New Mizzou curators pledge post-audit cleanup

By Kurt Erickson St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 5 hrs ago

JEFFERSON CITY • Gov. Eric Greitens’ picks to serve on the University of Missouri Board of Curators pledged Wednesday to crack down on the kinds of perks doled out by administrators that were criticized in a recent report.

Two days after Auditor Nicole Galloway issued a blistering report uncovering millions of dollars in incentive payments and other bonuses paid out to the top brass in the University of Missouri System, the trio of new curators said they want to bring more transparency to the university.

“This audit revealed some disturbing things,” said Daryl Chatman, an attorney and former Mizzou football player. “We do know something is broken.”

Along with Chatman, the new members of the nine-member board include Jeff Layman of Springfield and Jamie Farmer of Jefferson City.

Their confirmation hearing before a Senate committee came in the wake of the audit that found the system paid out more than $2 million in hidden bonuses to administrators over the last three years.

The report also found former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin was paid thousands of dollars in the months after his resignation with no work responsibility.

Administrators also received vehicle and housing reimbursements.

Senators were critical of the perks being paid out at a time when the university was in the middle of a downturn in enrollment and beset by protests over the administration's handling of racial incidents.

The problems led to the resignations of UM System President Timothy Wolfe and Columbia campus Chancellor Loftin.
Sen. Dave Schatz, R-Sullivan, said the system wasn’t in a position to hand out bonuses, given the tumult at its flagship university in Columbia.

“The tail wags the dog,” Schatz said.

“A lot of these things were not above the board,” added Sen. Brian Munzlinger, R-Williamstown.

Farmer, a Mizzou graduate and president of a Jefferson City business, said new leadership at the university may be a starting point to begin changing the culture at the top. UM System President Mun Choi said he hopes to make the process of paying administrators more transparent.

“Just from an optics perspective, this is pretty poor performance,” Farmer said.

Layman, who has a bachelor’s degree in business administration and management from Missouri State University, works as a senior vice president at Morgan Stanley in Springfield.

“I just don’t think there is enough accountability,” said Layman, who served as a key fundraiser for Greitens during his campaign for governor.

The full Senate is expected to vote on the confirmations next week.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Mizzou journalism dean to tout role of journalism

By Jesse Bogan St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 13 hrs ago

ST. LOUIS • En route to Washington on Wednesday to help bolster the media's role in political reporting, David Kurpius, dean of the Missouri School of Journalism, quickly found himself on the defensive from an off-handed comment.
"Oh, journalism," said the random person sitting next to him on the airplane in a manner that was
dismissive of his field of study.

"Yeah," Kurpius said. "It's important."

Media experts increasingly experience similar encounters, partly due to President Donald Trump's well-
documented clashes with the press. Trump has said "fake news" is the "enemy of the American people."
He vowed to break tradition by skipping the White House Correspondents’ Association dinner in April,
the first president to do so in decades.

But Trump isn't the only one bashing media.

According to a Pew Research Center survey in 2016, only 22 percent of Americans trust information from
local news "a lot." Last month, Pew also found that 64 percent of 1,503 adults contacted for a survey said
freedom of news organizations to criticize political leaders is "very important" to maintain a strong
democracy in the U.S.

People like Kurpius, who leads the oldest journalism school in the country, begs to differ. As he did on
the airplane and will do again Thursday.

He's expected to speak at the National Press Club for a symposium titled: "Fact-Checking, Fake News
and the Future of Political Reporting."

"Journalism has been the center of attention here in the last year with the political campaign and changes
in the industry," Kurpius said. "It's important to remind journalists and citizens and people in government
that journalism is a key component in democracy."

He said he'll use the platform to announce a new strategic plan to train students that would "build on
excellence" already in place.

"We want to ensure that we are continuing to get better and look for new opportunities to better train our
students," he said.
The Missouri School of Journalism is known for the "Missouri Method," a hands-on approach to molding future journalists. While in school, students typically cover a beat for either a university newspaper, radio station, magazine or television station. Kurpius said he expected to see more collaboration between mediums.

He said the school would also take better advantage of research and innovation, while having a lot more "cross-disciplinary collaboration," for instance, with computer scientists and other fields of study in the broader University of Missouri network.

**Senators focus on critical state audit while questioning nominees for University of Missouri curators**

By Brittany Ruess

JEFFERSON CITY — Gov. Eric Greitens' three nominees to the University of Missouri Board of Curators called for more accountability and transparency within the system after fielding questions from state senators about a recent audit that showed millions of dollars of non-salary payments to top administrators.

The Senate Gubernatorial Appointments Committee on Wednesday interviewed Democrat Darryl Chatman and Republicans Jamie Farmer and Jeff Layman and will vote on whether to approve them before sending recommendations to the full Senate.

The hearing came two days after State Auditor Nicole Galloway released an audit of the University of Missouri System that showed some administrators received $2.4 million in incentive pay and bonuses. The audit dominated questioning by senators.

“What do you bring to the table?” Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard said, questioning Chatman, the first candidate in front of the panel. “Hopefully some common sense. You seem like a common sense fellow.”
Chatman, a St. Louis attorney, said he felt the audit revealed some “disturbing things” and his primary concern was the curators’ lack of knowledge about incentive and bonus pay. These payments are dependent on the market and compensation for leaders at competing institutions, Chatman said, but he doesn’t know what that structure should look like for the University of Missouri.

“We do know something is broken, though, on a lot of levels,” Chatman said.

The university system was already facing the possibility of major funding cuts from the state. Earlier this year, Greitens proposed nearly $500 million in cuts from the state budget, including $40.4 million from the UM System’s appropriation.

In response, the university is considering raising tuition, which Chatman said he opposes. He said the university should look internally for costs savings, such as decreasing spending on capital improvement projects. Chatman said layoffs might also be necessary, but in an interview after the hearing said that layoffs are not a favorable option.

“I do think at some point in time when you have a financial crisis, something’s got to happen, but I think the last thing you do is make our young people suffer and pay higher tuition,” he said. “As far as letting people go, that’s kind of the last thing on my list of things to do, but it’s on the table.”

Layman, Greitens’ finance chairman during his gubernatorial campaign, also said the university system should look internally to save dollars instead of raising tuition. Increased accountability will be a likely change for the system with the new leadership of President Mun Choi and new curators, he said.

“If that’s not going to happen, we’ll have to force that,” he said about accountability. “There’s just no other way around it. That has to change.”

Farmer, president of Farmer Holding Company, said the curators must set standards for employees to receive incentive packages and in the process of setting those metrics, the curators and system must be transparent.

“I feel what happened in this latest audit and findings was that the board wasn’t clear on exactly how these different individuals were going to be compensated and the administration, with the tail wagging the dog, was able to skirt around and do these fancy payments in the form of payments and travel budgets that really aren’t fair,” she said. “I feel like this is in a time where there’s been so much scrutiny and arguably some of the worst years from the University of Missouri and, just from an optics perspective, this is pretty poor performance and behavior.”

Senators chimed in during questioning to express their thoughts on the audit, most of them critical of the university. Sen. Dan Hegeman, R-Cosby, said the situation is serious and transparency should be demanded.
“And we don’t give bonuses in the state of Missouri on any level of government, so this very troubling for me what we’re seeing and I’m glad you’re taking it to heart,” he said to Chatman. “Even if it’s legal, it may not be the right thing to do.”

Diverting from discussion about the audit, Sen. Doug Libla, R-Poplar Bluff, said his constituents have concerns that professors promote their own personal agendas and asked Layman to respond.

“Well, I think, obviously, we need to be focusing on providing quality education and I don’t think personal agendas fit into that role at all,” Layman said.
THE TRIBUNE'S VIEW

UM audit: Twisting in the wind

State Auditor Nicole Galloway issued a report critical of University of Missouri "incentive" payments made to top administrators since July 1, 2014.

Rather than incentives for meeting work goals, Galloway said the payments were bonuses paid after the fact with no quid pro quo involved. Among others, she cited money paid to former MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, UMKC System General Counsel Steve Owens, UMKC Chancellor Leo Morton and former UM System President Tim Wolfe.

"It appears the university was using these items to boost administrators' pay without having to disclose it publicly," Galloway said. The Missouri Constitution prohibits the state from giving extra pay to workers or contractors for work already performed.

Overall, the auditor gave the university a "fair" rating, next to the lowest among four ranging from "excellent" to "poor."

Galloway properly avoided giving an opinion about whether individual payments were warranted, but her critique of the methodology raises plenty of questions.

President Wolfe and Chancellor Loftin left their jobs in the midst of turmoil over the way system and campus administrators reacted to student protests. Loftin already was under unrelated fire on the MU campus, and his boss, President Wolfe, negotiated the chancellor's peaceful resignation by providing a job description and expensive compensation having little or nothing to do with work needed for the university.

Wolfe, General Counsel Owens and UMKC Chancellor Morton were simply paid more under the system Galloway characterized as bogus. In response, the university says it must pay competitive salaries, but the auditor says the extra money was not accounted for as part of regular budgeted salary compensation. Interim President Mike Middleton was not among the top 18 administrators receiving bonuses.

Gov. Eric Greitens says he won't support tax money paid to university administrators without proven results, and he criticizes
UM leaders for taking the money while proposing tuition increases. Greitens engages in political opportunism, but he was given the green light by university errors.

Some criticize Counsel Owens for failing to provide better guidance to UM curators. There is some basis for this, but Owens operates in the smog of traditional university attitudes toward full disclosure. MU and UM, like too many other large public bureaucracies, are complex and arcane enough to work more in the dark than best practices would demand. No overriding authority exists within the university making sure the ethics of transparency and disclosure are carefully followed. Indeed, one can find high-level officers whose duties include advising how the institution can skirt Sunshine Law requirements, a skill not listed in official job descriptions but coveted and well compensated nevertheless.

The sort of leadership required to avoid troubles like Galloway outlines must come from the highest authority in University Hall. The president of the UM System can't delegate ethics to some lower official. He or she must impose it plainly in daily activities and rules emanating straight from the top office so all hands will follow unthinkingly. Mun Choi, only this month installed as the next UM president, has a perfect opportunity to establish this atmosphere, made easier — indeed, mandatory — by Galloway's report. Go, Choi, go.

Finally, let us recognize the good work of Auditor Nicole Galloway herself, formerly of Boone County, who shows her intent to call it like she finds it. If the university reacts properly to her report, the institution and its constituents everywhere will benefit.

If there's anything that a study of history tells us, it's that things can get worse, and also that when people thought they were in end times, they weren't.
Local lawmakers react to UM System audit

By Brittany Rues
Columbia Daily Tribune

JEFFERSON CITY — Local lawmakers say they still need to delve deeper into State Auditor Nicole Galloway's critical audit of the University of Missouri, but on the surface the report doesn't bode well for the UM System.

The audit revealed $2.4 million in incentive pay and bonuses to some administrators and comes at a time when the General Assembly is working on the state's budget, which Gov. Eric Greitens has suggested include $40.4 million in cuts to the university system.

With the university already facing the possibility of substantial cuts, Rep. Scott Fitzpatrick, R-Shelbyville, who leads the House Budget Committee, said the committee doesn't intend to make any further reductions, adding that House members are frustrated.

Rep. Cheri Toalson Reisch, R-Hallsivlle, said the situation is unfortunate considering all the current financial woes and those in the past, such as cutting 50 jobs in campus operations and stopping trash pickup after MU home football games to save money on overtime costs. Those changes came after the university made $5.47 million in cuts in its operations division.

The audit also is disheartening to employees with moderate salaries, Reisch said.

"When I see this kind of thing, as a watchdog for taxpayers, it is a bit unsettling," she said. "A UM System leader has to be more transparent with those that need to be more transparent with someone coming in and doing an audit."

The university defended itself in a statement specifying the incentives are used among peer universities and don't exceed the market median.

While he doesn't condone the spending highlighted in the audit, Fitzpatrick said he knows the university has incentives to remain competitive in the market. But some of the spending, like that on former Columbia campus Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, were inappropriate, he said.

Rep. Kip Kendrick, D-Columbia, did not respond to requests for comment.

Read the audit at www.columbia-tribune.com.

said he's taking time to hear from university officials before making any public comment, which could come later this week.

"We've been talking to system folks and trying to get a feel for their side of it," he said. "I'm trying to inform my opinion before I start talking about it."

Rep. Martha Stevens, D-Columbia, said that while she finds the numbers troubling, there will be a greater expectation for transparency with new university leadership, including UM System President Mun Choi.

"They receive significant public dollars and the audit found a lot of recording about these bonuses and... luxury cars and things like that," she said. "I think that's something that we need examine and that needs to be more transparent before someone coming in and doing an audit."

Sen. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia,
University of Missouri System, state officials respond to scathing audit

MARCH 8, 2017 BY ALISA NELSON

Brad Tregnago of KSSZ contributed to this story

The University of Missouri System is defending its pay structure. A state audit shows more than $2 million in bonuses for school administrators that were not transparent and not tied to performance. System spokesman John Fougere says that’s a common practice nationwide.

“To achieve excellence, a major university like the UM System must be able to attract and retain the best leaders. Our executive compensation program is critical to our capacity to do just that,” says Fougere. “Do we want to achieve excellence at the University of Missouri System? What’s very important then that we were able to be competitive to attract and retain the best leaders.”

Fougere mentions the departure of Missouri S&T chancellor Cheryl Schrader for Wright State this week, as an example of a school leader who left for better pay.

Meanwhile, the audit could backfire on the university when the state legislature considers the system’s budget. House budget chairman Scott Fitzpatrick (R-Shell Knob) is still looking over the audit.

“I’m not sure how it impacts my thinking right now, because I kind of realized before this audit came out that there were probably some things I wouldn’t like,” says Fitzpatrick. “But I will say reading some of that stuff makes it really difficult to make the case to people on this committee that more money is needed for them.”

In a statement from Governor Greitens (R), he said the system has been broken for too long.

“We need to fix it. We just appointed three new members of the Board of Curators who are going to be budget hawks,” said Greitens.

I’m meeting with the heads of several major universities across our state, and I will deliver a clear message:
1. Colleges and universities are important to our state’s future.

2. We need to cut waste from that system, just like every other area of government.

3. We want excellence in our colleges and universities, and we’re willing to invest in it.

4. We won’t balance budgets on the backs of our students.

Greitens said he’s spoken to the new president of the UM System, Dr. Mun Choi. Greitens said he believes Choi is committed to greater accountability and producing excellent results.

Students, staff express concerns over UM System audit


By Alyssa Toomey

Some students and faculty members at the University of Missouri are expressing concerns over a recent audit of the UM System that revealed more than $2 million in hidden payments and incentives to top administrators.

"I personally didn't feel very valued as a student," MU student Eryn Acton told ABC News. "I just think it's kinda sad when money is going to the top and not being invested in the student population.

The audit released Monday comes as the UM System faces a financial crisis, stemming from a decrease in enrollment and continued budget cuts. Gov. Eric Greitens has proposed more than $100 million in budget cuts to higher education for fiscal year 2018. One possible solution for the shortfall is to raise student tuition, a move some students don't see as fair, particularly after the audit.
"I'm not personally opposed to tuition being raised if it is for the greater good of our education, but I think there needs to be a little more transparency with where our tuition dollars are going," Acton said.

Students weren't the only ones who had concerns about the report.

"Some of these bonuses are actually more than what some faculty members make in a years, not to mention the staff. So it looks strange that we would have those kind of bonuses and not be able to disclose them," MU faculty council member and law professor Ben Trachtenberg told ABC 17 News.

Trachtenberg added that he doesn't know what executives should be paid, but he believes their salaries should be public record.

"The way these bonuses were given out creates the perception we have something to hide...there's no reason for us to pay someone something we're ashamed to admit," he said.

Greitens released a statement after the audit, criticizing the UM System and calling it "broken."

"In these tough budget times, we need to be extra careful with our tax dollars. In the higher education budget, we asked college administrators and executives to find ways to tighten their belts. They told us that they had done everything they could to cut costs. Then, some of them told us they might to raise students' tuition or fees," Greitens said.

An audit revealed that top executives and administrators of the University of Missouri system gave themselves over $2 million in hidden bonuses over the past three years....I'm all for good pay for people who do a good job, but I won't support giving tax dollars to people without proven results. And I definitely won't support doing that at the expense of students and families."

UM System president Dr. Mun Choi will be speaking with the media Friday for the first time since he officially began his position on March 1.

"The UM System strives to be more accountable and transparent in its stewardship of public resources," Choi said Monday. "We will use the audit report to continue improving our business processes and our operations."

"I'd like to see some concern for where this money is going," Acton told ABC 17 News when asked what she would like to see from President Choi in the coming days.
Some city leaders say they'll continue to support Mizzou at state Capitol


By Sara Maslar-Donar

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Despite bleak findings in Nicole Galloway's audit of the University of Missouri system, leaders at the Columbia Chamber of Commerce said Wednesday they will continue to support Mizzou and its efforts to lobby for more funding at the state Capitol.

"We're going to be supportive of our university and we're going to continue to fight for the things that are going to be good for Columbia, good for our region and good for our state," said Chamber of Commerce President Matt McCormick.

Every year, the Chamber of Commerce lays out legislative priorities it wants to take to Jefferson City. They can relate to business, economic development or education. This year, the chamber is focusing specifically on MU's research reactor, something it feels could potentially be a huge economic development driver. Last year, the chamber succeeded in securing most of the funding for it but fell short, and then the state withheld some of the money.

"The nice thing is our lawmakers, especially our local delegation, have been very supportive of Columbia and have been very supportive of the university working through a lot of the things they've had to work through the past few years at the state level and also the local level," said McCormick.

McCormick said going forward in Jefferson City could be a struggle, but they're prepared to keep fighting for the university and the system in a supporting role.

"We have experts within our organization we rely on, and we rely on our local delegation on working through that process and what part we play in that," he said. "It's a system thing they have to work through."

ABC17 News reached out to all the local representatives and senators for Boone County but did not hear back or they declined to comment specifically on the audit.
MU has money to cover budget gap with university reserves

ANDREW KESSEL, 14 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — MU plans to cover $20 million in state cuts this academic year with reserve funds.

In January, Gov. Eric Greitens withheld $20 million in state funding for MU as part of an effort to offset a mid-year budget deficit.

To make up the $20 million shortfall by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, MU will draw on reserve funds from hundreds of accounts across the university, MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said Wednesday in a campus-wide email.

What’s yet to be determined is which colleges, schools and divisions will foot the bill and how much they’ll each have to pay. MU has developed a series of "guiding principles" to determine where the money will come from, the email said.

“I know what a challenging process this will be for all of us as we come together as a campus community to apply these guidelines and make difficult decisions," Foley said in the email. “These calculations will represent real programs and projects, real initiatives, and in some cases, real people who are part of our university family.”

It isn’t as if MU has a single, centralized reserve savings account, MU spokesman Christian Basi said. Instead, reserve funds are pockets of money that various divisions or schools have set aside for future projects. This could be anything from new equipment to software, Basi said.
How much any given division has to pay comes down to how much money it receives annually, known as General Revenue Allocation, as well as how much the division set aside as reserves.

Basi said he didn't have an exact figure of MU's total reserves because the reserves are scattered across the university, but he emphasized that MU is confident it has the funds.

When this year's cuts were announced Feb. 2, Foley told the MU Faculty Council that tapping into reserves was a possibility but was reluctant to fully endorse the idea.

Now, the guiding principles will be used to determine a specific breakdown. That information could come soon, Basi said.

This use of reserves only applies to fiscal year 2017, Foley’s email said. The 2018 fiscal year will bring additional financial struggles for Missouri higher education if Greitens' current budget recommendation — which includes a $40 million cut for the University of Missouri System, compared to the amount appropriated last year — is approved.

**MU cuts mirror a national trend of higher education slashing**

ANDREW KESSEL, 1 hr ago

COLUMBIA — Consistent slashing of state funding, a mid-year budget shortfall and an increasingly arduous struggle to recruit and retain top faculty and students.

That's a short list of the problems facing public higher education in Missouri. But if university presidents across the country saw it, they might think it was about their schools instead.

On Jan. 18, MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley sent a memo to faculty and staff announcing the university would have to make $20 million in cuts before June 30. The memo came a day after Gov.
Eric Greitens announced $146 million in total cuts, including $80 million to higher education across the state. Foley acknowledged the difficulty budget cuts pose but also emphasized a broader national trend.

“While finances are a challenge, we are hardly alone,” he said in the memo. “Budget cuts are happening to public higher education institutions across the country. But with challenge comes opportunity, and we are committed to coming together to define that which is essential to our mission. Great institutions like Mizzou adjust to change and move forward in the pursuit of excellence.”

*The Great Recession*

When the Great Recession hit during the 2007-08 school year, higher education funding was dealt a major blow. All but three states spent less per student in fiscal year 2009, and, in many states, cuts continued in subsequent years.

Even as the economy recovered, higher education funding has been tepid. In fiscal year 2016, many states began to modestly increase funding, but only four states spent as much or more per student than they did in fiscal year 2008, according to a 2016 report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Missouri, as of fiscal year 2015, had cut per-student spending by 25.2 percent since fiscal year 2008. That doesn’t include the cuts made by Greitens, but it still ranks as the 17th largest percentage drop in the country.

MU doesn’t have to look far to find other schools facing a similar fate. Most of the 11 states with SEC schools have had to endure severe cuts of their own. Of states with the largest percentage of per-student funding cuts, SEC states made up three of the four hardest hit, six of the bottom 15 and 10 of the bottom 26.

Louisiana might be in the toughest spot of all.

Like Missouri, Louisiana is facing a budget deficit in the middle of a fiscal year, to the tune of $304 million. Louisiana Gov. John Bell Edwards called a special legislative session in February to address the gap, and higher education could be on the chopping block — again.
Louisiana State University President F. King Alexander is worried his best faculty and students might not stick around.

State appropriations to LSU have shrunk by $141 million since 2009. In total, the school’s budget has been cut 16 times in nine years, Alexander told legislators in December. As a result, LSU has lost roughly 500 faculty in 10 years, including 40 professors in the 2015-16 school year.

“We’re worried about losing our best faculty,” Alexander said in January. “We’ve built such good results and our faculty and staff have carried us through, and we’re still setting records and our starting salaries are still strong, so we’ve gotten great results. The one fear is how long can we keep doing that in an environment where we’ve taken 16 cuts in nine years?”

Of particular concern to Alexander and other education leaders is the fate of TOPS, a state program that awards merit scholarships to Louisiana students who attend a public college or university in-state. In June, the legislature voted to fully fund the program for the fall 2016 semester but drop funding to just 42 percent in the spring.

Those cuts, and any more that follow, could make current students unable to afford college and drive prospective students out of state. According to Alexander, other SEC schools are making a recruiting push to attract high-achieving high school students out of state. At the University of Arkansas, for instance, Louisiana students are eligible for a scholarship that lets them pay roughly the same tuition as in-state Arkansas students would.

Robert Mann, chair of the Manship School of Mass Communication at LSU, has seen it unfold firsthand. Mann has two children nearing college age, and he’s talked with other parents who are looking at schools for their kids.

More and more often, he said, he hears parents say their kids are headed out of the state, something they might never have thought about a few years ago. One of Mann’s good friends sent all three of his daughters to the University of Alabama, even though they attended high school on the LSU campus lab school. When it’s nearly the same price to leave, Mann said, students who would be in state at LSU become out of state somewhere else.
Alabama

At the University of Alabama, attracting out-of-state state students is a central part of the business model. The state cut $556 million from higher education between 2008 and 2013 and was fourth worst nationally in the decline of per student spending.

With state funding representing a dwindling share of revenue, the university needed a new model.

That’s where out-of-state students come in. For one, their tuition is more expensive: In-state Alabama students pay $10,470, but for out-of-state students, that jumps to $26,950. To better recruit the out-of-state crowd, Alabama has ramped up its investment in merit-based scholarships, going from spending $8.6 million 10 years ago to $106 million today, The New York Times reported.

Now, just 43 percent of the student body is from Alabama, and enrollment has hit a record high. However, the cost of tuition continues to rise, making the school less affordable for in-state, low-income students. In June, the UA Board of Trustees voted to increase tuition by 2.9 percent. The year before, the board approved a 3.5 percent hike.

The out-of-state student boon has not reached Auburn University, Alabama’s other major public 4-year institution. Auburn has seen its in-state student population hold steady at about 60 percent over that span, even as appropriation cuts have hit the university as well. Auburn has roughly 10,000 fewer students than Alabama and received more than $200 million less from the state in fiscal year 2017.

Alabama may be the most prolific example for out-of-state recruiting, but the school certainly isn’t alone. A Washington Post analysis of 100 major public universities found that the percentage of in-state freshmen declined in 70 percent of the schools between 2004 and 2014. MU’s percentage of in-state freshman fell from 81 percent to 61 percent over that span.

LSU might have to follow suit if it wants to keep up, Mann said. With more revenue coming from out of state, schools like Alabama can afford better facilities and a prettier campus. That matters, he said.

“The kids go to the Alabama campus or whatever and they say ‘Wow, this campus is really sparkling. The facilities are good,’” Mann said. “And then they look around the LSU campus, (and) it’s all rundown.”
Things got so bad that Alexander spoke publicly about the possibility of financial exigency, essentially bankruptcy status for academic institutions that would allow a school to fire tenured faculty. That never came to fruition, but it was an earthquake to the LSU community, Mann said.

Kentucky

When funding from state appropriations dries up, the burden of paying for college falls more heavily upon the student. In 1999, the state paid 67 percent of college costs at Kentucky’s public universities, leaving the students responsible for 33 percent. By fiscal year 2013, those numbers had practically flipped. Students were saddled with 61 percent of college costs, according to figures from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

Various departments at MU set to take a budget cut before June

By Justice Henderson

COLUMBIA - In the next couple weeks, Interim Chancellor Hank Foley will work with Vice Chancellors of different departments on campus to decide how much money will be cut from their budgets.

Earlier this year, Governor Greitens announced that $20 million would be cut from this fiscal year's budget.

The fiscal year ends on June 30, 2017, but different departments on campus are going to have to decide what they want to cut in their budgets.

In July of 2016, the university was told it would be given $229 million from the state over the fiscal year.
The university then made a budget of how this money would be allocated, but it is now going to have to cut funding with just a couple of months left in the fiscal year.

All departments on campus will be affected by this, including auxiliaries such as residential life and athletics.

MU spokesperson Christian Basi said there have been meetings going on all week, and they will continue until decisions are made.

Foley and his committee are currently working together to decide what specific number will be cut from the departments' budgets.

"Very soon those numbers will be given to division leaders, and then it will be up to those division leaders to determine where that money will come from," Basi said.

The MU budget shows how money is allocated each year and where specific money goes.

Greitens' 2018 budget also proposed a $20 million cut for the next fiscal year. The budget for the next fiscal year has not yet been finalized, but Basi said they are planning ahead for next year and the years to come.
To address this, Foley says the school plans on pulling money from reserve funds across the university, but the message also signaled additional cuts would likely be coming, saying administration is “working diligently every day to identify areas where we can avoid duplication of services, enhance efficiencies and realize cost savings.”

Foley also acknowledged that these cuts “will represent real programs, projects, and in some cases, people who are a part of the university family.”

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**Religious experiences may be down to epilepsy, study finds**

Lucy Pasha-Robinson

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Researchers Find Neurological Link Between Religious Experiences and Epilepsy](#)

Research finds a link between a propensity for spirituality and neurological processes

**Heightened religious experiences may be linked to epilepsy, a new study has revealed.**

Researchers from the University of Missouri discovered a neurological link between a person’s disposition for religious activity and epilepsy.

“Past research has indicated that humans might have a distinctive neurological tendency toward being spiritually oriented,” said lead-author Brick Johnstone, a neuropsychologist and professor of health psychology.
“This research supports the notion that the human propensity for religious or spiritual experiences may be neurologically based.”

Researchers asked epilepsy-sufferers to take two surveys. The first assessed the behavioral characteristics associated with epilepsy, while the second measured engagement in religious activities and participants’ spiritual orientation.

“We found a strong correlation between philosophical religious thoughts and epilepsy, but no correlation between emotional thinking and epilepsy,” said the study’s co-author Greyson Holliday.

“This study suggests that people may have natural neurological predispositions to think about religion but not in a way that is necessarily associated with emotion.”

The report titled: Heightened religiosity and epilepsy: evidence for religious-specific neuropsychological processes, was published in the journal Mental Health, Religion and Culture.

The average age of the study’s participants was 39 and the majority surveyed were Caucasian.

Of the participants, 32 per cent identified as protestant, 10 per cent as Catholic, five per cent as Buddhist, five per cent as atheist, 38 per cent as other, and 10 per cent did not indicate any religious affiliation.

Researchers said future research will focus on religious experiences before and after brain surgery, to examine in greater detail the neuropsychological processes behind religiosity.
Study shows executive indiscretions can hurt bottom line

Generated from an MU News Bureau press release: Executive Indiscretions Can Hurt the Bottom Line

OKLAHOMA CITY - A CEO outed for lying on a resume. An executive caught assaulting someone. A manager arrested for driving under the influence.

Such indiscretions can have multimillion-dollar consequences for the companies that employ them, according to a new study from the Trulaske College of Business at the University of Missouri.

In their examination of 325 managerial missteps — involving substance abuse, violence, sexual and dishonesty indiscretions — researchers found such incidents on average resulted in an immediate 1.6 percent loss in shareholder value, which translates into $110 million in market capitalization. When CEOs were at fault, shareholder value and market capitalization losses climbed to 4.1 percent and $226 million, respectively.

“The basic premise of our study is, ‘If you cheat on your wife, would you lie to your shareholders or business partners?’” said Adam Yore, principal of the study and assistant professor of finance.

“Our research certainly suggests shareholders and potential business partners perceive that someone who is duplicitous in his or her private life could be more willing to mislead professionally,” Yore said. “Personal integrity at the top matters and can have major impacts on these companies,” he said.

In addition to losses in shareholder values, executive indiscretions result in significant declines in the number of new major customers and joint venture partnerships, researchers found. Dishonesty carried the greatest consequences.
Yore, along with co-authors Brandon Cline at Mississippi State University and Ralph Walkling of Drexel University, also looked at single instances of managerial indiscretions and “repeat offenders.” The likelihood of disciplinary turnover was similar for either type of indiscretion, but both were much more likely to occur at family-managed firms. Not surprisingly, researchers found indiscretions occurred more often at poorly governed firms where disciplinary turnover is less likely.

This new study's findings underscore comments from experts, which I included in a December 2007 article on how cheating and office romances can be the death of a career.

"If it's OK for the leader to cheat a little under certain circumstances and not be upfront and honest, employees will believe it's OK to bend the rules in other areas with ethical lapses that can affect the bottom line,” said Lyn Turknett, an Atlanta-based organizational sociologist and leadership coach.

Then, 44 percent of men reported having had an affair with a co-worker, one source found. Many affairs start at office Christmas parties.

Pre-employment contracts, which state a term or renew annually, can give companies an immediate out for firing executives who've committed indiscretions, said Nathan Whatley, a labor and employment attorney with McAfee & Taft. Reasons for dismissal in such contracts often include acts of moral turpitude that bring disrepute upon the employer, Whatley said.

Others recommend pre-hiring personality tests to avoid hiring indiscreet or just bad bosses. Among other things, such testing can uncover narcissism that follows a pattern of low conscientiousness and lack of emotional control that implies lack of respect for other people.

**Students react to billing changes for MU Student Health Center services**

MORGAN NIEZING AND TOMÁS ORIHUELA, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — MU Student Health Center's announcement Tuesday that students will pay more for office visits prompted anger and disappointment on campus.

MU spokeswoman Liz McCune said the changes are the result of financial strains at the Student Health Center. "The cost of administering health care continues to increase, and the health center's
expenses are outpacing revenue," she said. "These increased costs include salaries for health care providers and mandatory expenses such as medical malpractice insurance."

Currently, if you are a student enrolled in more than six credits, your student health fee covers four visits with a psychologist or psychiatrist. In the spring semester that fee was $102. Beginning July 1, these mental health services, which were provided by the Health Center's college health experts, won't be included in the price anymore. You'll need to start paying for office visits.

However, MU's administration is planning to propose a 7 percent reduction in the fee, which means that in the best case, it will be $93.60. The decision will need the approval of the Board of Curators, McCune said.

The Student Health Center will still provide consultations, with the difference that students will be responsible for a co-pay. The amount will be billed through insurance, and the amount will depend on the type of insurance the student has.

However, if you don't have insurance, you will receive a 45 percent discount on the cost of health care services, McCune said. International students are required to have insurance regardless of the number of credit hours they're enrolled in.

Until July, students will be able to receive mental health consultations, as well as health promotion and wellness services. After that, the Student Health Center will provide some behavioral health services, such as workshops, programs and classes to reduce stress, according to the MU Student Health Center website.

Faculty, students not happy

Current and former students complained about the changes on social media and on campus.

Kenneth Shields, a post-doctoral fellow at MU, said he used mental services while he was in the first year of his master's degree in the the fall of 2010.
"I needed to talk to someone. I was experiencing a lot of stress. If it weren't for the specialists I talked to, I probably would have dropped out of the program," Shields said.

Learning that his partner was pregnant with twins was one major source of anxiety. "We wanted to have a baby, but we didn't know we were going to have twins, since in our family there aren't such cases," he said.

It was his supervisor, Claire Horisk, an associate professor of philosophy at MU, who recommended he seek help, and it changed his life both personally and academically.

Now Shields, 34, is worried about his students. "I usually tell them my story and advise them to see specialists if they're going through complicated situations."

Matt Bourke, a sophomore studying English education, said that most students can't afford to drop in on an urgent care center. “Student Health was an alternative to that cost in the past,” he said.

He said he works in student affairs and sees that cuts have been made in many departments because of budget challenges facing the university, so he understands the reasoning. However, the recent release of the UM System audit results made it especially disheartening to hear about the cuts, he said.

Alexis Rodgers, a freshman studying psychology, put it more bluntly: “I think it’s a load of garbage,” she said. “We have to focus on mental health; it’s just common sense. Fees should cover the needs of students.”

Multiple students worried that rising costs would lead to increasing numbers of students forgoing visits to the Student Health Center and opting to wait out illnesses or attempt a self-diagnosis through online sources.

Allie Starkz, a junior pursuing a double major in biology and psychology, said the changes could negatively impact student class performance. If students miss class due to illness or injury and aren’t able to get a doctor’s note because of the cost of a visit, their grades could suffer.
“The university puts so much effort into attracting new students, yet they turn around and make decisions that take away from the students that are already here,” Starkz said.

**Other options, and the 'bright side'**

Another option they considered was to increase the student health fee, McCune said. But that would require approval from the state. "The health center's fee increases cannot exceed the rate of consumer price index without special approval from the state. While increasing the fee has been considered, any increases would be very modest," said McCune.

On the positive side, the Student Health Center will become an in-network provider for more students. Only Aetna Student Health Plan was considered in-network in the past. That means that students will be able to get procedures done like stitches, ingrown toenail removal and IV medications and fluids, in the case of dehydration.

"As a result, many students will see a reduction in out-of-pocket costs should they need care that goes beyond a basic consultation," she said.

Anyone who has insurance through any of the almost 20 providers will be considered in-network. "This new insurance model will allow the center to become more fiscally sustainable," McCune said.

Meanwhile, MU Counseling Services has not been affected by the changes at the MU Student Health Center. It provides individual and group psychotherapy, consultation to students, parents and faculty, psycho-educational workshops, outreach presentations and psychological testing.

These resources are included at no additional cost in the Student Activity Fee, which is mandatory for every student in an on-campus program. The total amount of the fee depends on the number of credit hours you're enrolled in.

McCune said the university will be closely monitoring any impact the changes at the Student Health Center have on MU Counseling Services, which could find itself with more patients seeking free help.
MU Counseling Center has therapists available during business hours to help students who might be experiencing a crisis, need counseling or are worried about a fellow student. All the details and contact information are available at its official website.

MU men's basketball program worth tens of millions to Columbia

By Lucas Geisler


COLUMBIA, Mo. - As MU men's basketball coach Kim Anderson winds down his last days at the program, a search worth millions of dollars will soon begin to replace him.

Anderson, a former Tiger basketball player, will step down at the end of the season. He amassed a 26-67 record in three seasons as head coach.

The next coach will command a program worth tens of millions to the city of Columbia. Data from the city's Convention and Visitors Bureau estimates the men's basketball program brought in $11.4 million from July 2014 to June 2015. That is four percent of the total amount the city says sporting events brought in during that time, a total of $294,194,435.

The school will work with another company to boost home ticket sales for the next year to improve lagging attendance, as well. CVB communications director Megan McConachie said football and men's basketball seasons have noticeable impacts on how much money businesses enjoy from home games, as well as the city's intake of sales tax. Basketball, though, has not had the same effect as football, where people might stay several days in town for the event.

"Basketball has never been a huge 'overnight stay' driver, but it is an important part of our tourism product," McConachie said.

The lower attendance at basketball games reflects both the residents and visitors coming to games, she said.
"While that does mean a lot of residents aren't attending the games, it probably also means that there are fewer visitors coming in for those games," McConachie said. "And so there are some of those schools, when you get into [Southeastern Conference] play, that are very committed, that will drive the distance, spend the night. But Mizzou fans for basketball are not traveling in and spending the time here as much."

For FY2015, estimates show the football program brought in more than $67 million. Weekends like the Roots & Blues & BBQ music festival and the True/False Film Festival draw considerable crowds, McConachie said MU Athletics remained the key driver for tourism in Columbia.
Health officials advise caution on GOP bill

American Medical Association calls proposal "critically-flawed"

By Jodie Jackson Jr.
Columbia Daily Tribune

As Congress begins debating a replacement plan for the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, both consumers and health care professionals must let legislators know that access to affordable health insurance should be a top priority, the incoming president of the American Medical Association said Tuesday.

Barbe, a Mountain Grove physician and graduate of the University of Missouri School of Medicine, talked to physicians at MU Health Care, Boone Hospital Center and the Boone County Medical Society on the heels of the release of a Republican plan to replace the 2010 Affordable Care Act.

The AMA officially panned the proposed America Health Care Act with a letter on Tuesday, expressing concerns that it would have an adverse effect on patients and the nation’s health, largely because of an expected decline in health insurance coverage.

The AMA said the proposed budget reconciliation bill was "critically-flawed."

Jen Bersdale, executive director of the advocacy group Missouri Health Care for All, said the Obamacare replacement bill filed by House Speaker Paul Ryan and House Republicans would repeal "broad swaths of the Affordable Care Act and make radical, harmful changes to Medicaid." She said the result would be "millions of people losing their health care.

Specifically, the bill proposes shifting from income-based to age-based qualification for subsidies or, in the case of the replacement bill, refundable tax credits. That part of the bill would hurt low- and middle-income and sticker individuals "in favor of assistance for wealthy and healthy people," Bersdale said.

By tying tax credits to age and not income, a 29-year-old investment banker who makes $75,000 per year would receive the same $2,000 tax credit as a 29-year-old making only $35,000 annually, Barbe said.

The bill also proposed repealing a number of ACA-related taxes that had helped finance portions of the current law.

Barbe said the proposed bill would not repeal the requirement for insurance companies to cover "essential health benefits," including an array of screening and preventive measures. He also pointed out the bill does not propose eliminating some of the more popular aspects of the ACA such as the prohibitions against denying health insurance to someone with a pre-existing condition, charging women higher premiums than men and allowing children to stay on a parent’s policy until the age of 26.

"It’s going to be really difficult for those pieces to be dismantled without a significant public hue and cry," Barbe said, noting that many Republicans have called for an end to those benefits. But he added, "There are plenty of other pieces" of the ACA "that are proposed to be modified pretty heavily."

The proposed legislation would abolish the individual mandate to obtain insurance and the requirement for employers to cover workers by eliminating the penalties for noncompliance. The bill also seeks to roll back Medicaid expansion and put a "per capita cap" on funding that would scale back the fed-
UMKC students protest campus sexual assault policies

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

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NO MU MENTION

University of Missouri-Kansas City students, outraged over the way the university responded to an alleged rape in a campus dorm, stormed into a vice chancellor’s office Wednesday afternoon with a list of demands.

The protest, involving about 60 students and supporters, came several hours after UMKC Chancellor Leo Morton in a letter to students, faculty and staff promised a complete review of training and security measures in residence halls.

“We are aware, from your feedback, that some training and education gaps exist, in particular for faculty and staff, and will be working to address those,” Morton wrote. He did not offer details.

The alleged rape of a female student occurred Feb. 23 at Johnson Hall on the UMKC campus. A 22-year-old man, who was not a UMKC student, last week was charged with raping the woman.

Wednesday’s noon rally was in response to the university not immediately informing the campus community about the alleged rape. Several students said they were furious that university spokesman John Martellaro, in comments to the University News student newspaper about the incident, seemed to downplay the assault and told student reporters that an electronic campus alert was not made about the rape because it was not a security issue.

“We are all outraged that this happened,” said Ana Maldonado, a concerned citizen who attended the rally in support of students. Other students at the rally said they represented a variety of student groups on campus.

“We do think that this was a security issue,” said Helen Proctor, a UMKC senior and co-founder of Squad of Siblings, a group focused on combating sexual violence in Kansas City.
Martellaro came under criticism from students after he also told the student newspaper that the incident “is not necessarily a security issue because the victim went out willingly with the suspect. It was after socializing that she was taken advantage of, or raped, whatever you might call it.”

Martellaro, in a March 3 letter to the editor published in the University News, apologized for his comments.

In his letter, Martellaro said his wording was “clumsy,” and he had made “an unfortunate and inappropriate comment” about the alleged rape. “Let me be clear: rape is rape, and it is a terrible crime,” he said.

But some students at Wednesday’s rally said his apology was not enough.

Protestors marched across the campus waving signs and shouting, “Hey hey, ho ho, sexual violence has got to go,” along with other anti-sexual-violence chants.

They ended up forcing their way into the office of Mel Tyler, vice chancellor for student affairs and enrollment. Tyler was in a lunch meeting with one other person at the time.

When students, who had earlier staged a sit-in in front of Chancellor Morton’s office, appeared at Tyler’s doorway, someone inside the office attempted to close the door. Students pushed it open and packed his office.

Morton never emerged from his office to address students. Bridget Koan, a spokeswoman for the university, said she did not know if Morton was in his office. “I have not seen him today,” Koan said.

But a university statement handed out by Koan at the rally said, “UMKC supports the rights of students to express themselves and to demonstrate peacefully.”

Brennan Schartz, a rally organizer, said in a Facebook post announcing the event that “we are fighting a systemic plague of rape culture and it takes more then just town halls to talk about what the problem is.

“We know that rape culture is a problem. We need to start making changes that protect students and change failed UMKC administration policy.”

Schartz read a list of five student demands in Tyler’s office. Among them was a request for the required re-training of UMKC employees on rules and procedures regarding sexual assault and rape on the campus. They also demanded mandatory UMKC-specific anti-sexual-assault public service announcements for incoming students, and the creation and full funding of a student-led accountability board with authority to hire and fire administrators and university staff for lack of response or failure to enforce sexual violence policy.

Tyler said these were “fine demands,” and workable.
He apologized to students in his office “for the fact that we did not communicate in a timely fashion.” He said, “My job is to protect the students here at UMKC. ... I am very concerned about what happened.”

After about 20 minutes fielding a barrage of questions from students, Tyler agreed to meet with a group of them following a listening session on the issue scheduled for Monday.

Chancellor Morton, in his letter to the UMKC campus community, pledged to do more to better train faculty and staff in dealing with sexual assault issues at the school.

His letter went out after he heard from students, faculty and staff about how the university “might have handled some things better” in responding to the reported rape.

Morton did not list any specific changes or additions to the university’s existing Violence Prevention and Response Program, its Title IX Office or services at the UMKC Women’s Center. But he and Tyler did say that UMKC will “engage in a top-to-bottom review of security measures and staff training” in residence halls.

According to court documents, surveillance video from the night of the reported rape showed the 22-year-old man carrying the woman, who after drinking alcohol at a club in Lawrence was unable to walk into the dorm. Witnesses told police the woman was very intoxicated.

When the woman woke up, she noticed some of her clothing had been removed. Court documents said that when the woman asked the man — identified as Juan Contreras of Colorado — what happened, he reportedly told her that he had sex with her.

UMKC did not immediately notify students and faculty about the alleged rape.

The University News reported that Martellaro said that since the alleged crime was reported more than 24 hours after it occurred and the suspect had been identified, “the situation did not call for an alert to be issued.”

Martellaro did not respond to The Star’s telephone calls or emails sent to his office Wednesday. Those inquiries were forwarded to other members of the UMKC Strategic Marketing and Communications staff. In a statement, UMKC confirmed Martellaro “is still employed.” The statement also said school officials could “make no further comment on any other personnel actions.”

But the university ended with this response: “As a university with a history of strong support for sexual assault survivors, we can’t help but be very concerned about a comment that can cause such pain to our campus community. At the same time, we believe that UMKC should be a place of learning from mistakes. It’s a core value for the university. When problems occur, we want to address them directly, seek to understand the context and provide specific remedies for learning and remediation.”
Republican lawmakers in at least seven states have moved to prohibit colleges from trying to protect undocumented students from apprehension by immigration authorities under the Trump administration.

The legislatures of Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, and Texas have advanced bills calling for state funds to be withheld from colleges that adopt policies intended to hinder the enforcement of immigration laws. Similar measures have been proposed in Iowa, Pennsylvania, and, most recently, North Carolina.

Public-university officials "are not above following immigration laws, and hopefully these changes will provide the incentive needed to make them do the right thing," State Sen. Norman W. Sanderson Jr. of North Carolina said in introducing his bill last week.

Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas, who strongly supports a measure passed by that state’s Senate last month, has characterized efforts to provide sanctuary to undocumented immigrants as a threat to public safety:

Critics of such efforts, however, argue that the measures are unnecessary because, when it comes to matters involving undocumented students, colleges are already cooperating with federal officials and local police to the full extent required by law.

"These bills are political posturing," says Thomas L. Harnisch, director of state relations and policy analysis for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. He says public-college presidents "are sympathetic to the plights of students, but they know that they have to follow the law, and they will follow the law."

Michael A. Olivas, a professor at the University of Houston who teaches immigration law and higher-education law, calls the bills "a solution in search of a problem," partly because he has never heard of any student being arrested on an American college campus for an immigration-law violation. Moreover, he argues, any measure that would punish colleges for not voluntarily cooperating with law-enforcement authorities more than the law requires "betrays a lack of understanding of what the limits of the law are." Story continues.
Author, investor to speak at Reynolds Journalism Institute

Investor Jeff Gramm, author of "Dear Chairman: Boardroom Battles and the Rise of Shareholder Activism," will discuss shareholder activism during a question-and-answer talk at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in the Fred Smith Forum at the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute at the University of Missouri.

Gramm will be joined by local investor Brent Beshore, and they will discuss some of the battles that have shaped corporate America, the institute said in a news release. Coffee, cookies and a book-signing will start at 3 p.m. before the talk. The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required at https://www.rjionline.org/events/jeffgramm.