



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

March 22, 2017

UM System president warns of closed programs amid budget crunch

Rudi Keller

The University of Missouri System must close programs and reduce costs to free resources for investment in high-demand and high-quality programs, President Mun Choi said Tuesday to the Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

Choi also laid the groundwork for a substantial tuition increase in the coming year, providing figures for the past 10 years that show tuition in neighboring states has been climbing three to four times faster than at the university.

Choi, who took over his job March 1, said decisions must be made quickly to meet challenges in the budget year that begins July 1. State lawmakers are considering a \$40.7 million cut to UM's appropriation for the coming year, and declining enrollment makes it likely the Columbia campus will have to cover a \$50 million or larger shortfall.

“We need to have not only new resources but reallocation of resources,” Choi said. “We can't be great at everything, so what are we not going to do so we can become better in the programs that are important to us?”

Programs will be judged, Choi said, on how they enhance the university's stature as an institution, including the ability to attract research grants, and how faculty scholarship enhances UM's reputation. Other factors will include the number of degrees a program produces, the retention rate of students enrolled in a program and how long it takes students to graduate.

“Going forward, as I stated, we are going to be focusing on excellence, which means there are going to be programs that don't meet our levels of excellence that we have established that will be phased out,” Choi said to reporters after his talk. “That will be done in a way that is collaborative with the campuses, the faculty, the students and the staff.”

About 100 chamber members attended Choi's talk, held in the Reynolds Alumni Center. Along with the looming budget issues, Choi presented what he called a “broad vision” for the future. There must be more collaboration among campuses, he said, as well as more collaboration with industry.

There should be core research facilities on each campus to draw industry interest for work in imaging, manufacturing and high-performance computing, he said.

The university also needs to expand its efforts to build a diverse student body and workforce, Choi said.

“This is the only way we are going to make a constant and sustained change for us to develop the kind of programs that will make a change to our communities and our university in the future,” he said.

The short-term view means difficult economic times for some Columbia businesses but the long-term vision is exciting, chamber President Matt McCormick said. In his conversations with Choi, McCormick said, it has been encouraging to hear a commitment to regional economic development from the university.

The business community will have a better idea of the short-term pain after enrollment estimates become public and state spending levels are set, McCormick said.

“What we can do as those numbers start coming out is work with business and work with the university to make sure the impact is as little as possible,” he said.

While Choi considers cutbacks, the lucrative contract for MU’s new men's basketball Coach Cuonzo Martin calls for him to be paid \$21 million over seven years, with incentives that could add more than \$4 million to that total. Those funds come from athletic department revenue from ticket sales and broadcast rights, which are not available for campus operations, and Choi defended the pay while speaking to reporters.

“Athletics serves a very important role at universities like the University of Missouri,” Choi said. “In many ways, it does serve as a front porch to the university, that enables us to recruit more students into our programs and brings visibility to the university as a top flagship university.”

This story was first published online on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 7:39 p.m.

MISSOURIAN

[Mun Choi emphasizes industry partnerships at Chamber of Commerce event](#)

ANDREW KESSEL, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — University of Missouri System President Mun Choi told a gathering of business leaders Tuesday that he wants to leverage private-public partnerships to bring revenue and investments to the four UM campuses.

Choi sat down with about 100 members and guests of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce as part of its “Lunch with a Leader” series and emphasized the mutual economic benefit of such partnerships.

To show what that might look like, Choi talked about his experience as provost at the University of Connecticut. As the result of a partnership with aerospace manufacturing company Pratt & Whitney, the UConn campus [gained \\$4.5 million for a manufacturing innovation center](#).

That kind of core facility improvement is what Choi wants to bring to the UM System. He said a top priority is a facility in the chamber’s backyard — the UM Research Reactor Center, which conducts nuclear power research. Choi called it “a crown jewel” that must be protected.

The research center could be performing more advanced research, Choi said, but it needs a \$70 million investment in equipment. Public-private partnerships, including possible resources from the Department of Energy, would be the key to making that happen.

What’s more, Choi told his audience, he envisions a \$25 million engineering research center to attract faculty and students. It’s all part of his vision for expanding research across the UM System, he said.

But the focus on facility improvement comes at a time of fiscal crisis. MU alone is looking at \$20 million in budget withholding for this fiscal year, and the UM System will likely face additional cuts for fiscal year 2018.

Choi didn't dwell on the grim fiscal picture but acknowledged that serious decisions will have to be made, based on performance.

“If we are not performing at a level of excellence that we define, we’re going to evaluate whether or not that program will continue,” Choi told the audience.

"We can't be great at everything," he said. "So what are we now going to do so that we can become better in the programs that are important for us?"

After Choi's remarks, Columbia Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Matt McCormick said MU is the city's top economic driver and that business leaders are excited to work with the new president.

While taking questions from the audience, Choi said he planned to interview MU chancellor candidates in April and have finalists chosen by May.

After the event, he told reporters he was excited about the hiring of Cuonzo Martin as Missouri's basketball coach. Athletics can serve as a “front porch” to increase enrollment, revenue and alumni donations, he said.



Dr. Choi talks business and UM system

By: Marissa Hollowed

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=d8affc0e-5c0c-4e46-b56d-4ec2546a4d13>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The new system president at the University of Missouri is now sharing his plans with local business leaders. On Tuesday, Dr. Mun Choi spoke on the MU campus with the Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

Choi's focus was all about the future and how to run the university as a more successful business.

Choi said there are some key areas to address in order to make and manage money.

The university will be evaluating programs and then deciding what to keep and what to cut. Choi said the university's research facilities are not up to par or competitive and plans to address that. He also said increasing enrollment is another challenge, although he says lowering tuition is not the answer.

"If we can graduate our students in four years at a very high rate, that's much better than providing a lower tuition. That prevents us from having more sections of courses so that students can graduate on time," said Choi.

Choi also mentioned that recruiting more students from out-of-state and internationally could be beneficial because those students would pay more in tuition. That would keep the price more reasonable for in-state students.

Choi also talked about the importance of research, recruitment, enrollment and diversity.

One key piece of the puzzle still missing for Mizzou is a permanent chancellor. Choi said he hopes to bring candidates in for a visit in April and meet with finalists for the position in May.

Choi discussed the impact of Mizzou's most recent hire men's basketball coach Cuonzo Martin.

"We are so excited about the hiring of coach Martin and, as you know, we are a program that's SEC one of the best conferences in the country and we have to compete in that market. And for us to compete and attract a coach of that caliber through the hard work of our chancellor as well as our athletic director is something that I am very proud of. We are mindful that the revenues that are going to be generated with additional attendance and increased TV contracts are going to be very important to sustain not only athletics program but also the academic and research program at the university," said Choi.

He talked about athletics as a whole.

"Athletics serves a very important role at a university like the University of Missouri. In many ways, it serves as the front porch to the university that enables us to recruit more students into our programs and also brings the visibility of the university as a top flagship university. But just let me be clear we are an SEC university. We are a university that is competing with top programs and we need to be able to bring in the talent not only in the athletic program but also in our administration and faculty and staff to compete. We are a \$3.2 billion enterprise that's very mindful of our ability to compete with our peers to attract the students, faculty and administrators," said Choi.

When asked about the possibility of laying off staff, Choi said the university is not at that stage yet, but he will evaluate all options.

"We are not at that stage yet, but, uh, obviously, as I stated in my press conference on March 10, approximately 75 to 80 percent of our entire budget is in personnel salaries and wages. And, so, as we're dealing with a very significant cut from the state, we are going to evaluate all options, including layoffs personnel decisions, but that will be done in a way in which we collaborate with the campuses and to ensure that we share information in a timely fashion to those who are affected," said Choi.



[UM System President Choi predicts layoffs amidst projected budget cuts](#)

by Mark Slavit

Watch the story: <http://krcgtv.com/news/local/um-president-choi-predicts-layoffs>

COLUMBIA — **University of Missouri System President Mun Choi shared his future plans with Columbia community leaders.**

Choi predicted system-wide layoffs while hiring an expensive basketball coach.

He told Columbia community leaders he predicts an annual cut of \$57 million in permanent state funding in the coming years. University leaders said they are trying to figure out where and when to send the pink slips during these tight budget times.

“We’re facing a significant fiscal challenge with the cuts from the State,” Choi said. “We are going to be making those decisions soon for fiscal year 2018. We are also addressing the fiscal year 2017 withholds as well.”

Choi held a question-and-answer session with community leaders during Tuesday’s Columbia Chamber of Commerce luncheon. He said he wanted to increase tuition, enrollment and research on all four campuses, while developing more partnerships with Missouri industries.

University of Missouri leaders announced Cuonzo Martin as the school's newest men’s basketball coach Monday. Martin had a seven year deal worth \$21 million. President Choi said Martin was worth every penny and a successful athletic program helps increase student enrollment and helps attract the best employees.

“In many ways, it does serve as a front porch to the University,” Dr. Choi said. “It enables us to recruit more students into our programs and also brings the visibility of our university as a top flagship university.”

The search continues for a new MU chancellor. President Choi said he wanted to hire a permanent Mizzou chancellor by the end of May.



UM President will launch new strategic plan in fall

Watch the story:

<http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=6ec3c298-3ef4-4771-8531-c00bd54e620c>

COLUMBIA - UM System President Mun Choi shared his plans with the Columbia Chamber of Commerce Tuesday about how to move the university forward.

Choi said the Board of Curators is going to implement a new strategic plan in fall semester, including investing in faculty research and scholarship; investing in student success and outcomes; investing in programs that promote inclusive diversity and an educational pipeline to place the highest emphasis on excellence and make the university stronger.

"We need necessary support services and infrastructure as well as facilities, as well as equipment for our faculty members to be successful," Choi said. "And going forward, those are the areas that we're gonna be focusing on."

Choi said, according to a survey during past 10 years, the undergrad resident tuition at the University of Missouri has increased just 2 percent and the board wants to increase tuition while maintaining access and affordability.

Choi said the graduation rate is more important than the tuition fee, and the goal for the new plan is to increase retention and the graduation rate.

"We can graduate our students in four years at a very high rate, that's much better than providing a lower tuition," Choi said.

Creating a inclusive and diverse environment for students and faculty is very important, he said.

"That starts with not only hiring faculty staff and administrators from diverse groups, but also working hard to create a pipeline program."

Choi said going forward, the board needs to grow resources to make the university of Missouri system stronger. He said increasing enrollment is a main focus.

"We should also look at more out-of-state and more international students who are paying a higher tuition," he said. "We also need to find ways to work with individual donors and corporations to grow the type of infrastructure support, scholarship and professor research support.

Columbia Chamber of Commerce President Matt McCormick said the chamber is excited to hear Choi's plan.

"You know, as the community, we need the university, and the university needs the community," McCormick said. "The university is our number one academic driver, so we're always very supportive of the university, making sure that we're doing our part from the business side with our community to help the university move forward."

Choi said, while facing a significant fiscal challenges with the cut from the state, the board will make decisions soon for fiscal year 2018.

"It takes some times, but we're gonna get there," Choi said.



UM System President Choi Outlines How University Will Offset Budget Cuts

By CARTER WOODIEL · 14 HOURS AGO

COLUMBIA -- Cuts to University of Missouri programs are on the way as the school faces budget cuts from the state, according to a presentation Tuesday from system president Mun Choi.

Choi highlighted a number of ways the UM system plans to handle budget cuts in a speech to Columbia Chamber of Commerce members on the University of Missouri – Columbia campus.

Chief among those was streamlining university programs. Choi says he and campus officials will gauge how important programs are to student graduation rates and the university's profile.

"We're going to be focusing on excellence," Choi said of the programs, adding that some that don't meet the university's standards "are going to be phased out."

Choi declined to specify which programs might be affected, or how many people would be laid off. He did say layoffs would likely be attached to cuts to programs, since most of the UM system's budget is in personnel. He said laid-off employees "will be the first to know" once the decision is made.

The preparations are in response to the budget plan Gov. Eric Greitens released in January. It includes major cuts to higher education across the state, including \$22.9 million from the UM System specifically.

Choi also said he plans to raise the UM system's tuition revenue, but not by raising tuition.

"We have to be more proactive in attracting not only international students but out of state students," Choi said, saying streamlining out-of-state and international applications will be one of his priorities.

Choi also answered questions about the University of Missouri – Columbia's search for a chancellor. He said the first round of in-person interviews will start in April, and hopes to have a shortlist of finalists interviewed in May.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Auditors Can Be Influenced By Management Preferences, Study Says

Generated from an MU News Bureau Press Release: Outside Auditors Should Be Wary of Information Provided By Management, MU Study Shows

RHEAA RAO Mar 21, 2017 4:34 pm ET

The amount of information a company's management provides its supposedly independent auditors strongly influences the decisions they make, according to a study by the University of Missouri.

In the study, nearly 50 senior auditors from major accounting firms were asked to assess the cost of an explosion at a client's facility based on memos provided by the company's finance chief. One group of auditors was presented with three hypothetical cost estimates that were close to the one that was disclosed to be the one preferred by management. A second group was presented with six estimates covering a broader range of outcomes. The first group was more than twice as likely to approve management's ballpark cost figure than the second.

Presenting fewer estimates increased the probability that management's estimate was deemed more credible, according to Nate Newton, an assistant professor of accountancy at University of Missouri and a co-author of the study. The appearance of a bias could have implications for auditing standards, he added.

The Public Company Accounting Oversight Board is considering a new standard on estimates based on standards by the Auditing Standards Board and the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

"Current standards suggest that a review of management assumptions is important," said Mr. Newton. "But auditors would benefit from coming up with their own estimates."

Accounting firms could make it mandatory for auditors to come up with estimates that the management did not propose, he said.



MU reveals plans for new School of Music building

Project will likely be completed in two phases

Megan Favignano, 38 min ago

The School of Music at the University of Missouri revealed architect renderings for a new building Tuesday that will consolidate all of its operations into one building, instead of being spread between six.

Plans for the more than \$40 million project are moving forward as the university faces a budget crunch, interim College of Arts and Science Dean Pat Okker acknowledged.

"I think it's really important to remember that this is a long-term plan," Okker said. "This has been planned for and hoped for for more than two decades. It is ... now more than ever that we need to focus on long-term strategies of how to make the university better."

Gov. Eric Greitens withheld \$20 million budgeted for MU in the current fiscal year as the university struggles with lower enrollment and less money from tuition. Greitens' proposed budget for next fiscal year recommends further cuts.

The new School of Music building makes sense financially, she said, especially considering the large amount of deferred maintenance of older buildings on campus.

The school, Okker said, will finalize each of the project's two phases based on how much funding is secured in the next few weeks. Currently, project managers have included 61,395 square feet of academic and rehearsal spaces, a recording suite, faculty and administration spaces, a traditional recital hall and an outdoor venue in the first phase. The 46,542 square-foot second phase includes more academic space and a 500-seat concert hall.

Okker also said some money is earmarked for this project, meaning the funds can not be used to address the university's shortfall.

MU has \$24 million committed for phase one, with \$10 million coming from Jeanne Sinquefield, who is married to major political donor Rex Sinquefield. Okker said the school is working to secure another \$20 million in donations that could allow the two project phases to be built simultaneously.

Currently, the School of Music uses space in six buildings spread throughout campus. Project Manager Brian Corry, with Kirkegaard Associates of St. Louis, said the new building will have significantly better acoustics. Corry said he is working with BNIM, the architect for the project, to study noise control, sound transfer between rooms, individual room acoustics and audio and video system needs.

BNIM firm presented design renderings on campus Tuesday, showing the floor plan for the building. Steve McDowell with BNIM said the new building will create an "arts corridor" and make the School of Music more visible, "to really let everyone understand the things going on in the school."

The current timeline calls for construction to begin next year and for the building, which will be located at Hitt Street and University Avenue, to open in 2019. McDowell said the firm will meet with MU faculty Wednesday to further discuss the building's design and construction.

MISSOURIAN

[MU School of Music unveils renderings of new building](#)

THOMAS OIDE, 10 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — **The MU School of Music unveiled preliminary images of its new building Tuesday afternoon, three months after the University of Missouri System Board of Curators approved its construction.**

The new building will be built in two phases. A total of \$24 million has already been committed for the first phase, and the school is working to secure an additional \$20 million in private funding to allow both phases to move forward simultaneously.

Of the \$24 million, \$16 million comes from gifts, and \$8 million comes from university money, [according to previous Missourian reporting](#). Construction is scheduled to start in January, and the building is scheduled to open in August 2019.

The building will be located at the corner of Hitt Street and University Avenue, across from the Hitt Street parking garage.

Kansas City-based firm BNIM is in charge of the building's design, and Kirkegaard Associates, based in St. Louis, will manage the acoustics.

"I cannot separate the environment in which people work from the work they actually do," said Interim College of Arts and Sciences Dean Pat Okker in her opening statement. "Musicians need concert halls. Artists need studios. Scientists need laboratories. Scholars need archives. We can't buy into this notion that it's one or the other."

Okker said a new building is a necessity, even though MU is facing budget cuts. She said MU facility needs are about \$748 million , and constructing new buildings can help lower that cost.

"The only way to solve that problem is to get rid of buildings that are unsatisfactory and expensive to maintain and build new buildings that are less expensive to maintain," Okker said. "This building is part of the plan to put in a stronger situation fiscally."

Phase 1 of the project will include building academic and rehearsal spaces, learning labs, a recording suite, faculty and administrative spaces, a traditional recital hall and an outdoor performance venue, according to the School of Music documents. The construction of additional academic spaces, a contemporary recital hall and a 500-seat concert hall are part of Phase 2.

Currently, the School of Music is spread across six buildings on campus. Architect Ashley Lawrence told a crowd of more than 100 that the new building will bring all those programs under one roof. It will expand the amount of space available from 36,000 to about 64,000 square feet, Lawrence said.

Project manager Greg Sheldon said preliminary plans include first-floor practice spaces and classrooms for easy student access. The second floor will hold performance spaces and the concert hall. The third floor will have classrooms and faculty offices and feature the outdoor performance space.

"We are at the beginning of the process," Sheldon said. "It's very, very early. It's really more conceptual. But at any rate, it's really just the seed of the idea."

Kirkegaard senior consultant Brian Corry, one of the project managers, said the new building will have improved acoustics. But Corry said the team will not splurge on premium materials to optimize acoustics.

"We are not aiming for a perfect acoustical building. We are aiming for just right," Corry said. "We are very cautious about how we spend your money."

Corry also said he wants the new facilities to be multipurpose. For some teaching studios, Corry said there will be panels for students and professors to hang and move to optimize the sound for each space.

Architects, Okker, Corry and other School of Music officials will hold several meetings throughout April to continue discussion about the project.



MU goes back on plan to charge for mental health visits

Center to be network provider for most insurance starting in July

Rudi Keller, 27 min ago

The University of Missouri will not charge students for initial mental health visits at the Student Health Center, which had been one of the most controversial aspects of a new policy intended to generate more revenue for the center.

The health center announced in early March that it will be a network provider for most medical insurance plans beginning July 1, with copays charged for consultations that are currently free. That produced a backlash from students, with a focus on the new cost for mental health consultations.

On Thursday, the Graduate Professional Council and the Missouri Students Association issued a joint statement that administrators had agreed to exempt mental health visits from the copay requirement.

“GPC and MSA have been working diligently with the Chancellor’s office to solve this issue and are happy to report that mental health visits will not incur an extra charge or copay,” Sean Earl, student association president, and Rachel Bauer, graduate council president, wrote. “Students will not experience changes in their access to mental health services at the Student Health Center as originally stated.”

Earl “and I worked together on this and we reached out after hearing from our constituencies how upset students were,” Bauer said.

The goal is to reverse the plan to charge for initial consultations, Bauer said.

“The health center is supposed to be accessible,” Bauer said. “Under this plan, a student could go to any MU Health network provider and get the same treatment. To me it defeats the very purpose of a student health center.”

The way the center is currently operated, a student who does not require medical treatment beyond the initial consultation pays nothing, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

“However, if there was any procedure done, anything dealing with any type of medical procedure you could do in a doctor’s office, those were billed,” Basi said.

Because the center was not a network provider, the student received the bill directly in most cases, he said. Even if insurance paid, it was a smaller share because the health center was not in a network.

“Students bore the brunt of those costs,” Basi said.

Students pay a fee of \$102.21 per semester to support student health services. And last week, students approved a \$2.91 per credit hour increase in the activity fee, up to \$35 per semester, to support access to mental health services, to extend library hours and increase wireless capability in high-density areas.

The mental health portion of the increased fees will support the hiring of three new counselors at the MU Counseling Center, which will continue to offer mental health services at no additional charge, Basi said.

The other changes to billing at the health center are being reviewed by university administrators and a decision on any changes may come as early as Thursday, Basi said.

Students in need of mental health support shouldn’t be prevented from receiving help due to cost, Bauer said. The counseling center and the health center complement each other to provide support, she said.

“They are shocked when they learn that copays or insurance plans that don’t cover mental health visits are a barrier to that help,” she said.

MISSOURIAN

UPDATE: Shock turns to joy as three more MU professors win Kemper awards

ASHLI ELLERMAN, 15 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — An associate professor in textile and apparel management, a professor in accountancy and an associate documentary journalism professor were happily surprised in their classrooms Tuesday by an MU Kemper Award entourage.

Billie Cunningham, a teaching professor of accountancy in the Trulaske College of Business, was given the award during a morning lecture in front of more than 100 students by Interim Chancellor Hank Foley and Commerce Bank Chairman and CEO Teresa Maledy. Cunningham teared up, saying she couldn't catch her breath. She thanked everyone, including her class, which gave her a standing ovation.

"Y'all make teaching fun," Cunningham said.

The William T. Kemper Fellowships for Teaching Excellence are awarded to five MU teachers each year. The honor comes with a \$10,000 check. On Monday, [Michael Podgursky, an economics professor, was awarded a Kemper](#) — the first of this year.

Jung Ha-Brookshire, an associate professor of textile and apparel management and associate dean of research and graduate studies in the MU College of Human Environmental Sciences, also received an award Tuesday morning. As Foley and Maledy presented her with a plaque and check, she marveled that her colleagues had been able to keep it a secret.

"It was a total surprise," Ha-Brookshire said. "I thought they announce this in April so I did not expect this at all."

Ha-Brookshire said she would donate the \$10,000 to the Richard Brookshire and Jung Ha-Brookshire Graduate Student Scholarship Endowment Fund that she founded with her husband about three years ago.

Dean of the College of Human Environmental Sciences* Sandy Rikoon said it was outstanding that one of his colleagues won an award, noting her outstanding research and teaching record.

Associate professor and director of the Jonathan B. Murray Center for Documentary Journalism at the Missouri School of Journalism Stacey Woelfel received his award Tuesday afternoon. His class of about 20 students was ecstatic, chanting at him to "cry."

"These people know me as not a very emotional person so I can't get emotional," Woelfel said, explaining his lack of tears.

Foley said after visiting the first two classrooms that he had a lot of fun presenting the awards because the recipients typically aren't expecting them.

"The shock on their face turns into absolute joy," Foley said.

*PLEASE NOTE: Certain
Columbia Tribune clips
are posted in print before
being published online.
This is the print version of
the story.*

MISSOURI IN BRIEF

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI Three faculty members receive Kemper awards

Three University of Missouri professors received William T. Kemper Fellowships for Teaching Excellence on Tuesday, recognition that comes with a \$10,000 award from the program in its 27th year.

The awards were announced by visits to each faculty member's classroom by interim Chancellor Hank Foley and Commerce Bank regional Chairman and CEO Teresa Maledy.

The winners are:

• Billie Cunningham, a teaching professor in the Trulaske College of Business and a faculty member since 1994. Cunningham has written extensively about how to teach accounting. She has also been recognized numerous times for her work, earning the college's faculty member of the year award on seven occasions and twice winning the college's Mary A. O'Brien Excellence in Teaching award, voted on by fellow business faculty members.

• Jung Ha-Brookshire, associate professor of textile and apparel management and associate dean of research and graduate studies in the MU College of Human Environmental Sciences and a faculty member since 2007.

• Stacey Woelfel, associate professor and director of the Jonathan B. Murray Center for Documentary Journalism at the MU School of Journalism and a member of the faculty since 1986.

The Kemper fellowships are awarded to five faculty members each spring and the financial award is supported by a \$500,000 endowment given in 1991 in memory of Kansas City banker William T. Kemper, a 1926 MU graduate. Economics professor Michael Podgursky received the first award and one more will be announced today.



Mizzou Says Goodbye to Another Residential Hall

By [DANIELLE HOGERTY](#) · 13 HOURS AGO

The University of Missouri is demolishing one of its longest standing residence halls. The demolition of Laws Hall began on Monday and is anticipated to take five weeks to complete.

The demolition is a part of the final phase of the Residential Life Master Plan. RLMP began in 2001 when the University of Missouri Board of Curators approved a four-phase plan after a projection of increased enrollment. After phase IV began, Residential Life added an additional phase.

Phase I of the RLMP included the construction of residential halls and dining on Virginia Avenue in 2004. That was the first major construction project for Residential Life since the 1960s.

Moving forward to 2015, phase V's first step was the replacement of Jones Hall, which was completed in summer of 2016. Currently, the Dobbs Replacement Project is underway and is expected to be complete in August of 2017. The remaining part of phase V includes demolition and construction of two new residence halls along with a new dining hall facility. The new residence halls will be five stories tall and the dining hall will be called The Restaurants at Southwest.

Residential Life is self-funded by fees from residents and campers who stay in residence halls during the summer session. Money is allocated each year from the Residential Life budget, along with bonds, to fund the projects. With Mizzou's enrollment being down, the future of the site is still being assessed. Officials will be paying close attention to the availability of bed spaces and enrollment trends before making a final decision, MU News Bureau Director Christian Basi said in a statement. Basi said Residential Life works closely with Enrollment Management each year to determine what space is necessary to house students, and is watching the data closely as fall approaches.

MISSOURIAN

STEVE SPELLMAN: Tuition flexibility could help fix higher ed budgets

STEVE SPELLMAN, 1 hr ago

As details of how MU intends to cut areas of its budget come to light, it gets more bewildering.

Last week, Interim Chancellor Hank Foley outlined proposed cuts to university programs. It seems those that are prospering, such as the School of Medicine, are asked to contribute more to the cause, while departments having financial problems, like the College of Arts and Science and Athletics, will get cut less.

Meanwhile, it has been reported that several schools on campus have been thriving. These schools and colleges — Nursing, Health Professions, Engineering and Business — have shown enrollment growth over the last several years.

This would indicate they are providing an educational product that students demand and are willing to pay for.

Enter the great idea to charge different tuition rates — a concept floated at a recent Faculty Council meeting that parallels a recommendation by the UM System Review Commission — based on the degree.

It was reported that Engineering, for example, has seen healthy enrollment growth. But hamstrung by tuition price controls, their budget can't keep up, making class sizes swell. Backward, uneconomical policies lead to confounding results like this.

Meanwhile, our state government plans more cuts. Critics of this trend say state officials should appreciate higher education more. I think many do — at least some areas of higher education.

If asked to subsidize the youth of working-class Missouri families to become teachers, engineers, nurses and agriculture researchers, they would likely endorse such endeavors. Same with research money to help cure cancer or improve surgery techniques, or how to burn coal more cleanly and efficiently.

But what about spending tax dollars to flood the job market with English majors? Or romance languages and research? I saw a photo in a recent news story of a classic college classroom scene, the class title being "The Peoples of Canada."

This is not meant to disparage those involved in sociology, French, literature or even basket-weaving. If students and donors can be attracted to pay for such programs, that's perfectly fine.

But in this budget situation, how can we ask the legislature, and hence Missouri taxpayers at large, to subsidize these topics over skill sets that have a markedly higher probability of students landing a good job in today's economy?

In setting differential tuition rates, perhaps MU can adjust for what students are willing and able to pay, along with what taxpayers are willing and able to subsidize and what donors and grant-making agencies agree to support.

So maybe MU has a place for "The Peoples of Canada" — as long as a combination of students, state officials and donors agree to sufficiently fund its costs. Likewise with every other program MU offers.

That should especially include the administration offices in every single unit of the organization. If an administrator doesn't teach and doesn't produce research, they should justify their own job's existence before griping to their underlings about hard times and all.

Out of the dysfunction of modern academia, there are reports that some universities have programs, such as MBA programs, that are financially self-supporting. The students find tangible value in the learning they receive, as do their employers, which also inspires alumni of means (often thanks in part to their own valuable experience in the program) to open their checkbooks to the cause.

Instead of more committees to evenly spread the pain, MU should adjust their prices to demand for certain majors, while demonstrating to all stakeholders the outcomes-based value from every corner of campus.