were rallying outside the detention center where Mr. Ramirez was being held, Ms. Hernandez, the Washington student who came to Seattle from Mexico, knew better than to join in.

"At the end of the day, I feel like DACA recipients could fight for their situation better than I can," she says. "The laws are on their side."

Her family's situation keeps them all on edge. "My mom keeps telling me every day, don't drive over the speed limit. My license plate is about to expire and she's freaking out."

Still, she's determined to do what she can. She helped organize a student walkout at the Bothell campus on Inauguration Day, and she's working with local nonprofits to create a safety net for undocumented families. It would include help in creating legal-consent kits to allow parents facing deportation to leave their children with guardians they choose.

"I'm doing what I can to take control of my situation," Ms. Hernandez says. When classmates with DACA celebrate their small victories, "I'll admit, it hurts," she adds. "We can't forget the people who are still at risk."