Choi lays out plan for long-term growth

By Rudi Keller

As new University of Missouri President Mun Choi laid out a vision for long-term growth Wednesday, faculty worried about immediate issues and the feeling that they aren’t being told enough about cuts just over the horizon.

Rabia Gregory, an associate professor of religious studies, told Choi that she didn’t like reading in the Tribune that entire programs are likely to be closed as the UM System absorbs a $41 million cut in state funding in the coming year. Choi spoke Tuesday to the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, giving a similar talk to what he presented Wednesday at a special faculty meeting.

“Previous system and campus leaders have often communicated first with the press and with members of the community before faculty heard about things,” Gregory said. “I personally would prefer to hear news from inside the university rather through the media.”

Choi spent 90 minutes with about 150 faculty members, his first lengthy public session with faculty on any of the system’s four campuses since he took over on March 1. In response, Choi told Gregory that his speech to the chamber didn’t include specifics and that cuts would be made based on data, discussions with faculty and staff, and other factors.

“I would definitely take that lesson with me,” Choi said. “What I shared yesterday was not any plans for cuts, I said we had a significant budget cut coming. I do hear what you are saying.”

Choi took over as the university was attempting to absorb a late-year cut by Gov. Eric Greitens and plan for a budget that takes away about 9 percent of past appropriations. In addition, declining enrollment on the Columbia and St. Louis campuses are cutting tuition revenue, forcing additional cuts.

The loss of about 2,000 students on the Columbia campus required across-the-board cuts of 5 percent for general fund budgets, with administrators told last year to plan for cuts of 2 percent per year for two additional years. The combination of state budget cuts and the likelihood of another significant drop in enrollment could mean cuts of about $50 million at MU in the coming year.

The cuts come as Choi wants to grow research investments, construct new research facilities such as high-performance computer labs and encourage collaboration and entrepreneurship throughout the system.
“We are going to get through this in a way that is consultative,” Choi said. “It is not going to be top down.”

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Choi said Missouri isn’t alone in dealing with tight budgets in higher education. The process for closing programs will be transparent and information about it will be widely shared.

But in the end, he said, the university will have to set priorities.

“I have to really dig deep into the programs, into where the budget lies, to make a determination that has the opportunity for us to take some of those resources and strengthen the university in the process,” Choi said. “That means there are going be certain programs that are going to be phased out.”

In his program, Choi noted that MU lags most other members of the American Association of Universities in the money spent on research and that students with low incomes graduate with more debt than students in many other top state schools. At the same time, he noted that tuition has been growing at a modest rate for 10 years and that the university receives less in state support per student than the flagship institutions of most surrounding states.

After the system shows it can reallocate internal resources while attracting new research grants and private support, it will have a better case to present to lawmakers, he said.

“We are going to make the case that we would like to have additional support that goes into the programs that provide value to the citizens, including research as well as greater educational outcomes,” Choi said.

Making the campus faculty trust the system administration will be a difficult job. Galen Suppes, a professor of chemical engineering, said the incentive pay program ended by Choi after a critical state audit is an example of why the distrust exists.

“The disease is an attitude where they will inflict so much monetary harm to all of us, yet at the same time put more money in their own pockets,” Suppes said. “That is the disease, where we take the hits and the administration continues to serve themselves too much.”

State Auditor Nicole Galloway raised questions about the legality of the incentive pay, calling it bonuses banned by the state constitution. Choi told the faculty the program was legal but looked bad when other cuts were underway.

“We know very well in the system that all of us who serve as general officers is there to serve the system,” Choi said. “There is no university that claim that their stature has been reached because of senior administrators.”
COLUMBIA — Frustrated, anxious faculty members directed pointed questions to the new UM System president Wednesday about looming budget cuts, incentive pay for administrators and transparency.

About 150 faculty members packed Jesse Wrench Auditorium for a special general meeting with Mun Choi, planned weeks ahead so they could get a face-to-face session with the new president.

“Faculty don’t feel that administration has our backs,” said Jeff Rouder, a professor of psychological sciences. “It’s salary, it’s buildings, it’s benefits. When people come here and I’m going to sell them Mizzou, I’ll tell them the parking is cheap.”

Amid a pending $41 million decrease in state funding across all four campuses, as well as a recent audit revealing millions of dollars spent on inappropriate bonuses for UM System administrators, the questions mostly centered on ways to improve the relationship between faculty and administration.

Choi replied to the faculty: “If that hasn’t been felt by the faculty members, we have to demonstrate that in more and more tangible ways.”

Faculty also told Choi how the controversial executive incentive program has affected morale. Four days after the audit revealing the incentives was released, Choi announced that the UM System would discontinue the incentives.

Galen Suppes, professor of chemical engineering, said he received notice a year ago that his retirement health benefits would be eliminated. He said his frustration grew when he learned about the incentive program.
“There’s a disease here,” Suppes said. "An attitude where (administrators) will inflict monetary harm to a bunch of us and yet at the same time, put more money in their pockets.”

“The performance incentives were not bonuses,” Choi responded.

Addressing the system’s fiscal crisis, he showed a chart documenting allocations to the university since 2000 when MU received more than 60 percent of its total funding from the state. That figure dwindled to 35 percent in 2016.

In contrast, funding from tuition and fees grew from 29 percent in 2000 to 52 percent in 2016. Choi pointed out that tuition did not increase and attributed the change to enrollment growth during that period.

MU should not count on the state for more funding in the coming years, Choi said.

“I don’t see us ever bumping back up to 50 or 60 percent,” he said. “The reality is, we’re going to be facing fiscal challenges.”

He stressed the importance of campuses increasing their own revenue rather than relying on state funding. Other ways would be to raise tuition and enroll more out-of-state and international students, he said.

But the new president said he doesn’t want to give up on state funding entirely. He mentioned a study by MU economics professors Ronald Harstad and Joseph Haslag that estimated the UM System’s economic impact on the state at $3.5 billion. He said he is interested in hiring an outside consulting firm, Tripp Umbach, to conduct another economic impact study.

“We are making a compelling case to the state as to why we are an investment that is beneficial,” Choi said.

Despite discussion about new sources of revenue, he said cuts will have to be made in order to sustain the UM System through a difficult financial time.
“No one really enjoys cutting, especially cutting programs that result in personnel actions,” Choi said. “But if we don’t eliminate certain programs based on the metrics, based on the goals that we have as a university, eventually we’re going to have to cut even stronger programs.”

UM System President Dr. Mun Choi on budget crisis: 'It's not rosy'


By Alyssa Toomey

UM System President Dr. Mun Choi said the system is facing a "fiscal challenge" at a special meeting with MU faculty members Wednesday.

Choi started off the meeting on a positive note, sharing his vision for the university's future before addressing the current budget crisis.

In terms of the budget, Choi said the UM System expects $41 million in cuts to its core mission from the state. "It's not rosy," Choi frankly told faculty members when discussing the deficit.

Choi said the university must increase enrollment, tuition, philanthropic support for student scholarship and faculty research and make a compelling case for state support. He said the university system needs to show the state that their return is much greater than their investment.

With regards to a tuition increase, Choi said university leaders will keep affordability in mind. He told ABC 17 News he doesn't know what that tuition increase might look like just yet.

"We're not sure yet but we are so mindful of the cost of education and the debt that students incur after they graduate," he said. "Whatever decision we make, we're going to do it in a very prudent way."

Choi concluded his presentation by noting that not everyone is going to be happy with the tough decisions they have to make, but said they are going to make them with staff, faculty and students' best interests in mind.
University of Missouri President Encourages Partnerships

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=efe39bb4-440d-44fd-b30b-5d7c0210483a

The University of Missouri System's new president says he wants to leverage private-public partnerships to bring revenue and investments to campus.

The Columbia Missourian reports President Mun Choi joined about 100 members and guests of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday as part of its "Lunch with a Leader" series. At the gathering, Choi emphasized the mutual economic benefit of such partnerships.

Choi discussed investing in research centers, noting the Columbia campus alone is looking at withholding $20 million in this fiscal year's budget. The university system will also likely face additional cuts for fiscal 2018.

Chamber of Commerce President Matt McCormick says the university is Columbia's top economic driver and business leaders look forward to working with Choi, who was named president of the four-campus system in November.
Academic Minute: SNAP Benefits and the Emergency Room

Generated from an MU News Bureau news release: Increased Food Assistance Benefits Could Result in Fewer ER Visits

By Doug Lederman March 23, 2017

Today on the Academic Minute, Colleen Heflin, professor in the school of public affairs at the University of Missouri, examines whether SNAP benefits reduce emergency room visits. Learn more about the Academic Minute here.

MU researchers find evidence of a correlation between epilepsy and religiosity

By Olivia Garrett

Generated from News Bureau press release: Researchers Find Neurological Link Between Religious Experiences and Epilepsy

MU researchers have found further evidence to support the idea that people suffering from epilepsy also experience higher levels of spirituality, backing up previous research on the topic.

“There’s been previous research that has indicated that people with epilepsy might have heightened levels of spirituality,” junior Greyson Holliday said. “But we specifically looked at how that spirituality manifest itself in their life.”
Holliday joined the partnership of Brick Johnstone, neuropsychologist and professor of health psychology, and Daniel Cohen, assistant professor of religious studies, in authoring the article on heightened religiosity and epilepsy. The pair have been looking into traumatic brain injuries and epilepsy for over 10 years together.

Religiosity “relates to belief that the Bible or other spiritual texts have special, personal meaning and divine significance,” according to their article, which was published in the journal Mental Health, Religion & Culture.

The researchers had participants answer questions from two surveys. One measures daily spiritual experiences, meaning, values and beliefs, forgiveness and spiritual coping, while the other looks specifically at behavioral characteristics associated with epilepsy, such as emotionality, philosophical interests, hypermorality, religiosity and personal destiny.

“Our interest is in the neuropsychology [of spirituality] and saying, ‘Well, that’s an interesting process,’” Cohen said. “The argument that we’re making is that the ability to have [spiritual] experiences is a human universal. It’s built into our neural-architecture.”

This research is focused on learning more about the relationship between religion and spirituality and neuropsychological processes. The study is not promoting any individual religion and does not argue anything about the truthfulness or validity of spirituality or religion.

“I want to be clear that we’re not suggesting that religion or spirituality is all in your head,” Holliday said.

The researchers hoped to discover more about the characteristics of this spirituality, specifically looking at the basis of the inclination.

“One of the things that we wanted to look at was whether this [tendency toward spirituality or religiosity] was more emotionally based or philosophically based,” Cohen said. “Emotionality did not seem to be significant here, whereas philosophical interest did seem significant.”

Philosophical interest has to do with metaphysical or moral thoughts about the universe, whereas emotionality refers more to feelings or affective reactions to experiences.

Currently, the researchers are studying patients before and after brain surgery to see if and how their perceptions of religion might change.

“We’re not interested in finding the God-spot in the brain because there is no such thing,” Cohen said. “We’re not interested in saying this is the religion part of the brain. The brain is complicated, it’s hyper-interactive.”

Cohen points to the collaborative nature of their research as an advantage.

“We see that as potent to informing one another about how we can look at [these issues] from different perspectives,” Cohen said. “We find that overall it strengthens the work.”
For Holliday, working with Johnstone and Cohen and co-authoring a published article as an undergraduate student has been beneficial.

“I feel like doing this has given meaning to a lot of the things I’ve been learning in my classes,” Holliday said.

Holliday also points to the importance of the work because the research provides evidence that spirituality is a human tendency.

“Spirituality has such a big impact on humans, so the more that we can understand about that, the better,” Holliday said.

[Image]

**Dr. Frederick vom Saal, Curators Professor of Biological Sciences at University of Missouri**

University of Missouri system joins the growing list of schools using the Common Application

By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 19 hrs ago

ST. LOUIS • Prospective students can continue applying to any of the four University of Missouri System campuses directly through the school, but starting this fall, they can also use the Common Application.

The Common Application allows students to submit one application to more than 700 schools in the U.S., Canada, China and a few countries in Europe.

The schools that use the Common Application range. For example, Yale University and other Ivy League schools use it. So do nine Historically Black Colleges and Universities and multiple women's colleges.

The system schools will join only one other state university that uses the Common Application: Truman State in Kirksville. But there are 11 other private institutions that draw applicants from the one-stop-shop website. Five of those schools are in St. Louis, including Washington University, St. Louis University, St. Louis College of Pharmacy, Maryville University and Webster University.

"By adding our campuses to the Common App's network, prospective students can use the service to apply to any of our four UM System institutions, while easily managing all aspects of the process," system president Mun Choi said in a statement. "By becoming a member institution of this innovative program, we will increase the visibility of the UM System campuses across the nation and world."

Choi said that more than 850,000 students submit more than 3.5 million applications using the site each year. Choi's previous employer, the University of Connecticut, also uses the Common App.

Students get alerts on their dashboard about progress made on all of their applications.
The system is paying a one-time fee of $500,000, according to a spokesman. He said it would take only about 25 to 30 additional freshman to enroll to cover the cost of the fee.

Choi called it "an important investment."

“We are excited about the potential to increase the number, quality and diversity of our applicants and introduce prospective students to our excellent degree programs," he said in a statement.

The goal is for the system's four campuses — Columbia, St. Louis, Kansas City and Rolla — to be live on the website in August for the fall 2018 applicants.

Using the Common App won't change the cost for applying at each campus, according to a system spokesman.

UM System schools join the ‘Common App,’ and expect an enrollment boost

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
mdwilliams@kcstar.com

In a move that could help boost enrollment, the University of Missouri System has joined The Common Application to help students apply to the university.

Called the “Common App,” the program makes it easier for graduating high school seniors to apply to hundreds of colleges and universities worldwide.

Every year, some 850,000 students use the Common App to submit more than 3.5 million college and university applications. Now all four University of Missouri System campuses — Columbia, Kansas City, St. Louis and Rolla — will be among those schools included in the service.
“By becoming a member institution of this innovative program, we will increase the visibility of the UM System campuses across the nation and world,” UM System President Mun Choi said Wednesday in a statement.

Using the Common App, applicants enter their information in one convenient online dashboard and send the completed application to as many available schools as they wish. Those applications are managed by The Common Application, sending alerts to applicants and guidance counselors as deadlines approach and when progress is gained on each application.

Making University of Missouri System campuses available through this service would make it easier for more students from around the world to seek applications. It could help boost declining enrollment seen since 2015.

Consider the system’s flagship campus in Columbia, where overall from fall 2015 to fall 2016 enrollment declined 6.2 percent.

In that same period, freshman enrollment fell 22.9 percent.

“Our new partnership with the Common App is an important investment,” Choi said. “We are excited about the potential to increase the number, quality and diversity of our applicants and introduce prospective students to our excellent degree programs.”

UM System schools to begin using the Common Application

MORGAN NIEZING, 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Students who want to attend the University of Missouri will soon have another way to apply to the four universities in the system.

The University of Missouri System announced in a news release Wednesday that it will begin using The Common Application, a nonprofit organization that allows students to apply to multiple schools using the same application.
More than 850,000 students use the service to submit more than 3.5 million applications, according to the organization's website.

"Our new partnership with the Common App is an important investment," UM System President Mun Choi said in the release. "We are excited about the potential to increase the number, quality and diversity of our applicants and introduce prospective students to our excellent degree programs."

John Fougere, UM System spokesman, said that the system hopes to have the change fully operational by August for prospective students applying for the fall of 2018.

The application fee for the Columbia campus is $65 for U.S. citizens applying as freshmen, $50 for U.S. citizens applying as transfer students and $90 for nonresident, international students.

Fougere said that there will be an additional $6 fee for the Common App. Applicants will still have to pay the individual application fees for each respective campus they choose to apply to.

In addition to the Common App, students will still be able to use an application form on the MU website, Fougere said.

"This is designed to supplement existing application processes at our four UM System campuses," Fougere said.

Fougere said that the change was decided upon because it will provide a streamlined application process for students and will allow for additional application processing through the Common App. In addition, applications completed on the Common App can be submitted to a multitude of universities and colleges beyond the UM System.
UM System joins Common App platform, hope to increase 'number, quality and diversity' of applicants

By Alyssa Toomey

The UM System is announcing a new partnership with an application program in an effort to increase the "number, quality and diversity" of applicants across the four campuses.

Starting Wednesday, the UM System is joining The Common Application or Common App, a nonprofit organization that provides undergraduate college admission applicants with the tools to apply to hundreds of colleges and universities worldwide.

"By adding our campuses to the Common App's network, prospective students can use the service to apply to any of our four UM System institutions, while easily managing all aspects of the process," UM System President Mun Choi said in a statement. "By becoming a member institution of this innovative program, we will increase the visibility of the UM System campuses across the nation and world."

According to a release, more than 850,000 students use the service to submit more than 3.5 million applications. Applicants enter their information one time and send the completed application to multiple schools.

"Our new partnership with the Common App is an important investment," President Choi said. "We are excited about the potential to increase the number, quality and diversity of our applicants and introduce prospective students to our excellent degree program."

This all comes as Mizzou continues to face a drop in enrollment following the 2015 protests on campus that made national headlines.

The school started in fall 2015 with 35,448 students--the highest in five years. In a recent special report, ABC 17 News reported MU now has 31,000 students--its lowest point since spring 2011.

The decrease in enrollment is particularly significant as tuition makes up about 80 percent of the university's budget. The university is also dealing with significant cuts from the state, making the
financial situation even more difficult. As a result, MU has been looking to different parts of the country for recruitment.

Choi will be addressing faculty and staff members in a special general faculty meeting today. ABC 17 News will be attending the meeting. We will update this story and have more in our evening newscasts.
ONLINE APPLICATIONS
New service announced for prospective UM students

Prospective students applying to the University of Missouri's four campuses will be able to do so through an online service that allows multiple applications to be submitted to institutions from the same basic data.

The Common Application, or Common App, is a not-for-profit organization currently used by 850,000 students annually to apply to more than 700 institutions in the United States, Canada, China and Europe, according to a news release from the UM System. The online system alerts applicants and guidance counselors to important deadlines and monitors the progress of applications.

"By becoming a member institution of this innovative program, we will increase the visibility of the UM System campuses across the nation and world," President Mun Choi said in the release.

Enrollment at the university's Columbia and St. Louis campuses declined in the current academic year, with MU seeing a decline of about 25 percent in incoming freshmen. University officials are working to reverse the decline, which is expected to force new budget cuts and layoffs in the year beginning July 1.
University of Missouri
Fifth Kemper fellowship awarded

University of Missouri law professor Thomas Lambert, a faculty member since 2003, on Wednesday received the final 2017 William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence.

Lambert, the Wall Chair in Corporate Law and Governance, was interrupted in class by interim Chancellor Hank Foley and Commerce Bank regional Chairman and CEO Teresa Maedy, with the presentation of the award and the $10,000 financial stipend that goes with it.

Lambert teaches contract law, antitrust law and business organization, is the author or co-author of more than 20 journal articles and a blogger for Truth on the Market, a site focused on academic commentary on antitrust, business and economic legal issues. Lambert was educated at Wheaton College and the University of Chicago Law School.

The Kemper fellowships were created in 1991 to honor William T. Kemper, a 1926 graduate of the university and a well-known Kansas City banker. His family donated $500,000 to endow the awards, and five fellowships are awarded each year.
MU Student Health Center billing may change again

TOMÁS ORIHUELA, 11 hrs ago

MU students will not have to pay additional money for behavioral health services at the Student Health Center, according to a letter written by the Graduate Professional Council and the Missouri Student Association on March 16 and distributed via Twitter on Monday.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said he couldn't confirm the letters' claims or provide clarity until he had a chance to talk to representatives from the MU Student Health Center.

Changes to student health services were first announced March 7 to address an unsustainable financial situation, according to the MU Student Health Center.

Before the announced changes, students paid $102, which covered four office visits with a psychologist or psychiatrist. If a student needed more than four sessions, he or she would have been billed.

The March 7 revisions, among other modifications, would have required students to pay for all behavioral health office visits in addition to student health fees. These changes were scheduled to begin July 1.

MU Counseling Services wasn't affected by the proposed changes.

The news about the Student Health Center prompted a strong reaction from MU faculty, students and former patients, according to previous Missourian reporting.

The GPC/MSA letter, however, states that this change will not occur: "Mental health visits will not incur an extra charge or copay. Students will not experience changes in their access to mental health services at the Student Health Center as originally stated."
Basi said a meeting will be held soon to discuss the claims made in the letter.

Student Health Center to bill students for office visits

By Elena Cruz

The Student Health Center will be charging students for consultations starting July 1 but will keep mental health procedures the same.

Due to increasing health care costs, the center will require students to pay for visits in addition to the prepaid health fee that previously covered those visits. According to a statement released by the Graduate Professional Council and Missouri Students Association, students will not see any changes to bills for mental health services.

For students with insurance, the consultations will be billed through their insurance companies. Students without insurance will receive a 45 percent discount on their consultation fee.

“The cost of administering health care continues to increase, and the health center’s expenses are outpacing revenue,” MU spokeswoman Liz McCune said in an email. “The reasons for those increased costs include everything from the salaries for health care providers to mandatory expenses such as medical malpractice insurance.”

The university will still require students enrolled in at least seven credit hours to pay the $102 prepaid health fee.

Currently, students receive unlimited free consultations and up to four free psychologist visits per semester, but they must pay for additional medical procedures.

Behavioral health services such as psychiatric assessments, medication management and counseling will follow the health center’s existing billing policy. Additionally, the new Student Health Center guidelines do not affect the free services the Counseling Center provides, as the Counseling Center is separate from the Student Health Center.

By charging for office visits, McCune said, the health center expects to generate more income and allow for enhanced treatment.

“As a result, many students will see a reduction in out-of-pocket costs should they need care that goes beyond a basic consultation,” McCune said. “This includes procedures like getting stitches, removal of an ingrown toenail and administration of IV medications and fluids.”
Currently, only students using the Aetna Student Health plan receive coverage for immediate procedures. With the new billing policy, 19 state and national insurance plans will have contracts with the health center.

“For the vast majority of students, these procedures were billed as out-of-network expenses, while many others elected to wait to have these issues taken care of until they could see their hometown doctors,” McCune said. “Now, many students will be able to have their medical needs met in one visit with lower out-of-pocket expenses.”

Other health resources such as the Student Health Advisory Council and Sexual Health Advocate Peer Education will still be available under the prepaid health fee.

Students will also need to bring a physical or copied version of their insurance card to every appointment, according to the health center’s website. With the new model, this provides information such as a student’s necessary co-pay per appointment.

Some students said they will be less likely to go to the health center to avoid unnecessary payments.

“I’d probably try and sit it out if I thought I was sick,” freshman Caroline Shey said. “Before I never thought it necessary to use it, and now I definitely probably wouldn’t because that’s kind of expensive.”

Chemistry doctoral student Velaphi Thipe said he is not in favor of the new consultation fee.

“As for a clinic, I just don’t approve of students having to pay for a checkup,” Thipe said. “I just believe that students should go there if they feel like they are sick because they won’t be productive in classes.”

The prepaid health fee could change in upcoming semesters.

“MU administration plans to recommend a proposal to decrease the fee by seven percent to the Board of Curators,” McCune said. “The board must approve any fee changes. This fee is reviewed annually and will be assessed next year.”

Students concerned with their insurance coverage can call the health center at 573-884-9388. More information can be found on the Student Health website.
Beginning May 15, Lowry Mall will be under construction to repair the steam tunnels beneath it.

**Mark Yount, a media producer for MU Operations, said the current steam tunnels beneath the mall date back to 1923.**

The construction is being done in two parts, with the Hitt Street side being dug up first. The first half of the project is scheduled to be completed in October 2017, and the second half is scheduled to be completed in March 2018. A walkway will remain open so pedestrians can still cross through the mall.

Because the steam tunnels run under sections of Hitt and Ninth streets, students can expect changes in their commute.

“Right now, they don’t know if they’re going to do one-way traffic on Hitt or if both lanes of traffic will be open,” said Karlan Seville, communications manager for the Division of Operations. “And then when they get to Ninth Street, that will close completely, but that’s closed campus anyways during the day.”

Since the construction is being done in halves, student groups will still be able to hold activities on the mall.

“Lowry Mall will continue to be open to campus activities during the entire project,” MU spokesman Christian Basi said in an email. “While portions may be restricted due to the project, the Mall will remain open.”

However, some organizations that require more space than half of Lowry Mall may change location.

“The location for next year’s Campus Farmers Markets is to be determined,” Environmental Leadership Office advisor Amy Eultgen said in an email. “We are working with the reservations team to figure out a location that best suits our vendors.”

Vehicle traffic has been kept off the mall for the past three and a half years to prevent further damage to the tunnels. After construction is completed, maintenance and groundskeeping will be able to drive on the mall again.
SEC, Mizzou adopts clear bag policy for football games

By Kylie Callura

COLUMBIA - The Southeastern Conference and Mizzou athletics are mimicking the National Football League and its initiative to keep game days safe for fans by implementing a clear bag policy for football games.

Mizzou athletics announced Wednesday the security policy will take effect for the Tigers home opener against Missouri State at Memorial Stadium on Sept. 2, 2017.

"SEC football stadiums are among the largest venues in the world of sports, so safety and security are issues that must always remain a priority for our events," said SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey. "We believe this policy is an important enhancement to the security measures already put in place by our institutions."

Like the NFL’s policy, only bags that meet the following guidelines will be allowed into Memorial Stadium and other SEC venues:

- Bags that are clear plastic, vinyl or PVC and do not exceed 12" x 6" x 12"
- One-gallon clear plastic freezer bags (Ziploc or similar)
- Small clutch bags, with or without a handle or strap, that do not exceed 4.5" x 6.5", about the size of a hand

Exceptions will be made for medically necessary items after inspection at a gate specifically for fans with medical devices that require a bag.

According to the guidelines, an approved logo no larger than 4.5" x 3.4" is allowed on one side of a regulated clear bag. Bags that will not be allowed into the stadium include purses larger than a clutch, briefcases, backpacks, fanny packs that are not clear, camera bags, binocular bags and any bag larger than the sizes stated above. Fans will still be allowed to bring cameras and binoculars in their approved bags.
Police: Former university employee attacked co-worker

By Sarah Bono

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=7e472d2a-30e1-409c-8b9f-d3ef3757315c

COLUMBIA, Mo. - New court documents are shedding light on why a Columbia man was charged for domestic assault last week.

At the time of his arrest, Randall Marshall was a janitor for the University of Missouri. On Wednesday, the school said he was no longer employed there.

ABC 17 News obtained the probable cause statement that claimed Marshall attacked a co-worker at Mizzou Arena on March 14.

According to the document, Marshall spit on the co-worker and punched them, before continuing the assault in a bathroom. The co-worker was hospitalized after sustaining injuries.

As of Wednesday evening, Marshall was in the Boone County Jail. He has a court appearance set for March 31.
EDITORIAL

THE TRIBUNE'S VIEW

Here comes Cuonzo Martin

Missouri fans are all atwitter about the arrival of our next Tigers head basketball coach. Cuonzo Martin was introduced Monday at Mizzou Arena, bringing a record of success and demonstrating a very nice presence. He was given and accepted the most munificent contract in University of Missouri basketball coaching history, with clauses indicating both parties intend a long-term relationship. If Cuonzo leaves early, he owes MU a lot of money. If the coach is fired early, MU owes the coach a lot of money. You can argue too much money is involved, regardless, but Athletic Director Jim Sterk said market conditions require the contract incentives, which he said are no more than middling for other coaches.

Martin made a credible case for his intention to stay for the long haul. Saying coming to Mizzou felt like coming home — he grew up in East St. Louis — he added “our staff will do everything in our power to be successful, and we won’t stop until we’re the last team standing.” His family and friends from two hours down Interstate 70 are overjoyed he is nearby. At 45, he can foresee a lasting future here.

He unequivocally makes the case for long-term success at MU, and Tigers fans seem ready to get on board. Time will tell, but the prognosis is good.

Cuonzo might need a season or two to get in stride. If he brings the Michael Porter family back to Columbia, he and his team will hit the court running. At this writing, the prospect is tantalizing possible, but let’s not limit his potential to one year’s recruiting success. The long haul is the thing, and there’s where the lasting promise lies.

HJW III
University of Missouri Unveils Look of Planned Music Hall

The University of Missouri is unveiling the look of a planned music school that'll consolidate its operations in one building instead of six, to the tune of $40 million.

March 22, 2017, at 3:24 p.m.

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri is unveiling the look of a planned music school that'll consolidate its operations in one building instead of six, to the tune of $40 million.

The Columbia Daily Tribune (http://bit.ly/2o5txJb ) reports that architectural renderings were unveiled Tuesday of the project that could include more than 61,000 square feet of academic and rehearsal spaces, and a 500-seat concert hall.

As the interim dean of the university's arts-and-sciences college, Pat Okker acknowledges the project's plans are moving ahead as the university faces a budget crunch. But she says this is a long-term plan that's been talked about for more than two decades.

Gov. Eric Greitens withheld $20 million budgeted in the current fiscal year for the university, which is grappling with lower enrollment and tuition revenue.

Federal Judge Defers Ruling on Missouri Abortion Rules

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) – Planned Parenthood pressed a federal judge Tuesday to block abortion-restricting Missouri rules similar to Texas ones struck down last year by the U.S. Supreme Court, while an attorney for Missouri countered that undoing the Missouri regulations could endanger women.
U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs deferred a ruling until at least next month after hearing arguments over the preliminary injunction request by Planned Parenthood affiliates with Missouri health centers.

The November lawsuit came five months after the nation’s high court struck down similar Texas rules that sharply reduced the number of abortion clinics there. Like the Texas rules, Missouri requires doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals and forced clinics to meet hospital-like standards for outpatient surgery. The Supreme Court, in its 5-3 ruling, rejected Texas’ arguments that its 2013 law and follow-up regulations were needed to safeguard women’s health.

Partly as a result of those laws, only one licensed abortion clinic remains in Missouri a Planned Parenthood center in St. Louis, which the organization says requires a drive of hundreds of miles for some women to access. The state has 1.2 million women of reproductive age, Planned Parenthood has said, adding that its health centers in Kansas City, Columbia, Joplin, Springfield would provide abortions if the restrictions were scrapped.

Kansas City’s Planned Parenthood center has offered medication-induced abortions and would resume doing so if Sachs deems the Missouri regulations in question unconstitutional, Melissa Cohen, an attorney for Planned Parenthood, told the judge.

Planned Parenthood’s Columbia clinic stopped offering the procedure a non-surgical type, induced with a pill in 2015 after its only doctor performing medication-induced abortions lost needed privileges with University of Missouri Health Care. That left the St. Louis clinic as the agency’s only abortion provider.