



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH



University of Missouri names law school dean

Story generated by MU News Bureau press release: [MU Provost Announces New School of Law Dean](#)

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) – **The University of Missouri has named a new dean for its law school.**

The school announced Monday that Lyrissa Barnett Lidsky, an associate dean at the University of Florida's law school, will become law school dean on July 1.

Lidsky has been a faculty member at Florida since 1984. She previously clerked for U.S. Judge Joseph Sneed in the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

University spokeswoman Liz McCune says Lidsky will be paid \$330,000 annually.

She will replace Kenneth Dean, who was interim dean since Aug. 15, when the resignation of Gary Myers became effective. Myers resigned after four years as dean and joined the faculty at the law school.

Missouri's School of Law has about 320 students and 37 full-time faculty members.



MU names new law school dean

Story generated by MU News Bureau press release: [MU Provost Announces New School of Law Dean](#)

An associate dean at the University of Florida's law school was named Monday as the next dean of the University of Missouri's School of Law, effective July 1.

LyriSSa Barnett Lidsky, associate dean for graduate and non-J.D. programs at the University of Florida's Levin College of Law, has been a faculty member at the college since 1984 and clerked for U.S. Judge Joseph Sneed in the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals before that. Lidsky has taught classes on torts, social media and cyber law, mass media law, constitutional law and the First Amendment, according to a news release from MU.

Lidsky will be paid \$330,000 annually, MU spokeswoman Liz McCune said in an email.

As dean at MU's law school, Lidsky will oversee the budget and be responsible for hiring faculty and staff as well as strategic planning. She will replace Kenneth Dean, who has served as interim dean since Aug. 15, when the resignation of Gary Myers became effective. Myers resigned after four years as dean and joined the faculty at the law school.

"I am thrilled and honored to join Mizzou Law as it continues its rise into the top tier of law schools in the country," Lidsky said in the news release. "I feel so fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the law school's amazing faculty, staff, and alumni, and to have the support of a state land-grant university devoted to teaching and research excellence.

At Florida, Lidsky recruited students from around the world and began and managed a "a significant number of institutional relationships and partnerships at the University of Florida and abroad," the release said.

MU's School of Law was founded in 1872 and has an enrollment of about 320 students and 37 full-time faculty members.

MU Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Garnett Stokes on Monday morning announced Lidsky's hiring. "Over a career spanning 25 years, Professor Lidsky has distinguished herself through her scholarship, teaching excellence, leadership and passion for legal education," Stokes said in the release.

MISSOURIAN

UPDATE: New MU Law School dean plans to prioritize students

THOMAS OIDE, Apr 3, 2017 Updated 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — **After spending more than 20 years at the University of Florida, Lyrisa Barnett Lidsky is bringing her experience to Columbia.**

Lidsky was named dean of the MU School of Law on Monday, according to an MU news release. She will start her position July 1 and takes over for Kenneth Dean, who served as interim after Gary Myers resigned in August to join the Law School faculty.

"Everything about the University of Missouri Law School seemed like a perfect fit for me," Lidsky said. "I'm absolutely thrilled to have been selected as the dean. I'm eager to be in Missouri and get started."

At the University of Florida in Gainesville, Lidsky is the associate dean for graduate and non-jurisdictional programs in the Levin College of Law.

D. Daniel Sokol, a UF Foundation Research Professor of Law who has worked closely with Lidsky, spoke highly of her work ethic.

"She's one of our most gifted teachers, a very strong scholar and a very capable administrator," Sokol said. "She does the work of more than one person, and therefore, it's always difficult to replace such a person who is so effective and productive."

The Levin College of Law has 984 students, 80 full-time faculty and 74 staff employees, college spokesman Richard Goldstein said in an email. MU's program is much smaller, with about 320 students and 37 full-time faculty, according to the MU news release.

Lidsky sees an opportunity in working with a smaller group of students.

"My top priorities are students, students and students," Lidsky said. "I think it is wonderful to go to a law school that's smaller, so I can know every student in the building. I hope to make a difference for those students."

Lidsky also wants to continue providing MU law students with a high quality, affordable education and bring in more students from across the country and around the world.

She also wants to build relationships with the alumni network at MU. She has experience working with alumni at Florida and used those connections to build a four-day program for Florida law school students in Miami. Students who participated in the program were able to interact with professionals in the industry and envision themselves in the workplace.

Lidsky hopes to start a similar program at MU.

"There's a limitation to being in a college town in terms of training people," Lidsky said. "It's about empowering students, and part of that is envisioning careers that they haven't thought about. In order to train the future, you have to be able to envision the future."

Sokol said Lidsky has experience with creating new programs as well as eliminating and repurposing others. The [University of Missouri System fiscal crisis](#) appears likely to result in programs being cut. Lidsky said she is prepared to do so if needed.

"I've definitely had to gather data in order to cut programs at Florida and make hard decisions," Lidsky said. "It's something I'm capable of doing. It's not something any leader looks forward to. You would prefer to go forward, but it's something that's necessary sometimes. You have to be driven by the data when making hard decisions."

Lidsky's annual salary will be \$330,000, MU spokeswoman Liz McCune said in an email.

Outside of academia, the west Texas native enjoys traveling and tending to her and her husband's 25 head of beef cattle and three donkeys. They will sell the cattle there and get "Missouri cattle" here — she said

her father had to persuade her husband that they needed cattle accustomed to the climate. Having animals in Columbia was one of her husband's stipulations in making the move.

The family moving to Columbia will also include two of her three sons; the oldest will stay in Gainesville to attend Florida.

She said some of her favorite travel spots include Latin America, Spain and France.

"I'm trying to improve my Spanish every day," Lidsky said.

Overall, Lidsky is excited to make the transition from teacher to administrator.

"I have absolutely loved being a law professor and opening students' eyes to something they may have never seen before," Lidsky said. "As dean, I might be able to make a difference for even more."



Mizzou Names New Law Dean

Story generated by MU News Bureau press release: [MU Provost Announces New School of Law Dean](#)

Watch story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=52bf3a34-b083-470d-9100-e3ecca2d22c0>



New Law School Dean Announced

Story generated by MU News Bureau press release: [MU Provost Announces New School of Law Dean](#)

By Lily Cusack

University of Missouri Provost Garnett Stokes named the new law school dean today in a press release. Lyriisa Barnett Lidsky currently serves as the associate dean for University of Florida's Levin College of Law, and she has been teaching for 23 years.

"We're excited to have her here as the School of Law enters a new era of innovation marked by collaboration that strengthens the student experience; contributes to greater scholarly success; and elevates the visibility of the School of Law and MU as one of the nation's strongest land-grant research universities," Provost Garnett Stokes wrote in a press release.

Lidsky will replace Kenneth Dean, who was appointed interim dean in the fall. Lidsky will have a number of different duties as dean, including hiring faculty and staff and being responsible for strategic planning and budgeting.

Bob Bailey, an assistant dean emeritus in the law school, participated in the search committee for a new dean. He said Lidsky was one of four final applicants chosen to be interviewed by the school.

"Lyriisa stood out because of her commitment to teaching and students and her desire to be a very hands-on, involved, committed, internal and external dean," Bailey said.

Lidsky has won numerous teaching awards, according to the press release from Provost Stokes. Her research focuses on the relationship between tort law and the First Amendment. Lidsky has written and co-authored multiple articles, casebooks and reference books.

"We're really glad she's going to be here, and we're looking forward to July 1 when she starts permanently," Bailey said.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Layoffs aren't off the table as the University of Missouri System schools battle budget cuts

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

ST. LOUIS • Leaders at the four University of Missouri System schools have less than a month to bring forward budget proposals that outline how they're going to handle their share of budget cuts for the coming year.

Layoffs and program cuts are among the items that school leaders should consider, according to a [budget planning webpage set up Monday by the UM System](#).

According to the statement, the budget cuts will range from 8 to 12 percent across the four campuses, which are the University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Missouri University of Science & Technology and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

The proposed higher education funding from Gov. Eric Greitens this year included \$40 million in cuts to the University of Missouri System campuses and operations for the fiscal year starting July 1, on top of [\\$31 million in withholds for the current year](#).

The budget is still making its way through the Legislature.

The school wants budget and campus leaders to take care to protect “programs of excellence,” or those that bring in more research grants, are nationally ranked and have greater enrollment, among other factors.

The goal is to find cuts that will help the campuses lift up those programs that are doing well.

The cuts and overall budget decisions are being made around four guiding principles, according to the UM System:

- Challenge the status quo and long-held traditions that are impediments to change.
- Make strategic decisions based on performance measures of excellence.
- Protect programs of excellence for faculty research and creative works, student outcomes, community engagement and financial aid.
- Be transparent, collaborative and accountable in making important decisions that affect the institution with input from faculty, students and staff.
- System leadership wants campuses to consider both short and long-term budget reductions in their proposals. Final decisions about cuts will be made by the end of May.

The system Board of Curators is set to discuss budget issues during their April 28 meeting in Rolla, [including a possible tuition increase](#).



[UM president outlines timeline for budget cut decisions](#)

By Megan Favignano

The University of Missouri System plans to cut its budget between 8 and 12 percent, which could mean layoffs of faculty and staff, closing of centers and institutes and ending degree programs with low enrollment, UM President Mun Choi said Monday in an email.

The cuts would affect the university system's budget for fiscal year 2018, which begins July 1. The budget cuts are in response to a continued decline in enrollment and Gov. Eric Greitens' proposed budget that calls for slashing \$40.4 million from the university's basic appropriation for fiscal year 2018, Choi said in the email. The email was sent Monday to UM System staff and faculty and faculty, staff and students at each of the system's four campuses.

“As everyone is well aware, we are facing a period of significant budget constraints that will require us to take bold action to become a stronger academic institution in both the short- and long-term,” Choi wrote to UM System staff.

Budget cuts will vary and will depend on which programs need support, Choi wrote. Campus officials, Choi wrote, will make plans to address the budget cuts needed. Those cuts might include layoffs, operating support, centralizing administrative operations and consolidating units.

Choi outlined a timeline for determining budget cuts. This month, campus officials will meet with deans, department heads and others on campus to talk about the process for “identifying programs of excellence to protect and programs to eliminate to meet the budget cuts,” he wrote.

Next month, officials will share plans for budget cuts with the campus and seek input. Those plans will include short-term cuts and long-term plans to identify further cuts throughout fiscal year 2018. Also next month, each campus will submit plans to the president and he will review recommended cuts.

Choi wrote that he will share his decisions based on each campus plan in June.

The Intercampus Faculty Council, which has representatives from all four system campuses, was told late last week that Choi would be sending out a message like the one sent Monday, said Ben Trachtenberg, chair of MU’s Faculty Council and a member of the system-wide council. Anyone who has been paying attention to the university could have predicted more cuts, he said.

“At MU we had some sense that cuts in this neighborhood were going to be required because of the combination of decreased state support and our enrollment numbers,” Trachtenberg said.

MU’s enrollment declined by 6 percent from fall 2015 to fall 2016 and is projected to decrease again in the coming fall session, combining to cause up to \$50 million in cuts at the university’s flagship campus.

The MU Faculty Council has a fiscal committee that has been meeting regularly with MU Vice Chancellor for Finance Rhonda Gibler about the campus’ fiscal outlook. Stakeholders from all groups on campus and system-wide, from students and staff to professors and deans, should provide input on what to trim, Trachtenberg said, and be involved in discussions with administrators.

“I think that we will need to have very robust faculty consultation with administration if we’re going to come up with a plan by May 10 ... that has a real buy-in of any kind,” he said, referring to Choi’s deadline for receiving proposals from administrators.

He said he hopes that leaders have already begun to think about what cuts will be made.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said campus leadership has been discussing the current fiscal year and fiscal year 2018 budget with faculty, staff and students for weeks.

This week, MU Operations told about 20 administrative employees they will be laid off, effective July 1.

“With previous budget shortfalls, university officials have taken significant actions to identify efficiencies and employ cost-cutting measures among academic and administrative units and departments. However, we are at a point where our budget shortfalls are cutting into the core of our operations,” Basi said in an email.

The division also will lose five positions to retirements. The employees who were laid off will receive transition benefits, Basi said, and will be given priority consideration to be rehired as positions become available in the future.

“These decisions are never easy. However, the university must adjust our staffing levels to ensure the long-term economic sustainability of Mizzou,” Basi said.

MISSOURIAN

[UPDATE: UM System president: Cuts could include layoffs of staff, nontenure track faculty](#)

ANDREW KESSEL AND CRYSTAL DUAN, Apr 3, 2017 Updated 14 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — [Layoffs of staff and nontenure track faculty in the University of Missouri System are a possibility as campus administrators seek ways to cut the fiscal 2018 budget by 8 percent to 12 percent, UM System President Mun Choi said in a system-wide email on Monday.](#)

The email, which outlines a two-month process for trimming the budget, said cuts will not be distributed across the board but instead will focus on ensuring "programs of excellence" have the support they need and considering significant reductions in programs that aren't measuring up.

That ambiguity is cause for concern, said Nicole Monnier, a nontenure track member of the MU Faculty Council.

Compared to staff, Monnier said, nontenure track faculty have less of a safety net if they are laid off.

“There are provisions that cover tenure and tenure-track faculty, and staff are covered by Human Resources,” Monnier said. “But a lot of NTT faculty exist on year-to-year contracts, so if you are not renewed, regardless of reason, there is no recourse. The NTT population is going to be panicked.”

Chrissy Kintner, chair of the MU Staff Advisory Council, said staff members are likely aware that cuts are coming given the system’s fiscal crisis. The largest chunk of the budget is spent on people, she said, so it stands to reason that staff will take a hit.

“The decision to lay off any employee should not be taken lightly,” Kintner said. “We hope that all decisions regarding staff are carried out with the long-term health of the University of Missouri as a goal.”

In addition to possible layoffs, Choi said the cuts could mean the closure of various centers and institutes, the closure of degree programs with low enrollment and the centralization of information technology, human resource, finance and research services.

The message comes as Choi and the UM System brace for the impact of large cuts in state appropriations, potentially as much as \$57 million, according to the email.

UM already has to make up \$38 million in lost state appropriations in the current fiscal year — including nearly \$20 million at MU — after Gov. Eric Greitens announced in January that he would withhold the funds to help balance the state’s budget.

MU plans to make up its share using reserve funds, something Choi said isn’t sustainable once fiscal year 2018 begins in June.

The process will begin with meetings among campus leadership and deans, department heads and other stakeholders, Choi said. Preliminary plans will be shared with the campus communities on May 10, and input will be invited. Plans for each campus will be submitted to the president on May 19. After he reviews them with other campus leaders, final plans will be released on June 2.

The Missourian reached out to the communications offices at MU, the University of Missouri St. Louis, the University of Missouri Kansas City and Missouri Science and Technology, but no one offered a comment at this time.



[UM System sets timeline to manage significant budget cuts](#)

Watch story: <http://www.komu.com/news/um-system-sets-timeline-to-manage-significant-budget-cuts>

By Daniel Esteve

COLUMBIA – Representatives of the University of Missouri System emailed students, faculty and staff plans to address budget cuts to higher education.

Gov. Eric Greitens' current FY17 budget withholds \$37 million of the UM System's share of the state budget. The proposed FY18 budget could withhold \$56 million in permanent cuts.

UM Systems Spokesperson John Fougere described the message as a "budget guidance message" intended to lay out a plan for the UM System's "significant budget constraints."

Since June of 2013, Fougere's first year on staff, the UM System has not experienced a budget cut of this magnitude.

"This is a difficult process, but there are guiding principles, well established guiding principles, on exercises like this," Fougere said. "We have to meet our mission and continue to build a strong academic institution... under the realities of the budgets constraints we are under right now."

Fougere added UM Systems President Dr. Moon Choi's goal throughout this process is to evaluate the performance of specific programs throughout all parts of the UM System as it relates to areas such as faculty research, student outcome and engagement with community to name a few.

UM Systems Representatives are calling for an overall budget cut between eight to 12 percent throughout the UM System.

Students of the flagship university in Columbia are worried about the potential consequences associated with large budget cuts.

MU Student Taylor Kinnerup understands the importance of a collective voice. Though changes will be inevitable, Kinnerup expects her representatives to be transparent and vocal.

“For me personally, the university needs to be much more transparent,” Kinnerup said. “This needs to be a collective [process].”

The UM System's next scheduled public meeting will be on May 10, where campus plans will be shared with the surrounding community for input.



[University of Missouri president: Layoffs a possibility as budget-cutting process begins](#)

By Ryan Delaney

Officials in University of Missouri System are considering layoffs as it makes adjustments in the face of a major loss in state funding and shrinking enrollment, system President Mun Choi said Monday.

In Choi's open letter, which starts the process of making deep budget cuts to the state's largest provider of higher education, he said the four campuses will need to trim 8 percent to 12 percent out of their budgets. The cuts will target specific programs and not be across-the-board, he said.

“It is important to emphasize that we cannot rely on reserve funds to solve structural problems created by permanent budget reductions,” Choi wrote. “As part of this process, we also will need to make new investments to grow the programs of excellence that are not sufficiently funded.”

Finding new ways generate revenue will be necessary, Choi added.

Republican Gov. Eric Greitens has withheld \$37 million in funding for the UM System — and proposed an additional \$57 million worth for the coming fiscal year, according to Choi's letter — since taking office in January. That's about a 9 percent cut from the previous fiscal year, according to the governor's office.

Enrollment dropped almost 2 percent systemwide from fall 2015 to fall 2016, according to the state's higher education department.

The budget planning process will be completed in June, after receiving recommendations from each campus, Choi said.

The university system's board of curators began preliminary conversations in February about the need to significantly raise tuition, which would require a waiver from the state's higher education commissioner, or the legislature to change the state law blocking colleges and universities from raising tuition beyond the rate of inflation.

The cuts also come after last month's state audit report, which detailed a large incentive program for top administrators that state Auditor Nicole Galloway said was possibly unconstitutional. Choi canceled that program days later, but said it would be replaced with a more transparent one in order to continue to attract top leadership.



UM System Plans for Budget Cuts

By Michaela Tucker

The University of Missouri System announced a budget planning process to address shortfalls in state funding on Monday. According to the statement, 8 to 12 percent cuts throughout the system need to be made by June.

The cuts will not be determined by the system or be made across the board by the UM System, but by each of the four universities.

UM System Chief Communication Officer John Fougere said the planning time will allow the universities to decide immediate and long-term cuts and identify success base on UM System Mun Choi's goals.

“[Choi] wants the leadership and the campus communities to make decisions based on performance,” Fougere said. “And to protect programs of excellence for faculty research, creative work, student outcomes, community engagement and financial aid.”

Fougere said programs that don't measure up to the standard could be cut. The evaluation of programs and budget planning process will be managed by each university's leadership, including the chancellor provost and chief financial officer. In the next month, campus leaders are expected to meet with faculty, students and staff to evaluate departments, programs and centers.

Fougere said it's Choi's goal that the university community has input on the decisions.

“It's important that all through this process there's transparency, collaboration and accountability, with input from faculty, students and staff,” he said.

The plans for immediate and long-term cuts will be submitted to Choi by May 19, just 16 days after University of Missouri Interim Chancellor Hank Foley leaves for a new position.

Fougere said the change in MU leadership won't impact the execution of budget cuts.

“Interim Chancellor Foley has announced he is leaving, but there will still be leadership in place and they will be responsible to put together these plans, with the ultimate outcome of cutting their overall budget,” Fougere said.

The budget cuts will be finalized by early June.

Parental Involvement and Teacher Perceptions

Generated from an MU News Bureau press release: [Students More Likely to Succeed if Teachers have Positive Perceptions of Parents](#)

By David Hopper April 4, 2017

How important is parental involvement in a child's education? In today's Academic Minute, the University of Missouri's Keith Herman examines the relationship between teachers and parents and the impact it has on a student. Herman is a professor in Missouri's College of Education. A transcript of this podcast can be found [here](#).



A growing population gets a robotic assist

This story was generated by an MU News Bureau press release: [Fighting World Hunger: Robotics Aid in the Study of Corn and Drought Tolerance](#)

By Megan Favignano

As soon as University of Missouri researchers plant in the Bradford Research field later this spring, a robot will begin roaming each row and measuring plant features as crops grow.

Ali Shafiekhani, a graduate research assistant, has worked on the project for three years.

He is hoping to further improve the robot, named Vinobot, during his research this summer. Last summer, the robot examined a field with multiple types of corn plants. The robot collects data

then sends it to a tall thin pole, or tower with cameras called the Vinocular, that also is located in the field. Shafiekhani uses the data collected to create 3D models of the plants.

“Sometimes robots can collect more accurate data than from humans,” he said. “We are interested to collect data from the entire growing period.”

Shafiekhani said the robot has three sets of sensors and an arm, both of which are used for collecting data and measuring humidity, temperature and light intensity. Collecting those measurements is called plant phenotyping and it assesses growth and plant yield. Researchers can then see what plant features are common among plants that are more tolerant of drought conditions or have higher yields.

“For this project, our goal is to have systems that autonomously can collect data from the plant and extract features that are helpful,” Shafiekhani said.

Shafiekhani’s adviser, Gui DeSouza, an associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science, and he have collaborated with Felix Fritschi, an associate professor of plant sciences, and Todd Mockler, a principal investigator with the Danforth Plant Science Center. DeSouza said climate change and a growing population worldwide have caused a need to perfect the efficiency of growing crops and the yield of those plants.

The project was funded through a \$20 million grant the university received from the National Science Foundation in 2014.

The research team recently published a paper on the project’s progress: “Vinobot and Vinocular: Two Robotic Platforms for High-Throughput Field Phenotyping.”

The paper documented the system’s accuracy by comparing the measurements or data the robot collected with data collected manually by a research team. While the robot’s data is accurate, Shafiekhani said there is always room for improvement. He’s adding Wi-Fi capabilities to the robot to use during this summer’s research so he can download data remotely instead of going to the field. He’s also working to improve the robot’s navigational system and to enhance the detail of the 3D images created.

DeSouza said there’s no real end for the project. On the engineering side, he said researchers will continue to make adjustments that produce better images and 3D models. And on the plant side, he said researchers will constantly try to improve the crops being grown.

“It’s ongoing. We’re never happy with the end product,” DeSouza said. “We do believe it’s a necessary thing the world requires.”

DeSouza said another team of researchers from engineering and plant sciences has been developing a handheld scanner that collects data as a person walks through the field. That team has studied soybean plants in its research.

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

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
MU applies for approval to
produce medical isotopes**

The University of Missouri
has applied to the Nuclear
Regulatory Commission for
approval to produce medi-
cal isotopes at its Research
Reactor.

MU and its partners, Nor-
dion and General Atomics
submitted to the commission
a license agreement request
so the isotope Mo-99 can be
produced here in a capac-
ity that would supply half of
the domestic demand for it,
according to a news release.
Mo-99 currently must be
imported from outside North
America.

The isotope is a safe, radio-
active substance that health
care professionals use to
diagnose and treat patients
who have a variety of condi-
tions, including cancer and
cardiovascular disease. About
50 million such procedures
are performed annually in the
U.S., the news release said.

After approval, the reactor
will be producing Mo-99
without producing liquid
uranium waste, an issue at
some facilities that use highly
enriched uranium, the release
said.

Generated from a News Bureau direct pitch.

MISSOURIAN

MU Residential Life to close three more residence halls

DAPHNE PSALEDAKIS, 14 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Center, Responsibility and Discovery residence halls will not be available to students next year. They are the latest to be taken temporarily offline by the MU Department of Residential Life, bringing the total number to seven.

Although freshman enrollment for the 2017-18 academic year isn't available yet, Residential Life has decided to temporarily close Center, Responsibility, Discovery, Respect, Excellence, Schurz and McDavid residence halls next year, MU spokeswoman Liz McCune said.

Two more halls, Laws and Lathrop, have been or are scheduled to be demolished by the end of the summer to make way for two new halls. One of those, Brooks, was opened in fall 2016 and the second is scheduled to open in fall 2017, according to the department website. The new buildings are part of the Residential Life Master Plan that was approved in 2001 by the UM System Board of Curators.

Freshman enrollment for the 2016-17 academic year was substantially lower than previous years. It dropped by 1,470 students, or 24 percent, bringing the total number to 4,738, according to [previous Missourian reporting](#). The drop in enrollment prompted the Department of Residential Life to put Respect and Excellence residence halls on standby. Respect is being used as graduate student and guest and conference housing this year, according to the Residential Life website.

"We are taking these actions to make sure we have the flexibility necessary whether the numbers are low or high," McCune said in an email. "If low, we won't have to operate halls that are not full; if the numbers are high, we will be able to open additional halls to accommodate demand."

Discovery and Responsibility halls could be used as guest and conference housing as Respect currently is, McCune said.

Center was built in 2006, and Respect, Responsibility, Discovery and Excellence were built in 2004. Schurz was renovated in 2008 and McDavid was renovated in 2007.

Closing the halls will also save money spent on utilities. Closing Laws and Lathrop will save MU an expected \$200,000 in utilities, McCune said.

Center, Respect and Discovery were chosen to be temporarily closed because they are among the least energy-efficient residence halls that the university owns. They were built with drywall and wood framing or gauge-steel framing, rather than brick and mortar, which were used in some of the older dorms, McCune said.

Each residence hall employs between five and seven staff members. The closing of the additional three halls will impact around 15 staff positions, McCune said.

McCune projected that the decrease in necessary staff will be met through retirement and turnover. If that doesn't meet the reduced staff need, however, layoffs may be necessary, McCune said.

Student staff that are currently employed or were offered positions for next fall will be given similar positions elsewhere in the department.

Eight Freshman Interest Groups that were a duplicate or similar to another have been eliminated, though 80 will still be offered, McCune said.

If additional rooms are needed during ROAR — the freshman room assignment process — the halls will be opened for their original purpose.



UM System International Student Applications on Decline

Watch story: <http://mms.tveves.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=ad4376d0-73ca-4a4e-b4e9-b9504781baf3>

MISSOURIAN

Trump's proposed budget could put 'general community cohesion' at risk

GARY GARRISON, 1 hr ago

COLUMBIA — On March 16, the White House released a proposed budget for the 2018 fiscal year that included sweeping cuts to a wide variety of programs and federal grants, while boosting defense spending by \$52 billion.

The 62-page budget proposal — often referred to as a “skinny budget” — is a long way from becoming law. In fact, the 2017 fiscal budget has yet to be passed.

The \$54 billion in cuts come from around the government; the only three agencies that avoid the knife are the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense and the Office of Veterans Affairs.

Of the departments that would face severe cuts, the hardest hit would be the Environmental Protection Agency, with a 31.4 percent decrease. Others include:

- Department of Education — down 13.5 percent
- Department of Health and Human Services — down 16.2 percent
- Department of Transportation — down 12.7 percent
- Department of Housing and Urban Development — down 13.2 percent

But while some departments face cuts, several federal programs were singled out by the budget to be eliminated. Some of the more widely known programs to be placed on the chopping block are: the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts and Community Development Block grants, which often fund Meals on Wheels.

Here's a look at how the cuts, if approved, would affect Columbia.

Legal Services Corporation

Mid-Missouri Legal Services receives some \$452,000, or 42 percent of its yearly budget, from the federal Legal Services Corporation. So, according to Executive Director Susan Lutton, the elimination of Legal Services Corporation and its grant program would have a huge impact.

Legal Services Corporation's Basic Field Grants "provide funding to support delivery of high-quality civil legal services and access to justice to low-income people throughout the U.S.," according to the [department's website](#).

That's what [Mid-Missouri Legal Services](#) does.

"Basically, MMLS is the free legal aid provider for low-income people in central Missouri," Lutton said.

The central Missouri region encompasses 11 counties: Audrain, Boone, Callaway, Chariton, Cole, Cooper, Howard, Miller, Moniteau, Osage and Randolph.

“What we do is help people who have civil problems,” she said. “We’re not the public defender office. The closest we come to that is that we do a lot of orders of protection. That’s probably the biggest category of cases that we handle, the domestic violence and sexual violence cases.”

“Probably 40 percent of all of our cases involve violence,” she said. “So even though we don’t prosecute crimes, we actually help the victims get out of the situations that they’re in through civil matters in court.”

Mid-Missouri Legal Services handles 1,145 cases a year, according to Lutton. In addition to handling civil matters, the organization sees 200–250 housing-law cases a year through its homelessness prevention project, the majority of which involve children. The third primary category of work that the legal service does is in health.

“A lot of people who have tried to get onto different health programs and have encountered some kind of a problem, or they’ve had a specific procedure that’s been denied, we help them with that,” Lutton said.

And the list, Lutton said, goes on: public benefits, employment, unemployment, consumer law and mortgage foreclosure.

When asked about potentially losing the funding from the Legal Services Corporation's Basic Field Grant, Lutton said, “The fewer staff you have, the fewer people you can help.”

“If we did 1,145 cases last year, and you figure out what 42 percent of that is — it’s about 481 cases — it would make a huge impact on the number of cases we could handle.”

Not to mention, she said, “the work that we do saves the community money. When you think about the harm that victims of domestic violence and sexual violence incur, much of the time it’s a large medical cost to the community.”

The same thing goes for the health care work.

“Your children are sitting across the aisle in school from other children, who, if they are untreated because of some medical diagnosis, it spreads and it increases the cost,” she said.

She continued, “The risk of homelessness actually damages people’s well being and health. Police costs go up, hospital costs go up, medical centers that are required by law to help people when they present at the door, those costs all increase if people don’t get appropriate legal help.”

Mid-Missouri Legal Services already turns away one out of every two people who call due to resources, Lutton said. “So, the impact that a 42 percent cut on our budget would have would just be tremendous.”

Community Service Block Grant

Run by the Office of Community Service under the Department of Health and Human Services, the [Community Service Block Grant](#)’s purpose is “provides funds to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities.”

One Columbia organization that receives that grant funding is [Central Missouri Community Action](#).

The organization, which operates in eight counties, receives between 50 and 55 grants and contracts, many of which are federal, and several of which were earmarked for cuts in the White House’s budget.

In addition to the Community Service Block Grant, they receive funding from at least two other sources that are facing the ax: the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Weatherization Assistance Program, according to Executive Director Darin Preis of the organization.

Fortunately, Preis said, the organization’s biggest source of funding is Head Start, which was not singled out for cuts.

Still, he said, “90 percent of our \$16.7 million budget is federal.”

The goal of Central Missouri Community Action, Preis said, “is to move people out of poverty and off of public assistance. In a perfect world, we’d be working ourselves out of business.

“We work with (people) wherever they are, and we help them put together a plan for their future.”

Some of their programs include: housing assistance, Head Start, weatherization, utility assistance and Missouri work assistance. The goal for these programs is to stabilize individuals and help get them out of crisis, Preis said.

The weatherization program involves doing energy audits of people's homes. If a residence is in need of repair, Central Missouri Community Action subcontracts HVAC companies to add insulation, replace windows and water heaters, and any other measures necessary to make the home energy efficient. All at no cost to the resident.

That program is a really good example, Preis said. "Somebody who is reading about these issues and they're thinking, 'Well, poor people should just work harder,' there's actually a broader impact on our community. We've got \$16 million we're spending, all of that money stays local. It's going to landlords, it's going to local contractors, it's going to vendors.

"Anything that a traditional business would need, we're buying those things. Our auditor tells us, 'You can take that \$16 million that we spend locally and multiply it up to eight times,'" Preis said. "When we pay an HVAC contractor, they're also paying their employees, those employees are going to the grocery store and buying groceries and paying their mortgage. It has nearly a \$100 million impact."

Preis was quick to point out that the proposed budget is a long way from being adopted. He did, however, mention the 2013 budget sequestration, when he had to lay off employees and cut certain programs, as an example of what could come. (Implemented by Congress and former President Obama, the sequestration was designed to cut \$1.2 trillion in spending over nine years from across government.)

"The ideas included in (Trump's) skinny budget would have a pretty dramatic impact. We'd probably lose 50 employees of our 233. That would be several million dollars that aren't coming to the local economy," Preis said.

"I'm not sure what the philosophy is, but the problem does not go away when you stop funding it. In fact, the problem's going to get lots worse. General community cohesion starts to be at risk."

Community Development Block Grant

Began in 1974, the Community Development Block Grant, is one of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's longest running programs. [According to the department](#), the grant "is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs."

In Columbia and Boone County, a number of organizations receive funding through the Community Development Block Grant program. One of them is [Job Point](#).

A Community Development Corporation, Job Point is an employment center that has been operating in Columbia since 1965.

Last year, according to President and CEO Steven A. Smith, Job Point served 418 individuals, with the average starting wage of \$10.27. And of those placed with jobs, 87 percent maintained their employment for at least 90 days.

In the face of budget cuts, Smith said, "we feel we have a very strong case to show the outcomes. For instance, the people that we placed in jobs last year at Job Point earned more collectively than our annual operating budget.

"We're helping people become productive in society and, in many cases, raise themselves out of poverty," he said. "Who can be against that?"

So, while he acknowledges that changes will likely be made, his main priority is ensuring that Job Point continues to receive some sort of funding.

"Let's prioritize programs that perform well and are efficient with their money," he said. "I think there are a number of those organizations in Columbia, not just us."

The Community Development Block Grant is best known for funding Meals on Wheels. In Columbia, though, [Meals on Wheels](#) doesn't receive any federal funding.

“It was a conscious effort on the agency’s part,” said Executive Director JoNetta Weaver of Meals on Wheels. “Because it makes it very difficult for seniors to be able to depend on food.”

Where the proposed budget is concerned, Weaver said, “we’ve been through this before.”

Like Preis, Weaver mentioned the 2013 sequestration. “The same thing was going on (then), and then the budget couldn’t get through all the steps, and that did affect some Meals on Wheels in the United States. Not us,” she said.

“My personal philosophy is that no good business depends on only one funding source,” Weaver said. “Because any funder can decide that they’re going to change where they want their funding to go. And we know that that is a potential, and we should never put ourselves at risk.”

“The message I want the community to hear is, how very perfect (our) model is. It’s people taking care of people. We sometimes get in the mindset of, ‘The government has to take care of us.’ Well, we’re better than that.

“We have to understand that the basic goodness of people does exist and they do step up, and they do take care of their neighbors, and they do advocate for seniors.”

Economic Development Administration

Founded in 1965 under the Public Works and Economic Development Act, the [Economic Development Administration](#) fosters “the conditions for economic growth and improved quality of life by expanding the capacity of individuals, firms, and communities to maximize the use of their talents and skills to support innovation, lower transaction costs, and responsibly produce and trade valuable goods and services.”

Like many organizations, the [Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission](#) receives funds from a variety of federal sources, including the Economic Development Administration and the Community Development Block Grant.

Federal funding “helps offset staff time as we work with communities to develop necessary projects,” said Edward Siegmund, executive director of the commission.

The Monsanto Life Science Business Incubator, the Kemper redevelopment project and an infrastructure improvement project at Discovery Ridge for MU are among the programs that have been funded by the Economic Development Administration, Siegmund said.

“If those funds go away, there’s not going to be funding support for those projects,” Siegmund said. But, he said, he was hopeful that wouldn't happen.

Story continues: http://www.columbiamissourian.com/news/local/trump-s-proposed-budget-could-put-general-community-cohesion-at/article_88d060fa-1561-11e7-a5a6-578fb505f66f.html