



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

April 14, 2017

MISSOURIAN

[MU Faculty Council passes resolution supporting nontenure-track faculty](#)

ANDREW KESSEL, 11 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — [The MU Faculty Council took a stand for nontenure-track faculty at its Thursday meeting.](#)

The council unanimously approved a resolution that supports additional protections for NTT faculty. The decision follows an [April 3 email](#) from University of Missouri System President Mun Choi that said layoffs to staff and NTT faculty might be part of budgets cuts made for fiscal year 2018. Gov. Eric Greitens proposed [cutting \\$40 million](#) from the UM System budget, and his proposal is working its way through the state legislature. Choi's email said the system will need to cut 8 to 12 percent of its budget as a result.

Most significantly, the resolution supports honoring current NTT faculty contracts. Many NTT faculty are on [single-year contracts](#), and UM System rules and regulations require they be given at least three months notice if they aren't being renewed unless "[extenuating circumstances exist.](#)"

That three month point has passed, Nicole Monnier, co-chair of the MU Nontenure Track Faculty Committee, told councilmembers. At this point, it's a matter of respect.

"Unfortunately, I think we're in unusual circumstances," Monnier said. "I hope that they are not so unusual that they would breach common decency and respect for their fellow human beings."

NTT faculty make up 43 percent of faculty at MU, and three schools — Journalism, Medicine and Health Professions — are a majority NTT faculty.

Choi's email cast NTT faculty as "add-ons," or, less important, which couldn't be farther from the truth Monnier said. The average NTT faculty member has been at MU for 10.9 years, she said, and NTT faculty play crucial roles within their departments.

If NTT faculty are laid off, their responsibilities would be added to tenure and tenure-track faculty instead, she said. What's more, laying them off this late in the year makes it difficult to find new jobs in time for the next academic year, she said.

The faculty council itself doesn't have the authority to change system-wide rules and regulations, but the resolution announces its endorsement of the changes.

In addition to honoring NTT contracts, the resolution supports the following:

- Development of a clear campus/system policy for NTT faculty in the event of layoffs or program closures before any such layoffs or closures occur.
- NTT faculty be granted the same compensation for layoffs granted to tenured and tenure-track faculty and staff.
- NTT faculty with at least 10 years on campus be offered any voluntary early retirement benefits offered to tenured and tenure-track faculty and staff.
- Rolling contracts for NTT faculty after an initial probationary period, as opposed to the year by year renewal system.

Also at the Thursday meeting, council chairman Ben Trachtenberg announced that the search for a new dean for the MU Truman School of Public Affairs has been called off. The school will still be open in the fall, he said.



MU faculty council unanimously votes to endorse resolution on layoffs of NTT faculty

By Alyssa Toomey

The MU faculty council unanimously voted to endorse a proposal related to layoffs of non-tenure track-or NTT-faculty at their meeting Thursday.

The resolution from the MU Non-Tenure Track Faculty Committee included additional protections for NTT faculty as they face the possibility of layoffs while the university deals with unprecedented budget cuts from the state.

"What we are faced with at the very least is a potential for non-renewal," Nicole Monnier, Teaching Professor of Russian, said during the meeting. "The NTTs are afraid and given the reality of our situation we have reason to be afraid."

The MU Non-Tenure Track Faculty Committee asked the MU Faculty Council to support the following:

- that current contracts (presumptive or formal) for ranked NTT faculty be honored for the coming academic year
- that the campus/UM System come up with appropriate layoff/separation procedures for ranked NTT faculty with 3+ years of service before layoffs begin
- that campus/UM System come up with an appropriate policy for ranked NTT faculty affected by program closure
- that ranked NTT faculty with 10+ years of service be included in any early retirement or voluntary "separation" programs offered to faculty or staff
- that ranked NTT faculty be included in any additional benefits offered to tenure/tenure-track faculty or staff as inducements or compensation for separations or layoffs.

The resolution came in response to an April 3 letter sent to MU faculty and staff. The letter said fiscal challenges will require an overall budget cut between 8% and 12% throughout the University of Missouri System.

It also detailed the campus process for addressing the budget cuts. It said budget cuts will not be across the board and could include "separation of staff and faculty (this may include layoffs of staff and NTT faculty but does not include separation of T/TT faculty)."

Each school or division is responsible for balancing its budget. As a result of the fiscal challenges, some leaders have already started restructuring their departments, including layoffs.

Last week, MU's Division of Operations informed 20 employees that they will be laid off. MU spokesperson Christian Basi said employees who were laid off will "be provided transition benefits, and they will receive priority consideration to be rehired as positions become available."

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MU colleges brace for budget cuts with changes to faculty, resources

By Zia Kelly

Vacant faculty positions and changes to research funding and classroom resources are among the effects schools and colleges may see after the most recent round of budget cuts.

After the state legislature announced a \$20 million withholding from the university's budget for fiscal year 2017, each academic and administrative unit must cut a set amount of their budget based on their funding from university and reserve accounts.

The MU School of Medicine has the largest required cut, at \$3.1 million, followed by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, with \$1.4 million. Deans and division administrators have until the end of June to determine how the cuts will be made within their units.

For the School of Nursing, plans to construct a new building may be put on hold. Dean Judith Fitzgerald Miller said that half of the school's \$431,000 in required cuts will come out of the school's plant fund, which typically goes toward capital projects like new facilities, and the other half will be pulled from the school's reserve funds.

"The future contemporary structure to prepare more nurses for the state and nation may be delayed," Fitzgerald Miller said in an email about how the cuts may affect students in the school.

The School of Health Professions is taking a different approach. Within the school, the \$215,000 mandated cut was distributed among the school's six departments using the same formula that the chancellor's office used to determine the allocation of the whole \$20 million. Megan Gill, the school's director of communications, said the school will prioritize jobs within the school and funding for its clinical operations.

“There are parts of our school that the Columbia and Boone County community rely on quite a bit for services, and obviously we don’t want to diminish the services we’re about to provide to the community,” she said.

She said that since enrollment within the school has been stable and it has an adequate amount in reserves, she is not aware of any specific programs that will be affected by this round of cuts.

Some units, like the School of Medicine, will be pulling their entire allocated amount out of reserve funds. MU Health spokeswoman Mary Jenkins said that though the school considers the \$3.1 million it’s required to cut significant, they have not identified any programs that will be cut because of the state withholding.

The College of Education will also be pulling their whole amount out of reserve funds, according to an email from Dean Kathryn Chval. She said this could affect research and teaching resources for some faculty members.

“In some cases, faculty who had reserve funds will not have these funds to support their research and teaching,” she said in the email. “Some faculty, staff and administrators will experience increased workloads in FY 2018.”

Chval said the college will not be replacing some faculty or professional staff positions. This includes two faculty members who left last semester, two faculty members who will leave after this semester and five staff retirements so far.

However, she said the college prepared for further budget reductions during the 5 percent mandated cuts that took place before the 2016-17 academic year and that students and student services will not be impacted during this round of cuts.

Although reserve funds function much like a savings account and do not go toward the general operating costs for departments, MU spokesman Christian Basi said reserve funds are often earmarked for projects or future purchases within departments, but drawing on them does still impact the departments.

Some units are still reviewing their required withholding. James Rikoon, dean of the College of Human Environmental Sciences, said the cuts will be finalized over the next two weeks.

“Of course no division can subtract more than a quarter of a million dollars without affecting programs, either immediately or in the future, but certainly we will do our best to protect our most important assets — our students, staff and faculty,” he said in an email.



Search for dean of Truman School of Public Affairs suspended

COLUMBIA, Mo. - **The search for the dean of the Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri is now suspended.**

According to Christian Basi, the spokesperson for MU, Provost Stokes wanted to have more conversations about the "future direction of the school." Basi says they had a strong candidate pool.

MU says it is a critical time and this is an important decision they do not want to rush.

The Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs released the following statement:

"Dear TPSA Colleagues:

I wanted to provide an update on the search for a new dean for the Truman School of Public Affairs. First, I want to offer my thanks to Dean Kathryn Chval and the members of the search committee for the time and effort they have invested. I was very pleased that the candidate pool yielded some strong finalists, and as a result, I made the decision to invite three candidates to campus for interviews. Unfortunately, two of the three finalists did not accept our invitation to interview.

After careful consideration, I have decided that it is best to stop the search and identify an interim leader for service following Dean Wechsler's retirement. I will confer with various groups in the school, on campus and externally, to get thoughts about the best path forward. In the near future, my office will be scheduling small group meetings within the School. I am interested in broad input. Whatever route we take, we must focus on excellence in advancing Mizzou's mission in a unified and compelling way.

I look forward to working with you as we plan the future of the Truman School of Public Affairs during this time of leadership transition.

Sincerely,
Garnett

Garnett S. Stokes
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs"



[Tax Season a Learning Experience for MU Students](#)

This story was generated by an MU News Bureau press release: [MU VITA Sites Open, Provide Free Tax Preparation Help](#)

By Taylor Kinnerup

With Tax Day just around the corner, some University of Missouri departments are turning tax season into a learning experience for students.

The University of Missouri Extension, Personal Financial Planning Department and MU School of Law have been providing a free program to help students and families who made \$60,000 or less this past year, through a personal finance class.

VITA, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, gives IRS certified finance students real-world customer service experience.

“Most of our students are personal financial planning students and they’ll take this experience and when they go out and actually do financial planning they’ll have learned how to talk to people about money because that is such a taboo,” course instructor Andrew Zumwalt said. “It’s great to get that experience now versus when you’re with an employer and a bad customer service response could be your job.”

Students on both sides of the program see the benefit as well, according to Andrew Porter, an IRS certified student helping people file their taxes. He said he appreciates the hands-on experience.

“When you get hands on experience you just overall you pick everything up quicker and I think I have a better understanding of taxes than I would if I were just talking about it in class,” Porter said.

Anna Bradley is another student getting a lesson in taxes this year, but not as a part of the course. This is Bradley’s first time filing taxes in Missouri and she said this program is important.

“Actually, I’m the only one of all my friends doing their own taxes this year,” Bradley said. “I mean we’re 21 now, we’re kind of grown now. You should be able to do this stuff on your own and find your own way how to do it. So, I think it’s important for students to learn how to do their taxes without their parents help.”

Assistance sites opened in January at the beginning of the semester. The last day for free tax assistance is Saturday April 15 at 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the MU Office for Financial Success in Stanley Hall.



APRIL 13, 2017 3:18 PM

Student journalists’ rights: Bill would strengthen free-speech shield in Missouri

BY ALLISON PECORIN
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JEFFERSON CITY -As Kansas celebrates the successful takedown of an allegedly unaccredited principal by six student journalists, Missouri lawmakers have been working on legislation that would give Missouri students the same journalistic protections as their peers across the state line.

The bill, which passed out of the House in March, would expand the freedom of student journalists by placing stricter limits on the kinds of content that administrators are allowed to restrict in student publications. It now awaits debate in the Senate.

Kansas adopted these protections for student journalists in 1992.

Rep. Kevin Corlew, a Kansas City Republican who sponsored the bill, said the additional protections show student journalists that their First Amendment rights matter.

“I think it’s important that we have active truth finders and fact finders,” Corlew said. “And student journalists are learning that.”

The current law, which allows administrators to censor anything that they consider to be “sensitive material,” was established by a landmark Missouri case that made it up to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The [1988 Hazelwood decision](#) determined that public school students do not have full First Amendment rights in school-sponsored publications.

Almost 30 years later, Missouri is looking to change that.

Sandy Davidson, a lawyer and professor of communications law at the University of Missouri, said legislators have the power to grant additional protections to students that are not outlined in the Supreme Court decision.

“Sometimes I think that just having a statement can make kind of an atmosphere difference, even if the legal machinery is not optimum,” Davidson said. “Having the legislature make a statement saying that free speech for students in the state of Missouri is important will be a contribution.”

The bill outlines a few exemptions that would permit censorship of student work: stories that are libelous, invade privacy, violate law or incite a clear and present danger.

Davidson said that while the bill is not a fail-safe, it does create leeway for both high school and collegiate journalists.

“This law perhaps could give a little bit of breathing space for student journalists,” Davidson said.

That’s breathing space that Mitch Eden, newspaper adviser for [The Kirkwood Call](#) at Kirkwood High School in St. Louis County, said is essential for both students and advisers.

Eden, who brought a group of high school students to testify in favor of the bill a few weeks ago, said he frequently hears about censorship issues from advisers at other high schools. Without First Amendment protections for students, Eden said, journalism programs die.

“The worst type of censorship is self-censorship, when the kids say, ‘Oh, we could never do that,’ and the program dies,” Eden said. Then “they’re producing scrapbooks for yearbooks and their newspapers are PR.”

He also said that censorship discourages students from pursuing careers in journalism.

Corlew said he hopes his bill changes that.

“I think it will show that we think that (journalism) is a very important career to go into,” Corlew said.

“Not only as a career but as a function of our democracy.”

This is the second time Missouri has considered this bill. Last year, the bill garnered support from Tim Tai, a University of Missouri student who made it into the national spotlight when an MU faculty member, Melissa Click, [tried to prevent him from photographing](#) campus protests.

The bill made it out of the House but was never debated on the Senate floor.

There is a national movement pushing states to adopt these additional media protections for students. So far, [at least 11 states](#) have adopted some form of additional protection for student journalists.

Corlew said he's optimistic the bill will receive support in the Senate. Eden, who has been advocating for this sort of protection for years, said he, too, remains hopeful.

"I think the state can send a very strong message to scholastic journalism students and advisers that we value the First Amendment and we believe in you," Eden said. "We're going to give them hope that they can actually thrive in their schools' journalism programs."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

[Cattle that fled St. Louis slaughterhouse get vet care at Mizzou](#)

By Ashley Lisenby St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 8 hrs ago

ST. LOUIS • The six steers that famously escaped a north St. Louis slaughterhouse are getting veterinary treatment and temporary housing at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Chico and his cattle companions are receiving medical attention from experts at the Veterinary Health Center at Mizzou, The Gentle Barn Foundation co-founder Jay Weiner said Thursday.

One of the cattle, named Spirit, is in need of the most care right now, Weiner said. The steer is reportedly experiencing nasal discharge, labored breathing and pain in his back feet.

The Gentle Barn's goal is to keep all six animals together to minimize anxiety, Weiner said.

"They've gone through an ordeal together. They've depended on each other to be OK," he said. "We think keeping them together will make them feel more comfortable."

When the cattle [escaped Star Packing Co. in March](#), donors turned to crowdfunding campaigns on [GoFundMe](#) to help liberate the animals and find them a safe place to live.

After some confusion over where the cattle would go and when, \$15,000 raised by a different fundraising campaign helped The Gentle Barn Foundation buy the cattle.

Weiner said his organization paid \$12,200 for the six steers. The remaining funds went to help pay for transportation to a temporary facility and their other needs, he said.

The Gentle Barn created a GoFundMe page Wednesday to raise money for veterinary care, food and boarding. Donors raised nearly \$10,000 of the \$22,500 being sought as of Thursday evening.

David Backes, formerly of the St. Louis Blues and with the Boston Bruins, and his wife, Kelly Backes, committed to a \$15,000 match donation.

While Weiner has said it is possible the cattle may find a home at one of its sanctuaries in Tennessee or California, he said Thursday that he would prefer to keep the cattle local. He said partnering with a Missouri farm sanctuary might be an option.

“We’re looking at all aspects, including opening a farm in the region,” Weiner said.

The organization rescues horses, donkeys, pigs, sheep, goats, turkeys, chickens, llamas, peacocks, emus, cats and dogs as well as cows. Weiner said the group also works with disadvantaged children on its ranches.

Growing trends argue against any real need for smoking bans

By Cynthia Allen

The Arlington City Council has taken a major step toward further increasing regulations on smoking.

With the exception of bingo halls, which received a last-minute exemption, and a short list of specified areas like smoke shops, all public and private areas that are accessible to the public or “a substantial group of the public” would be designated smoke-free under a ban tentatively approved by the council Tuesday.

The added regulations, which still require a second vote (scheduled for later this month), would extend a no-smoking designation to include nightclubs, bowling centers, billiard halls, sexually oriented businesses and other workplaces that currently permit smoking under an exemption in the existing ordinance.

The new restrictions would allow Arlington to call itself a “100% Smoke Free City,” based on criteria set by the World Health Organization.

Admittedly, such a designation would be nice for marketing purposes, or as one speaker at Tuesday’s council meeting put it, might enhance “Arlington’s reputation as a safe, innovative and progressive community,” but the classification probably doesn’t carry much in the way of material benefits.

Practically speaking, if you’re a smoker, the regulatory change would further limit the places you could light up — or even turn on your electronic cigarette — when you’re out and about in Arlington.

It might mean you patronize your favorite pub with less frequency, perhaps resulting in reduced profit and employment, as some smoking ban opponents argue.

Or it might mean you smoke fewer cigarettes each day, as some ban proponents contend.

But if you’re a non-smoker, the new regulations probably won’t change your life much.

That’s because smoking restrictions are already quite extensive, and if you’re anything like me, you already avoid the few private establishments that allow smoking in the first place.

To wit, shortly after moving to Fort Worth, my husband and I went out one evening. After about five minutes sitting next to a table of people chain-smoking in the first bar we entered, we left and found a restaurant where smoking was not permitted.

The bar suited the smokers; the restaurant suited us.

People tend to self-select the environments that fit their needs.

The free market tends to sort these things out.

That's also true with the labor market.

Many smoking ban proponents argue that employees of establishments where smoking is permitted are subject to "negative externalities," i.e. second-hand smoke.

I'm sensitive to this assertion.

But as Thomas Lambert, an associate professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law argues, "a vast body of empirical evidence" shows that employees are compensated by their employers with "risk/unpleasantness premiums" that mitigate any "inefficiencies and injustices" of smoke exposure.

In other words, a waitress in a bar that allows smoking will get paid more than a waitress in a non-smoking one.

If she desires a smoke-free environment, she can seek work elsewhere.

And since current trends suggest fewer Americans are smoking, it's likely that even without smoking bans, fewer establishments will allow smoking at all. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control, smoking has been in decline for the last several decades.

In the 1960s more than 40 percent of adults smoked. In 2014, only 17 percent did.

It stands to reason that as smoking becomes less fashionable, businesses will be less likely to accommodate them, a phenomenon that will rely on market forces and not government intervention.

When the vast majority of patrons are non-smokers, making establishments smoke-free will improve bottom lines.

I enjoy smoke-free environments, and I'm glad that as a society we are moving in that direction, but I'm skeptical of policies designed to force what appears to be a natural trend.

Other North Texas cities, no doubt, will debate more comprehensive smoking bans.

I would remind them that more government is not always the best policy.