The School of Medicine and campus operations will make the biggest contributions to cover a $17 million gap between budgeted spending and available revenue on the University of Missouri’s Columbia campus.

MU released figures Thursday showing how unrestricted reserve funds would be used to make up for lost state revenue withheld in January by Gov. Eric Greitens. Under a formula announced by interim Chancellor Hank Foley Wednesday at a general faculty meeting, each unit on campus is being taxed based on its ability to shoulder additional burdens.

The decisions only address the immediate shortfall in the budget year that ends June 30. The gap in the coming fiscal year is expected to grow to as much as $50 million, because of continued state funding cuts and declining tuition revenues.

The gap in the coming fiscal year will be covered by cuts and continuing to draw down reserves, Foley said at the faculty meeting.

To address the ongoing financial issues, Foley is establishing two committees — a Resource Allocation Model Committee made up of 14 members led by Vice Chancellor for Finance Rhonda Gibler and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Garnett Stokes and a Capital Financing Advisory Committee made up of 15 people with Gibler, Stokes and Vice Chancellor for Operations Gary Ward as ex-officio members.

Each committee will have four faculty members, two staff employees, three students and three leaders nominated from campus.
“We are in this together and we are going to have to make very difficult decisions as a group,” Foley said during the faculty meeting.

The committees will look at the campus as a whole and how to cut expenses in future years, campus spokesman Christian Basi said.

“They are looking at the long term and how we are having our budgeting model structured,” he said.

With a little more than three months left before the new fiscal year begins, decisions about cuts will have to be made soon, said Ben Trachtenberg, chairman of the Faculty Council.

Deans and support unit administrators will need to listen to faculty and employees for advice on where to cut, he said. The size of the budget shortfall means the university will likely have to cut employees, but no one wants to make that the first choice, Trachtenberg said.

“I think everyone wants to avoid layoffs as much as possible so no one will be in a hurry to do that until it seems absolutely necessary,” he said.

The immediate crunch developed when Greitens announced Jan. 16 that he was withholding $146.4 million in general revenue appropriations to balance the state budget. The cut included $83.8 million withheld from college and university budgets, which left MU $20 million short of its budgeted revenue.

MU Health Care is contributing $3 million and the remainder is allocated to all campus units based on the size of their unrestricted fund balances and the amount received from the MU general fund. Foley said 70 percent of the contribution from each unit is based on fund balances and 30 percent on general fund allocations.

With $116.4 million in reserves and a $39.5 million general fund allocation, the School of Medicine will provide $3.1 million. The College of Arts and Science, with the largest general fund allocation at $80.1 million and a negative fund balance, will contribute $674,000.

Campus operations will provide $1.65 million, based on unrestricted reserves of $4.5 million and a general fund allocation of $70.6 million. Intercollegiate Athletics, with a negative reserve balance and general fund allocation of $399,510, will provide the smallest portion, $1,968.
The list identifying the budget decisions also reported that 31 campus units hold $518.6 million in unrestricted reserves and receive $621.3 million in general fund allocations.

**What each MU division owes to meet a $20 million budget shortfall**

ANDREW KESSEL

Mar 16, 2017

COLUMBIA — **MU deans and other campus leaders have until April 28 to figure out how their divisions will pay their share of a $20 million budget shortfall before the current fiscal year ends.**

MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley released a full breakdown Thursday of how much each of the colleges, schools and divisions across campus will have to pay in order to offset the $20 million in state appropriations that Gov. Eric Greitens withheld from MU in January.

Earlier this month, Foley announced that MU would cover the shortfall using university reserves before the end of the fiscal year, June 30.

The School of Medicine will have to pay the most — about $3 million. The College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; the Office of Research; Student Affairs and campus operations were among the seven other divisions saddled with at least $1 million.

To determine how much each division has to pay, MU used a formula that considered how much each division has in reserves and the revenue it received from the university in 2017.
Intercollegiate Athletics will pay just $1,986 due to a low general revenue allocation from MU and the fact that athletics is running a deficit. That’s because athletics is still paying fees to the campus as a result of the decision to leave the Big 12 athletic conference and join the SEC.

The College of Arts and Sciences is running a deficit, also. That’s why, despite having the highest revenue allocation of any division, Arts and Sciences is responsible for $674,887, the 10th largest payment.

How soon the university collects the money will vary by division, MU spokesman Christian Basi said. Division leaders received the payment breakdown Thursday morning, so they have a few weeks to assess. It’s still early, Basi said.

The Missourian reached out to several deans and other division leaders, all of whom were unavailable or referred questions back to the MU News Bureau.

Ben Trachtenberg, chair of the MU Faculty Council, said that leadership would be wise to consult with the faculty in their divisions. Some of the reserve accounts that could be drained contain money set aside by faculty for upcoming projects, he said.

“Those accounts, while small, are important to the person who put the money in it,” Trachtenberg said.

MU could lose even more money in fiscal year 2018, which begins July 1, if Greitens' 2018 budget proposal is approved by the General Assembly. The governor’s proposal would trim the University of Missouri System’s state appropriation by $40 million.

Committees

The MU News Bureau announced in a news release Thursday the creation of two committees that will make budget recommendations to the chancellor.

One, the Resource Allocation Committee, will be tasked with advising administration on "the design and implementation of a new resource allocation model." The committee’s objectives
include “promoting transparency, assuring financial responsibility and accountability, encouraging innovation and creativity, and enabling rapid responses to opportunities as they appear.”

That committee will be led by Vice Chancellor for Finance Rhonda Gibler and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Garnett Stokes.

The other, the Capital Financial Advising Committee, will make recommendations about buildings and other campus improvement projects. According to the release, the committee’s role includes prioritizing what revenue goes to which projects and screening requests for funding.

Both committees will include four faculty members, two staff members and three campus leaders.
As ABC 17 News previously reported, departments across Mizzou are being asked to dip into reserve funds to make up for the university's $20 million shortfall for the current budget.

The School of Medicine has the highest withholding at over $3 million while the athletics department had one of the smallest withholdings at less than $2,000. A formula was used to calculate the amount; it took into account reserve balances and general revenue.

The grand total for all withholdings is just over $17 million. The other $3 million needed to make up MU’s budget will come from University Hospital reserves, MU spokesperson Christian Basi said.

Earlier this month, Basi told ABC 17 News that each department will either have to defer or cut projects it may have been saving for.

"Leaders will have to take a look and determine of those projects, those large purchases, how do they want to delay it or is this something has to be completely off the table," he said.

**MU creates two budget committees to address $20 million shortfall**

MU is creating two new budget committees as the university continues to battle a $20 million shortfall.

University administrators announced the creation of the committees Thursday. According to a release, the committees will "advise administrators on specific aspects of the MU budget." Student, faculty and staff representatives will serve on the committees.

The Resource Allocation Model Committee will deal with how the university can best invest its financial resources while the Capital Financing Advisory Committee will make recommendations to the chancellor on financing options for capital improvements.

"It is my goal that we all share in making the recommendations that will have a lasting impact on the university," Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said in a statement. "The way we determine our budget priorities, including our capital improvements, will set the course for maintaining and
building on our research excellence and the overall student experience at Mizzou. It is important that the campus work together to determine our way forward."

The Resource Allocation Model Committee will help implement a new resource allocation model for the university by providing input on resource allocation, methods to cover overhead and ongoing operational costs and creating incentives at the unit/division level to encourage collective goals.

The Capital Financing Advisory Committee, meanwhile, will provide recommendations on procedures and plans for the development of capital financing options, prioritization for new capital fund allocations, prioritization for existing resources allocated for capital improvements and procedures to screen and prioritize requests for capital improvement funds.

The Resource Allocation Model Committee will be led by Vice Chancellor for Finance Rhoda Gibler and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Garnett Stokes. Members will include four faculty members, two staff members, three students and three leaders nominated from the campus.

Members of the Capital Financing Advisory Committee, meanwhile, will include four faculty members, two staff members, three students and three leaders nominated from the campus.

Last week, Interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley announced that departments across the University of Missouri campus will dip into reserve funds to make up for the budget shortfall. MU spokesperson Christian Basi said the plan will require each department to either defer or cut projects it may have been saving for. He said administrators have developed a formula to weigh both reserve funds and general revenue allocations to decide how much each school will be responsible for in the shortfall.

Foley is expected to announce how much each department will be responsible for at a faculty council meeting today.
MU creates two new budget committees amid funding cuts

By: Kristen Reesor

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri announced two new committees Thursday that will advise administrators on the university's budget. The move comes at a time when MU and other public universities in Missouri face state funding cuts.

Student, faculty and staff representatives will serve on the committees.

“It is my goal that we all share in making the recommendations that will have a lasting impact on the university,” Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said. "It is important that the campus work together to determine our way forward.”

The Resource Allocation Model Committee will provide recommendations on the best way to use current financial resources. The committee will also design a new resource allocation model for MU.

Vice Chancellor for Finance Rhonda Gibler and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Garnett Stokes will lead the committee. Members will include four faculty members, two staff members, three students and three leaders nominated from the campus.

The other committee, the Capital Financing Advisory Committee, will focus on building improvement funds.
Members of the committee include four faculty members, two staff members, three students, and three leaders nominated from the campus. Gibler, Stokes and Vice Chancellor for Operations Gary Ward will serve as ex-officio members.

“The way we determine our budget priorities, including our capital improvements, will set the course for maintaining and building on our research excellence and the overall student experience at Mizzou," Foley said.

MU Veterinarians find new way to diagnose and treat dogs

by Caileigh Peterson
Thursday, March 16th 2017

Generated from News Bureau press release: Veterinary Motion Analysis Lab Could Lead to Better Treatments for Small Animals, Orthopedic Procedures in Humans

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=363b45cb-ab67-42f2-a3fc-0a2761bfb0f0

COLUMBIA — Veterinarians at the University of Missouri have found a new way to diagnose and treat small animals such as dogs with musculoskeletal injuries.

MU's Motion Analysis Center uses pressure-sensitive plates and specialized cameras placed in strategic areas of the animal. Clinicians analyze how the dogs move in real time and how much weight the animal is putting on each individual limb and joint.

Patients include companion animals, sporting dogs, canine agility athletes, service, and military dogs injured on the job.

MU veterinarians said this new development is helpful especially in the diagnosis process because animals are unable to speak and convey pain.

Bryan Torres, an assistant professor of small animal orthopedic surgery, is the director of the Motion Analysis Lab at the MU College of Veterinary Medicine. Torres noted the research in the lab could help scientists studying human orthopedic injuries worldwide.
MUPD seeks help finding women connected to theft case

Surveillance photos show women sought after by the University of Missouri Police Department in connection to two larcenies that occurred on Oct. 19, one at University Hospital and one at Women’s and Children’s Hospital.

University of Missouri police on Thursday released surveillance images of three women who were in the area of two larcenies at MU hospitals in October, asking the public for help identifying them.

Lt. Buddy Anliker said the department is trying to track down the women and get information from them concerning the crimes, which occurred Oct. 19 at University Hospital, 1 Hospital Drive, and Women’s and Children’s Hospital, 404 N. Keene St. Anliker said the women aren’t necessarily suspects, but police believe they have information that can help solve the crimes. Anliker declined to disclose what was stolen in either case.
MU police have recently began sharing photos and some details of open cases online with its redesigned website, Anliker said. The department has been going through open cases and posting information seeking the public’s help and also sharing the photos and some case details with reporters.

**Arrest made in sexual assault case on Mizzou's campus**


By: Sarah Bono

COLUMBIA, Mo. - **UPDATE:** According to public court documents, Marshall was previously charged with two other incidents of domestic assault. He also was convicted of stealing from the Columbia Mall, writing a bad check, and driving with a suspended license.

**ORIGINAL:** Two days after a sexual assault was reported on Mizzou's campus, police have made an arrest.

Around 7 p.m. Thursday night, University of Missouri Police said they arrested suspect Randall D. Marshall, 46 of Columbia, for second degree domestic assault.

The reported crime happened at 6:00 a.m. near Champions Drive and Mick Deaver Drive Tuesday.

The victim and the suspect allegedly know each other, and were identified by MUPD this week. Both the victim and the suspect are not MU students.

ABC 17 News checked the university's directory and found a man with the same name who is listed on the custodial staff for the Hearnes Center. We have not confirmed if this is the same person. The sports complex is located at the corner of where the alleged assault took place.
UPDATE: Arrest made in reported sexual assault on MU campus

COLUMBIA - The MU Police Department arrested Randall D. Marshall, 46, Thursday evening for second degree domestic assault in connection to a sexual assault reported Tuesday.

The reported assault occurred on March 14 at around 6 a.m. in the area of Champions Drive and Mick Deaver Drive.

The reported victim and the suspect know each other. Neither the victim nor the suspect are University of Missouri students and have been identified by police.

TRIBUNE MUPD arrest Columbia man in connection with reported sexual assault

THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

University of Missouri police arrested a Columbia man Thursday in connection with a sexual assault that was reported earlier this week.
According to the MU Alert System, MU police arrested Randall D. Marshall, 46, on suspicion of second-degree domestic assault. The police had been investigating a sexual assault that happened early Tuesday near Champions and Mick Deaver drives.

According to an earlier alert, the victim and suspect know each other and are not MU students. Both had been identified earlier this week but no arrests were made until Thursday.

Mock trial tests newspaper editor's role in 1923 lynching of James T. Scott

CLAIRE MITZEL

Mar 16, 2017

COLUMBIA — Nearly a century after James T. Scott's lynching, Columbia Tribune editor and proprietor Edward M. Watson was found guilty of second-degree murder.

Watson, of course, has been dead for decades. But that didn't stop the MU School of Law's Historical and Theatrical Trial Society from staging a fictional trial.

In the performance, Watson was charged with second-degree murder and involuntary manslaughter in knowingly aiding, abetting and encouraging the murder of Scott, an MU custodian who was lynched after being accused of sexually assaulting a professor's daughter in 1923.

Professor Frank O. Bowman, the society's faculty adviser, said in an interview that the annual mock trial is meant to create trials that "might've been, but never were." All trials put on by the group stem from historical incidents. Past defendants have included Bonnie Parker of Bonnie and
Clyde and Thomas Putnam from the Salem witch trials. The trials are always unscripted, Bowman said. The prosecution and defense prepared for Thursday night’s trial just as they would for a legitimate trial. Historical accuracy is emphasized.

In the real trial, Watson was never charged. Five men were, and of those, one with murder, but all were acquitted.

This year, Bowman was one of the prosecuting attorneys, along with law student Michael Leahy. Public defender Troy Stabenow and law student Habib Hassan worked as the defense for Watson, who was portrayed by law professor Ben Trachtenberg.

Scott was accused in 1923 of sexually assaulting German professor Hermann Almstedt’s daughter, Regina Almstedt who was 14 at the time. She said had been forced into the woods on April 20, 1923 by a black man, who told her he wanted to get even because he thought his wife has been stolen by a white man.

Almstedt was beaten but escaped. On April 25, a witness said Scott had been seen near the woods at the time of the attack. Almstedt identified Scott as the man who attacked her, and he was arrested and charged with attempted rape, according to previous Missourian reporting. After being arrested, a mob broke Scott out of jail and hanged him over the Stewart Road Bridge, near where Regina Almstedt said she had been attacked.

**Putting news coverage on trial**

The prosecution’s argument Thursday centered around Edward Watson’s newspaper, the Columbia Daily Tribune, which the prosecution argued played a role in inciting the mob.

Tribune editor Hollis Edwards, portrayed by journalism professor Berkley Hudson, published a series of stories that called for "swift justice" in the Almstedt case, a phrase he conceded at the trial could imply vengeance rather than a trial.

The paper’s coverage culminated in an editorial in which Watson called for the trio of accused men to feel the "halter draw," which the prosecution argued implied lynching.
"Words are powerful. Words are persuasive," Leahy said in the opening statement. "Words can push us to hurt one another."

While Watson's actions did not result in Scott's death, Leahy argued, the words he approved and wrote for publication did "stoke popular passions."

George Barkwell, the man who pushed Scott over the Stewart Road Bridge, testified that he read "every drop" of the Tribune's reporting that week. Two other black men had also been arrested that week for rape of two black girls and Barkwell said he wanted to "nip it in the bud."

The defense argued that Watson was simply doing his journalistic duty to ask for a speedy trial, especially because an attempted rape was a threat to the community.

The prosecution also explained that regardless of whether Watson called for execution, by the community or through a trial, he was wrong, because Scott had been charged with attempted rape. In 1923, rape was a capital crime, but attempted rape was not. This bolstered the prosecution's argument that Watson tried to incite violent against Scott.

The Columbia Missourian also reported on the Almstedt case, Stabenow said, and the newspaper, a "student experiment," was not tied into the community and was based on neutral, fact-based reporting. The Tribune, he said, reflected Columbia's fear and anger about the attack.

Charles Nutter, the Columbia Missourian reporter who covered the case, defended the newspaper.

"Unlike the Tribune, we stick to straight reporting," said Nutter, who was portrayed by Missourian Assistant City Editor Sky Chadde.

**Deprived of a trial**

Scott's wife, Gertrude Carter Scott, testified that her husband did not commit the attack and described him as a kind man devoted to her and to the community. Gertrude Scott, portrayed by
law student Valencia Clemons-Bush, said it was common at the time to accuse black men of sexual assault.

Scott was a decorated soldier in World War I, and moved to Columbia after the war. He worked as a custodian making $65 a month, according to previous Missourian reporting. He and Gertrude, who was a teacher at the Frederick Douglass School, were considered pillars of the black community. The prosecution pointed out that the man who attacked Almstedt said he wanted revenge because a white man stole his wife, but the Scotts had no marital problems, so it didn't make sense that James Scott would attack Regina Almstedt.

Even if he were guilty, the prosecution argued, Scott did not have a fair trial. On April 28, a mob broke into the jail. The judge and policemen at the jail tried to talk the mob down, but the mob proceeded to drag Scott out of jail with a noose around his neck. Cheered on by a growing crowd, the group took him to the Stewart Road Bridge to be lynched. It was reported that 2,000 people witnessed the lynching.

Barkwell, portrayed by law student Byron Jeske, willingly admitted in Thursday's trial that he lynched Scott. Barkwell said when he found out Scott's trial was set for May instead of sooner, he became angry and decided to take matters into his own hands, along with many other townspeople.

"I put that rope around his neck, and I shoved that negro rapist and sent him to hell where he belonged," Barkwell said.

The day after the lynching, the prosecution said, the Missourian published an editorial condemning the lynching. The Tribune did not publish an editorial about it for two days. And even then, the editorial condemned a professor who criticized Columbia for the lynching. The defense argued that the editorial was not condoning lynching, but was simply a defense of Columbia, which Watson saw as under attack.
"Swift justice"

Watson took the stand as the final witness in the trial. He said "swift justice" meant he wanted a speedy trial for Scott. The intent of the editorial, he said, was to make sure an innocent man wasn't attacked.

In Thursday' closing arguments, the prosecution said the community members were "secure in the knowledge" that they could lynch Scott because men like Watson "fanned the flames" and normalized the attack. In an impassioned speech for "American justice" rather than "swift justice," the prosecution said the wounds of Scott's lynching couldn't be undone, but justice could still be imparted.

The defense said the Tribune "reflected and reported accurately the sentiment" of the community.

The jury, the first row of the audience, which included some professors, found Watson guilty of second-degree murder in a vote of 8-4. He was found not guilty of involuntary manslaughter in a vote of 4-8.

Former judge Gary Oxenhandler, who presided over the mock trial, noted that in the case of a real trial, the vote would need to be unanimous to find the defendant guilty.
Jury splits in mock trial of former Tribune publisher

No verdict reached on role of 1923 editorial in lynching of James T. Scott

By Rudi Keller
Columbia Daily Tribune

For more than four hours Thursday, the 1923 lynching of James T. Scott again came under legal examination. The question was whether Ed Watson, owner of the Tribune at the time, was guilty of murder for writing editorials that encouraged his hanging.

The jury, mostly composed of law school students, split, unable to reach a verdict, as the trial concluded.

The trial was put on by the Historical and Theatrical Trial Society of the University of Missouri Law School.

But regardless of the outcome, the evening provided a deep dive into the responsibility of journalists for their words for about 150 people in attendance.

Scott was a World War I veteran who worked as a custodian at the University of Missouri Medical School.

In April 1923, Regina Alstedt, 14, reported that she was raped by a black man along the MRT Railroad tracks near Stewart Road.

For a week after Alstedt reported the attack, the Tribune carried daily reports emphasizing the attacker's race and calling for "swift justice" when the attacker was identified.

On April 28, 1923, after the Tribune reported that Alstedt had "positively identified" Scott as the rapist, a mob broke into the Boone County Jail, put a rope around Scott's neck and took him back to Stewart Road, where he was hanged from a bridge over the tracks.

The news story that day reported that "many men of sound judgment" who didn't usually believe in mob violence were ready to participate in a lynching. An editorial Watson wrote that day called for "swift justice -- by the courts, of course" but also wrote that three accused rapists held in the jail "should feel the halter draw, "

Watson, portrayed by law professor Ben Trachtenberg, stood trial for second degree murder by encouraging and aiding the lynching. He also was charged with involuntary manslaughter.

"The mob that murdered James Scott that April night was doing the work Mr. Watson set them to do," said Michael Leahy, who along with Frank Bowman presented the prosecution's case.

"Blaming an honorable man for the unfortunate events that befell those two, that would be a miscarriage of justice," said Habib Hassan, who along with Troy Stabenow presented the case for the defense.

Watson was owner and editor of the Tribune from 1925 to 1937. The trial delved into how the Tribune operated -- not a word was printed that Watson did not approve, Berkley Hudson
testified as he portrayed city editor Hollis Edwards.

But when Trachtenberg, as Watson, testified, he said he was trying to show that Columbia was in a dangerous situation, that it was important to positively identify Almstedt’s rapist. He was seeking justice in the courts, Trachtenberg said, not a mob action.

“I was doing my best to channel the concerns of the people of the city to the least dangerous course,” he said.

The trial is another example of Columbia attempting to come to terms with the 1923 lynching.

Over the last decade, Scott’s death certificate has been amended from “lynched or hung (by mob taken from county jail)” to “asphyxia due to hanging by lynching by assailants,” with the secondary cause changed from “committed rape” to “never tried or convicted of rape.”

In 2011, a new granite headstone was placed at Scott’s grave in Columbia Cemetery and in October, the MU Association of Black Graduates and Professional Students dedicated a historic marker on the MKT Trail near where Scott died.

The rape accusation generated an ugly situation in Columbia. Aaron Wyndhausen said as he portrayed Ernest Roland, the chief of the Columbia Police Department in 1923.

“From the moment Mr. Scott touched Miss Almstedt, it started a fire in Columbia,” he said. “When we were certain he was the man, that fire started burning a lot faster.”
Tarlton completes new softball stadium at MU

Tarlton Corp. has completed construction of the University of Missouri’s new softball stadium.

The new facility, which replaces University Field, is east of Hearnes Center on the site of a former commuter parking lot. The $17.5 million project includes a full-view concourse, outfield plaza and new surface parking lot with more than 500 spaces.

The structural steel-framed building stands on a concrete foundation with a concrete slab and metal deck and aluminum grandstands. It includes a press box, concessions, heated dugouts, a locker room with video capabilities and meeting room for coaches. Lempka Edson Architects was project architect.

The softball stadium is Tarlton’s second project on the Columbia campus. The firm recently completed an expansion and renovations to Lafferre Hall, home of the university’s College of Engineering.

Alpha Chi Omega sorority welcomes transgender members

By Lisa Gutierrez March 17, 2017

Alpha Chi Omega sorority has officially opened its doors to transgender members.

In a video posted to the group’s Facebook page last month, national president Angela Costley Harris said the sorority is a women’s organization but must stay relevant in today’s world.

“Alpha Chi must be inclusive of all who live and identify as women regardless of their gender assigned at birth,” Harris said.
The Indianapolis-based sorority’s non-discrimination policy on its website states that “women, including those who live and identify as women, regardless of the gender assigned to them at birth, are eligible for membership in Alpha Chi Omega based solely on five membership standards.

“Those assigned female at birth who live and identify as men are not eligible for membership.”

The announcement was made in response to inquiries from chapters across the nation, some of which had apparently talked about including transgender members for a while.

“A transgender woman is just as much of a woman as I am,” Melissa Medved, an Alpha Chi Omega member at the University of Minnesota, told the school’s student newspaper, Minnesota Daily.

She said the current climate in the country likely “pushed Alpha Chi to prove that we are really inclusive and empowering to our women” and that “it would be really cool for Greek life as a whole to accept the people who are identifying as one way or the other.”

Few sororities have formally sanctioned the membership of transgender women at the national level like Alpha Chi Omega has. Some welcome transgender women to join rush activities.

Last year the Panhellenic Council at the University of Michigan told Cosmopolitan that even though it has no formal policy about transgender women participating in sorority recruitment, anyone who identifies as a woman is welcome to do so.

Gamma Rho Lambda, an “all-inclusive” social sorority based in Tempe, Ariz., was founded as a support system for “lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and alternative lifestyle-friendly female students,” according to its website.

The federal law Title IX bars sex discrimination in education programs that receive federal funds, but social Greek organizations can set their own policies regarding the gender identity of their members, according to the Boston Globe.

“I thought it was awesome. We’re all very excited about it,” Taylor Dailing, president of the Alpha Chi Omega chapter at the University of Missouri, told KOMU in Columbia of her group’s decision.

Savannah Rave, president of the Alpha Chi Omega chapter at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said reaction to the announcement has been mixed.

“Right away you see the people who are all for it because they’re the ones posting things and sharing things on social media,” she told The Daily Nebraskan, the university’s student newspaper.

“Before I even read my email, a girl shared it on our house Facebook page. You definitely saw the positive side of it first, but there are mixed feelings about all things. Some girls who had concerns came to me quietly behind closed doors just to express those.”

Some critics made their feelings publicly known on Facebook.

“I cannot in good conscience recommend any other young women or my daughter to Alpha Chi Omega with this new policy in place,” wrote one woman. “It is unthinkable that my daughter would one day be involved with overnight retreats and the like with those who have a penis.”
Rave, who told the newspaper she supports the new policy, said she has to consider members’ concerns as well. She thinks other Greek chapters will eventually follow Alpha Chi Omega’s lead.

“I think sooner or later it will spread, just because that’s how the trend is going,” Rave said. “I just hope for an accepting atmosphere.

“Especially for recruitment on this campus, just because it’s sometimes hard to be the only ones that are doing things first and hoping people will support you.”

Protecting Pell? Critics Say Budget Wouldn't

NO MU MENTION

By Andrew Kreighbaum March 17, 2017

The document outlining the Trump administration’s first budget, released in a bare-bones outline Thursday, states that the White House plan "safeguards" the Pell Grant program and would leave the key financial aid source for needy students on "sound financial footing for the next decade."

But many advocates for low-income students say the opposite is true. By taking about a third of the program's multi-billion-dollar surplus and cutting other college access programs, they assert, the new administration would jeopardize Pell's long-term sustainability and harm the prospects of low-income students.

What the White House is calling its "skinny budget" -- a broad outline of the detailed 2018 fiscal proposal due from the administration later this spring -- seeks an overall cut of 13 percent of the
Department of Education's funding from the current year. To offset steep proposed increases in military spending, the budget blueprint seeks $54 billion in cuts across the board to nondefense spending.

Trump wrote in his budget message that the administration's blueprint makes tough choices to reinvest in the country's military without adding to the federal deficit. "In these dangerous times, this public safety and national security budget is a message to the world -- a message of American strength, security and resolve," he said.

Higher education aid programs absorbed much of the brunt of those cuts to education funding. The proposed budget must be approved by Congress and possibly may not be passed in any form resembling the outline submitted by the administration. But it serves as a guide to the White House's priorities.

The budget preserves current levels of funding for the federal Pell Grant program by taking $3.9 billion from the program's $10.6 billion surplus -- a cushion that advocates had hoped to see preserved, if not used to strengthen the grant or restore year-round Pell.

*Story continues.*