



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

April 13, 2017



UM System President Choi responds to letter from AAUP

Watch story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/um-system-president-choi-responds-to-letter-from-aaup/448200675>

By Marie Bowman

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri Faculty Council will meet on Thursday afternoon to hear from multiple campus departments about the proposed budget cuts at MU.

This meeting comes days after the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) wrote a letter to UM System President Choi discussing the dangers of laying off staff.

The AAUP letter to President Choi asked him to re-evaluate layoffs among MU budget cuts.

"The process recently announced for determining cuts to University programs is opaque, evades shared governance and disregards this institution's academic mission as a public land-grant university. We ask that teaching, research and student services, which constitute the core mission of a public land-grant university, be prioritized."

MU Faculty chair, Ben Trachtenberg spoke with ABC 17 News about the letter:

"Whether you agree with every specific detail in the letter or not, I think a lot of faculty are concerned that the budget cuts should not be made by administrators who haven't talked to faculty about what makes sense," Trachtenberg said.

He added that the departure of Interim Chancellor Hank Foley is putting more stress on President Choi.

"Normally a system president might say to the chancellor that it's their job to handle it, but we have a chancellor that is not going to be here the next fiscal year. So it may be the president has a more direct involvement on MU campus than they typically would," Trachtenberg said.

President Choi sent a response to the AAUP, addressing their concerns.

"We want [to] protect the excellent programs that we have and to reduce the number of faculty and staff separations in the process but we are mindful of the size of the cuts that we face. For example, the \$57M in proposed permanent cuts amount to the elimination of the entire School of Engineering, School of Business and the School of Law. We are not going to eliminate these schools but we expect each unit (schools, athletics and administration) to make contributions to address the issues that we face."

MISSOURIAN

MU professor wins Southeastern Conference honor

MORGAN NIEZING, 14 hrs ago

Generated by News Bureau press release: [MU Professor, Researcher James Birchler Receives SEC Professor of the Year Award](#)

COLUMBIA — James Birchler, a curators' distinguished professor of biological sciences at MU, was named by the Southeastern Conference as its Professor of the Year for 2017.

The award is given annually to a professor with a "record of teaching, research and scholarship that distinguishes them in higher education," [according to the website](#) of The Academic Initiative of the SEC. Winners are selected by the Southeastern Conference Provosts from the conference's 14 universities.

Birchler will receive a \$20,000 honorarium and will be recognized at the Southeastern Conference Awards Dinner in June.

He has been a faculty member at the university since 1991. He earned a degree in botany and zoology at Eastern Illinois University before going on to earn a doctorate in genetics at Indiana University.

During his career, he has mentored 41 undergraduate research students, three master's students, 20 Ph.D. students and 35 postdoctoral fellows. He teaches classes in general genetics and advanced plant genetics.

Birchler's research focuses on the structure and function of cells. He created a technique to break down and engineer portions of chromosomes. He also developed a type of technology that accurately visualizes genes and chromosome features.

Birchler co-created the gene balance hypothesis, which predicts how genes interact to determine genetic traits.

He has been admitted into a variety of scientific organizations throughout his career at MU. In 2002, he became a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He became a National Academy of Sciences member in 2011. In 2014, he was named a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors and this year was named a fellow of the American Society of Plant Biologists.

"As the 2017 SEC Professor of the Year, Dr. Birchler stands as an example of the quality and caliber of educator encountered by students throughout their college experience," said Southeastern Conference Commissioner Greg Sankey in a Academic Initiative of the SEC press release. "We are pleased to bestow upon him the highest SEC faculty honor."

THE ST. LOUIS AMERICAN

Black is suddenly back 'in' at Missouri

By Alvin Reid

No too long ago at the University of Missouri, those awful black football players supported those awful black students who were part of that awful Black Lives Matter movement. The threat to boycott a game and the resulting administrative changes led to an awfully lot of money being withdrawn by some boosters who supported Mizzou athletics. It was awful.

At about that same time, Mizzou basketball was beginning the first of two awful seasons. It was former black coach Mike Anderson's fault for his awful decision to jump ship for his dream job at Arkansas. Then, that awful black Frank Haith left the program in shambles and under NCAA scrutiny. It just could not be coach Kim Anderson's fault because he wasn't an awful coach, he just inherited an awful mess and awful players and that led to an awfully lot of losses and empty seats at Mizzou Arena. It was awful.

Now, suddenly, things aren't as awful on the campus. Black is back "in" at Mizzou.

The state can thank Cuonzo Martin and his maneuvers to hire Michael Porter Sr. as an assistant coach and sign the nation's top-rated prep player, Michael Porter Jr. All three are awfully black.

Blake Harris also was granted permission to waive his letter-of-intent to Washington after the school's awful choice to fire Loronzo Romar. There is a chance that five-star forward Kevin Know could join them in Columbia. All three are awfully black.

A Missouri fraternity had their names on the antebellum-style columns outside its house during last weekend's recruiting visit and Harris told Dave Matter of the *Post-Dispatch*, Missouri students and fans gave him a welcome like no other college.

"I haven't seen a fan base like that in my life," he said.

"It was crazy. It was hard to walk anywhere and not get stopped every second. I've been on a few college campuses, but that's never happened. That was shocking. ... I know in the past (Mizzou) had a good basketball tradition even though things went bad the last couple years. But I know they used to be top team. I guess they're ready for a new generation."

Harris will feel awfully discouraged if someone drops an N-word bomb on him while walking that same campus, but it's all good for now.

It would mean an awful lot to Mizzou boosters if the basketball team quickly becomes competitive and returns to the NCAA Tournament. It could help improve the school's awful reputation it has with many black parents throughout Missouri who steer their children away from Columbia.

The University of Missouri is not an awful place. Some of its students and boosters have just had an awfully hard time acknowledging that, as Harris said, it's time for "a new generation."



Tattoo removal technique makes procedures more affordable, safer

This story was generated by an MU News Bureau press release: [Laser-Based Dermatological Procedures Could be Revolutionized with New Technique](#)

Watch story: <http://www.komu.com/news/tattoo-removal-technique-makes-procedures-more-affordable-safer>

By Daytona Everett

COLUMBIA - Tattoos can be a hassle to get rid of, but a new laser removal technology is making the process safer and more effective, doctors say.

A team of MU researchers have come up with an alternative to current laser technology. It's called sonoillumination and uses ultrasonic pulsation and laser light to alter the properties of skin tissues during dermatology procedures.

“We can use it to take advantage of what the ultrasound is able to do and then allow easier access to the light, making treatments more effective and possibly less expensive and definitely safer,” said Nicholas Golda, an associate professor of dermatology, who created the technology along with student Paul J.D. Whiteside and advisor Heather Hunt.

The current laser technology comes with risks, including eye damage for the dermatologist and the patient.

“What they do is they wear these optically dense goggles,” Whiteside said. “The problem is they also block out the target. So if you’re looking at a colored tattoo, you’re not going to be able to see it with the same sort of clarity that you would with your open eyes.”

The sonoillumination technique will ultimately allow doctors to do surgery without the use of glasses, the researchers said.

The team is developing a start-up company to commercialize the technique, according to a press release.

“I think the future is we’re prototyping it into a hand piece and then hopefully we’ll be able to hand it off to a company that does laser dermatology and have them take it to market and really change the way dermatology surgery procedures are done,” Hunt said.

The laser can be used for tattoo removal, hair removal or any other dermatology removals.



KCTV-TV (CBS) – Kansas City, MO

KMOV-TV (CBS) – St. Louis, MO

[Mizzou looks at new technology to identify pain in pets](#)

Updated: Apr 11, 2017 12:20 PM CDT

By Daniel Barnett, Digital Producer, Joe Chiodo, Anchor/Reporter

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Veterinary Motion Analysis Lab Could Lead to Better Treatment for Small Animals, Orthopedic Procedures in Humans](#)

COLUMBIA, MO (KCTV) - Identifying pain in animals is usually difficult and sometimes impossible.

But new technology that just arrived at the University of Missouri, is bringing doctors a step closer.

Researchers and veterinarians at Mizzou say this is the first time such technology has made it's way to Missouri.

And it's here for a reason. The state's dog population is susceptible to orthopedic injuries.

“We have a really large population of agility and working dogs, herding dogs and walking dogs. These guys end up getting really unique injuries that can be very difficult to diagnose,” University of Missouri Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Bryan Torres said.

From police dogs to service dogs, military dogs and farming dogs, these four-legged friends in Missouri do some serious work.

But that work often results in pain. That, Dr. Torres says, is not so easy to fix.

“Our patients don’t speak when you go to the doctor, you can’t tell them how you feel,” Torres said.

Now, a new device, paired with a new motion analysis lab, can identify and measure the force that an animal places as they walk.

The technology can pinpoint exactly where it hurts, show the success of a surgery and determine which therapy practices are helping the animal improve at the fastest rate.

It’s a level of advanced science that hasn’t been seen at Mizzou, until now.

Right now, the technology is being used on smaller dogs.

By simply studying a few dogs, Dr. Torres says they’ll be able to apply their findings to the entire population.

Beyond that, he says what they’re learning will help improve the healing of sports and orthopedic injuries in humans, down the road.



Fox/ABC Affiliate in Binghamton, NY and Dayton, OH

New Veterinary Lab at University of Missouri Can Help Identify Orthopedic Injuries in Service Dogs

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

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=8b5f2428-73ae-47c9-bbf6-fc039fc012a2>

MISSOURIAN

New faculty athletics representative appointed at MU

MORGAN NIEZING, 16 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Longtime MU faculty member Pamela Hinton has been appointed by Interim Chancellor Hank Foley as the new faculty athletics representative starting May 14.

The former faculty athletics representative, Christina Wells, had resigned in February to "devote herself more fully to her teaching and scholarship," according to an MU news release.

The change in leadership comes during an ongoing investigation by MU's Athletics Department into alleged NCAA academic rules violations. Allegations of academic fraud prompted the investigation in November when Yolanda Kumar, a former tutor who worked for the Athletics Department's Total Person Program, said in a Facebook post and in interviews that she took online tests for student athletes.

MU hired Mike Glazier, an Overland Park, Kansas, attorney with expertise in NCAA compliance matters, to lead the investigation.

The faculty athletic representative serves as a liaison to the athletics department to ensure "academic integrity, sound governance, rules compliance and student-athlete welfare," according to a news release from Foley.

"I accepted the FAR position because I believe that athletics and academics can be integrated to enhance both the institution and the experience of individual student-athletes," said Hinton. "I am committed to academic integrity and student-athlete well-being, and the FAR position is a unique opportunity to serve MU and our student-athletes in this regard."

In her new role, Hinton will also represent MU in Southeastern Conference and NCAA affairs. She has been appointed to a five-year term and will report directly to the chancellor. Her payment will include teaching one less course per semester and/or a stipend.

Hinton has previously served as an executive member of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee and as an IAC Compliance Subcommittee chair. She works as an associate professor in the Department of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology and is the director of graduate studies for the department. She came to MU in 2006.

Wells will assist with the transition.



University of Missouri Names a New Faculty Athletic Representative

By Garrett Giles

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley announced a new Faculty Athletic Representative that has been appointed at the University of Missouri today.

Effective May 14th Dr. Pamela Hinton will be the new Faculty Athletic Representative where she'll report directly to the chancellor in her five-year term. Hinton has been the associate

professor of nutrition and exercise physiology and director of Graduate Studies for Nutritional Sciences at Mizzou. She also served as an executive member of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee and was the IAC Compliance Subcommittee Chair.

Hinton will serve as a liaison between the institution and the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics to ensure academic integrity, sound governance, rules compliance and student-athlete welfare. She will also be a representative for Mizzou in Southeastern Conference and NCAA affairs.

Dr. Hinton was a student athlete at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, competing in track and cross country while earning a bachelor's degree in molecular biology, providing her with the firsthand knowledge of the demands placed on student athletes.

the maneater

Facing future budget crunch, new committees look for ways to spend smarter

By Andrew Withers

Since taking office in January, Gov. Eric Greitens has made his intentions clear with regards to the state budget.

“We have to live by the same principle that most Missourians live by,” Greitens said in a Twitter video shortly after his inauguration. “You can’t spend money that you don’t have.”

At a meeting in mid-March, MU officials announced plans for dealing with \$20 million in state-mandated cuts, on top of losing \$36 million in projected tuition fees due to the drop in enrollment last fall. The plans dictate how the university will make up a shortage of funding for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30.

In the state budget, certain programs, such as MU Extension and the School of Medicine, were named as line-item cuts — that is, cuts that dictate both where and by how much money will be reduced.

The plan laid out a blueprint for dealing with the rest of the reductions, a nearly \$17 million cut to MU’s general operating fund to be implemented at the university’s discretion.

But the deficit in future years will likely only grow as state funding and tuition revenue continue to decrease. At the meeting, interim Chancellor Hank Foley announced the creation of two new standing committees, the Resource Allocation Model Committee and the Capital Financing Advisory Committee, in order to begin planning for long-term cuts.

The Resource Allocation Model Committee will oversee the appropriation of the university's existing resources. More specifically, the committee will use metrics and data to advise the chancellor on how best to allocate resources the university already has across campus.

“We are launching the Resource Allocation Model Committee to take up the tasks of exploring how to make the overall best investments with the precious financial resources we have at our disposal,” according to the committee's description on MU's Standing Committees webpage.

The committee will be co-chaired by Vice Chancellor for Finance Rhonda Gibler and Provost Garnett Stokes.

“Vice Chancellor Rhonda Gibler continues to work with the various groups, including faculty council, staff council and student government, to identify the individuals who will sit on the committee,” MU spokesman Christian Basi said in an email.

The Capital Financing Advisory Committee will be more geared toward matters of investment and financing in the future.

“Procedures and plans supportive of development of capital financing options that enhance the university's ability to support its missions” and “screening and prioritization of requests for funds” are among duties listed on the committee's webpage.

The two committees will be staffed by a mix of university faculty, staff and students. The members will be identified through a selection process of administrative and open nominations, which is ongoing.

“It is my goal that we all share jointly the responsibility for making these recommendations that will have lasting impact on the university,” Foley said in an email to students, staff and faculty on March 16.

At a Faculty Council meeting in March, the creation of a third committee that will look at enrollment issues and university income was discussed.

“[Foley's interim Chief of Staff] Brian Millner was put in charge of gathering information and reporting back on ways to intelligently charge tuition by interim Chancellor Foley,” reads the meeting's minutes. “One of three budget committees to come will specifically address enrollment and tuition.”

According to the minutes, the committee's duty will likely be to look for ways to more effectively leverage tuition to ease deficits, although nothing has been officially finalized.

“We hope to have information on that committee out soon,” Basi said in the email.

The committees will be working in the coming months to have a public plan for fiscal year 2018 by the June 2 deadline, according to previous Maneater reporting.

For now, the current fiscal year's budget includes an algorithm for distributing cuts. Money is being withheld from different departments and entities across campus at a rate of .97 percent, proportionate to their yearly allocation. Each department's reserves, which are essentially MU's savings accounts, will be drawn on as well, at a rate of 2.3 percent.

In this way, programs with larger budgets like the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources will shoulder more of the burden (\$1.3 million in cuts) than smaller budget programs like the Truman School of Public Affairs (around \$35,000 in cuts).

State revenue for fiscal year 2016 had been projected to grow 2.8 percent. In reality, it only grew 0.9 percent, creating a much tighter budget situation than anticipated.

According to the Missouri Budget Project, a likely reason for the dropoff was a reduction in corporate income taxes. In 2015, the state took in \$436 million in corporate tax dollars; in 2016, it took in \$281 million, a 36 percent drop. This could have been due to a series of laws passed last year that made Missouri a more tax-friendly business environment for corporations.



Missouri Senate Budget Leader Wants to Put a Break on Budget Plans

Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Dan Brown said yesterday that he wants to put a break on House plans to provide K-12 schools the full amount of basic aid called for under state law.

Brown says he wants to wait because the House budget plan depends on a proposal to eliminate a tax break for seniors and disabled renters.

Brown also disagrees with a House decision to cut money for most colleges and universities by about 6.6 percent and slash the University of Missouri System 9 percent.

But Brown and House members both want to undo cuts to school transportation funding proposed by Gov. Eric Greitens.



Collaboration key to making Greene County work

OP-ED BY BOB CIRTIN, GREENE COUNTY PRESIDING COMMISSIONER

Most citizens likely regard Greene County as simply the geographical location in which their town is situated. Some only perceive our influence when they're paying taxes or after a particularly frustrating experience. Every once in a while, I will get a letter or email praising the work of our Highway Department crews, sheriff's deputies or commending the County Clerk's Office on a smooth election.

We like hearing that what we do has an impact. And it has been my privilege as presiding commissioner to see our employees in action as they strive to make Greene County government efficient while providing outstanding customer service.

These boots-on-the-ground folks are taking up the tasks that taxpayers have entrusted us with, like implementing our criminal justice system, maintaining roads and bridges, ensuring safe building practices and acting as documentarians for the most important moments in your lives.

The same hardworking individuals also embody the spirit of collaboration that makes the county a great place to work. Some of the best examples of that collaboration can be found in the efforts between our employees and those of other local organizations. Here are a few of these partnerships:

Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management

Greene County's growing reputation as one of the most disaster-resilient communities in America is maintained through a collaborative, county-wide approach. It is a coordinated effort that includes the participation of many local organizations and public safety partners. Greene County's commitment to seeing a disaster through to its final stages enables citizens to more effectively recover from its impact.

Springfield-Greene County Health Department

Collaborative efforts of the Springfield-Greene County Health Department spans back to the early 1950s, when the Health Department and the County Commission began an integration of programmatic services serving people no matter where they live in the county. These efforts culminated in 1977 with the formation of one consolidated city-county health department. Thanks to this continuing cooperative venture, all citizens of Greene County have access to these and other services no matter where they reside and without duplication of services.

Springfield-Greene County Park Board

The Park Board manages and operates many properties and programs throughout Springfield and unincorporated Greene County, including Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center, Rivercut Golf Course, the Botanical Center, Ozark Greenways trails, Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park and more. The board partners with Greene County Sheriff's Posse to provide training and education, and they share the county's lead paleontologist at Riverbluff Cave/Missouri Institute of Natural Science.

Springfield-Greene County 9-1-1 Emergency Communications

The current 9-1-1 system in Springfield and Greene County is a collaborative effort that merged two separate dispatch centers in 2002 to address increasing equipment costs, infrastructure needs and lack of appropriate funding. This led to the passage of a 9-1-1 tax in 2007 and a new state-of-the-art dispatch center located in the Greene County Public Safety Center. The vision of our county and city leaders helped pave the way to ensure the future safety of our citizens.

Greene County-University of Missouri Extension

By working closely with the Greene County Commission for nearly 80 years, the University of Missouri Extension Council has been able to leverage the investment of extension specialists to create real and significant impacts for the County. MU Extension programs:

- Made 111,296 educational contacts in Greene County during 2016
- Provided more than 40,000 children and adults in Greene County with information on new, healthy, nutritious and affordable foods
- Saved more than 1,000 county jobs
- Helped start five new businesses
- Impacted nearly 300 rural youth through 4-H program
- Issued research-based education for more than 220 farmers in the county
- Produced more than 42,000 volunteer hours

Greene County Medical Examiner's Office

The Greene County Medical Examiner's Office is operated through a cooperative contract with the University of Missouri, Columbia, to perform Greene County autopsies at a Springfield location. This collaboration allows autopsies to be performed locally for a much better turnaround time for our citizen's families.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

St. Louis is one of many cities hitting roadblocks at statehouses

By Austin Huguelet St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 15 hrs ago

JEFFERSON CITY • As the Missouri House moved once again last week to overturn one of his city's ordinances, this time one protecting women who have had abortions, Rep. Michael Butler, D-St. Louis, turned to a higher power.

He pointed to House Speaker Todd Richardson, R-Poplar Bluff, and paraphrased Exodus 9:1: "This is the second or third time this session that we're going to do something that affects something only in St. Louis," he said. "Pharoah, let my people go."

Most of the chamber ignored the invocation, voting 118-36 to nix the ordinance.

But the desperation of Butler's message reflects a growing trend among liberal cities yearning to push progressive ideas, only to find themselves bound to red-state lawmakers.

With Republicans in full control of nearly two-thirds of state legislatures, both houses of Congress and now the White House, city halls have become the last bulwark of Democratic power in most places between the coasts.

And with little hope for cooperation with pro-business and socially conservative state lawmakers, mayors and city councils have adopted their own rules raising minimum wages, decriminalizing marijuana and extending discrimination protections for LGBT residents.

Statehouses are fighting back.

At least 12 states, including Missouri, have [passed legislation preempting local minimum wage laws](#) in the past four years. Fifteen states [bar cities from mandating employers](#) to provide paid leave. Missouri is looking to join 32 others banning local rules on ride-hailing companies like Uber and three others blocking anti-discrimination laws.

Some states offer protections for their big industries, as Texas and Oklahoma have for fracking. Thirteen states keep municipalities from setting rules on agricultural operations.

And in Arizona, any state legislator can freeze funding to a city he or she believes is getting out of line with state law.

Frustration among cities

Preemption has precedent in many states. The National Rifle Association began working on statehouses to eliminate local gun control laws in the 1970s and now has legislation passed in 43 states. The tobacco industry got laws passed preempting smoke-free policies in more than a dozen states.

But the recent rebukes have frustrated municipal officials who feel like they're the ones who know the needs of their city and its people best.

Charlotte's ordinance establishing legal protections for LGBT residents drew nationwide attention last year when an outraged North Carolina legislature overruled it and barred transgender people from using the bathroom matching their gender identity for nearly a year. The ordinance's opponents said Charlotte's liberal idealism was going to end up [providing sexual predators access to women's restrooms](#).

But City Councilwoman LaWana Mayfield said the ordinance was a carefully considered response to transgender residents' complaints about harassment in restaurants and other public places. Council members found similar protections in more than 200 other cities, including nearby economic competitor Charleston, S.C., and at major area employers like Bank of America.

"We have the right to protect our citizens and welcome the people who come here to visit," Mayfield said, "and is our duty to take a stand for our community and say we don't tolerate hate here."

In St. Louis, Alderman Megan Green, 15th Ward, had similar reasons for supporting a minimum wage increase and [pushing protections for women](#) who have had an abortion, use contraceptives or are pregnant.

"St. Louis is a progressive city, and people move here and work here because of that," she said. "We have a bigger, more diverse population that has different needs, and those need to be respected."

Fighting a patchwork of rules

But where city officials see pragmatic policy, state lawmakers and business interests find rebellion.

They say their economic intervention keeps cities from creating a patchwork of rules that are confusing and unfair to businesses and their employees.

"When cities enact these unilateral wage laws, they're making things more expensive for businesses who aren't seeing any additional revenue," said Ray McCarty, a lobbyist for the business group Associated Industries of Missouri. "That means businesses may not be able to afford as many jobs."

As for overriding social justice policies, lawmakers say they're protecting the rights of residents threatened by unchecked liberal activists.

"There are some municipalities who feel they're not very well represented in the state," said Rep. Jason Chipman, R-Steelville, who is sponsoring a bill to block St. Louis's minimum wage hike. "But it's the state's job to protect all of its citizens, not just the ones outside where they want to create their little bubbles."

That kind of rhetoric often confirms for local officials that their capitols do not care what they think, despite the outsize contributions their cities make to state economies.

"Tennessee couldn't pay the bills in this state without Nashville and Memphis," said Dave Rosenberg, a Nashville metro councilman. And yet the state legislature forbade local tobacco ordinances, a rule against guns in parks and a minimum wage increase — and now has Rosenberg's marijuana decriminalization ordinance in its crosshairs.

"It tells the people in here that their opinions don't matter because it's not something a legislator wants in their community," he said.

States trump cities

But Chipman is legally correct. The U.S. Constitution only recognizes the states and federal government; cities are created, chartered and governed by the states.

"If the state wanted to abolish all political subdivisions and govern everything directly, it could," University of Missouri law professor Richard Ruben said.

St. Louis has expansive home rule powers that allow it to effectively govern itself, Ruben added. But that doesn't mean it can ignore state law.

The political divide between urban liberals and rural, conservative legislators will likely continue, said Brooks Rainwater, director of the Center for City Solutions at the National League of Cities.

"And that's unfortunate, because we're all dealing with the same problems of poverty, opioid addiction, affordable housing and making a living wage," he said. "But instead of having leaders over here working with leaders other there, we're just pitting them against each other."



A Marketplace in Confusion

New York's private colleges and universities don't know what to expect under the state's free tuition program for students attending public colleges.

NO MU MENTION

BY RICK SELTZER APRIL 13, 2017

New York's freshly signed free public tuition program puts the squeeze on many of the state's weakest private colleges and universities.

Private college presidents know it. But most aren't yet sure what to do about it.

Those presidents reacted with a mix of dismay, confusion, criticism and, in some cases, resolve in the days after New York leaders struck a deal to start a tuition-free public college program this fall. The creation of a program in New York caps a winding and unexpected path for the free-college idea, which New York Governor Andrew Cuomo proposed early this year after it appeared to have died with Hillary Clinton's presidential bid. Cuomo held a ceremonial bill signing for the program Wednesday, which Clinton attended.

The program, called the Excelsior Scholarship, will allow New York residents from families earning up to \$125,000 per year to attend the state's public community colleges and four-year colleges without paying tuition. It will go into effect this fall for students who are newly enrolling at institutions in the State University of New York and City University of New York systems and who come from families with incomes of up to \$100,000 per year. The income limit will jump to \$110,000 in fall 2018 and \$125,000 in 2019. Cuomo's office estimates that about 940,000 families in the state will be eligible at that point.

The program poses a significant challenge for New York's many small private institutions, which suddenly find themselves facing a new kind of competition and increasing inter-sector warfare in the state. The pressure will be highest on tuition-dependent colleges and universities that already compete for students in part by heavily discounting their tuition and that draw most of their students from inside the state. More prestigious colleges and universities, which pull in more students from out of state and are more selective in their admissions, are less likely to feel a major pinch.

But experts warned that all private institutions in New York should take this moment to evaluate their strategies for the future. Some will have to find ways to keep the doors open in a suddenly more competitive landscape, and all should be aware of where they stand in a market that has suddenly been upended.

"I think the only outcome that's certain from this initiative is that it has thrown the marketplace into confusion," said Charles L. Flynn Jr., president of the College of Mount Saint Vincent. The college, located in the Bronx, draws about 80 percent of its 1,600 undergraduates from within New York State.

"We don't know how it would work, we don't know how it can work and we certainly don't know how it will affect individual families," Flynn said of the free-college program.

Private colleges would seem to have a few strategies available if they want to attract students who are newly considering public institutions. One is that they could throw more financial aid at students who are on the fence.

Not everyone has the money available, however. Mount Saint Vincent already has a freshman tuition discount rate in the high 50 percent range, Flynn said. The national average tuition discount rate for first-time, full-time freshmen is 48.6 percent, according to the most recent report from the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

“How can I go above that?” he said. “We don’t have a lot more aid to throw.”

Story [continues.](#)