



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

May 8, 2017

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Freshman enrollment at Mizzou to take a steep drop in August

From staff reports, May 6, 2017

The University of Missouri-Columbia is expecting at least a 14-percent decline in incoming freshmen this fall, resulting in its smallest class in nearly two decades.

Administrators project that about 4,000 freshmen will enroll in August. That's down by [about 700 students from 2016](#) and significantly lower than in 2015, when more than 6,000 enrolled.

The shrinking numbers have been tied at least partly to the protests on campus in 2015 that followed reports of racism on and near campus.

The school issued a news release Friday afternoon that mentions the enrollment decline only indirectly.

"A class of this size gives us the ability to think carefully about our long-term enrollment planning," said Garnett Stokes, interim chancellor, in a prepared statement.

"As part of our planning process, we will be determining the optimum freshman class size for Fall 2018 and future years. This will help us develop and create strong and renewable resources, targeting our students' best interests as we educate the future leaders of our state and nation."

The news release focuses on the university's success in retaining students, with 94 percent re-enrolling. The school also said it is maintaining high academic quality, with incoming freshmen posting an average ACT score of 25.5.

Last week, curators of the University of Missouri four-campus system were alerted to [a \\$9 million expected decline](#) in tuition revenue at Mizzou. At the time, enrollment estimates were not available.

The financial strain is on top of state budget reductions from Jefferson City.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Mizzou sees freshman enrollment drop — again

BY DONALD BRADLEY

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For the second year in a row, the University of Missouri expects to see a drop in fall's freshman enrollment.

School officials said Friday that 4,009 freshman have paid deposits for the 2017 fall semester.

The [2016 freshman class of 4,772 students](#) was down 22.9 percent from 2015.

Last year, the university attributed the decrease partly to student protests of perceived racial insensitivity by the administration. The [unrest in the fall of 2015](#), which drew national media attention, included a student's hunger strike, a threatened boycott by the football team and, ultimately, the resignation of former University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

Overall, enrollment on the Columbia campus is at its lowest since 2010. This year, it's 33,266, down 2,182 from last year, a 6.2 percent drop.

Officials on Friday gave no reasons for this fall's freshman enrollment drop. They did tout high retention numbers and ACT scores.

In a news release, Pelema Morrice, vice provost for enrollment management, said: "The average ACT of our incoming freshman class will be above 25.5, which tells us that some of the brightest students in Missouri know that Mizzou will help them with their career goals."



Admissions Coverage -- Elsewhere and Here

Mizzou's shrinking class, annoying Ivy hype, a worthy prom date, TOEFL scam..

BY SCOTT JASCHIK MAY 8, 2017

Missing at Mizzou

Many colleges rush this time of year to boast of record numbers of students sending in deposits for the class enrolling this fall.

The University of Missouri at Columbia's press release notes that about 4,000 freshmen are expected. Further, the press release quotes the interim chancellor saying that "a class of this size gives us the ability to think carefully about our long-term enrollment planning." That may be true, but Missouri newspapers drew attention to what the press release largely glossed over, pointing out what The St. Louis Post-Dispatch called a "steep drop."

The current projections for the fall class would represent a 14 percent drop from a year ago. And that total was a drop from 2015, when about 6,000 enrolled. The Columbia Daily Tribune noted that there are visible signs of the decline on campus. Three dormitories are being mothballed.

Generally articles attribute the declines to the protests of minority students and others two years ago over a range of issues. While Mizzou's protests were indeed among the most visible, do readers have thoughts on why the declines would be so steep there when other colleges that had intense protests are not seeing such declines?

Ivy Hype: Is This Really a Success?

This time of year many publications feature a certain genre of article: "Local teen admitted to all eight Ivies" (and usually 20 other colleges too). Here are some of them, including some who only got into seven of the eight: [Here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#), to cite just a few of the many examples out there.

No doubt these are talented young people who deserve to be applauded. But is it remotely logical for these students (or anyone) to apply to all the Ivy League colleges? Dartmouth College and Columbia University both have much to praise about them, but they are different in so many ways that someone just applying to both as they are Ivies would seem to perhaps not be getting the best advice. Similarly to those boasting about getting into 20 or more colleges (Ivies plus

equally prestigious counterparts)... Most college counselors could help students like that apply to a more limited number, still including their dream college and a safety or two.

And constant articles about the very best students applying to more colleges than they need just encourages more fear and irrational behavior by students and their parents.

And important reminder this time of year: Re-read the National Association for College Admission Counseling's most recent State of College Admission report, which says (as it does every year) that most colleges admit most of those who apply.

A Harvard Admit to Watch

While we frown on all the stories of the glory of getting a Yes from Cambridge, here's a piece we liked from Mic:

No one asked Priscilla Samey to prom. So she took her Harvard University acceptance packet, and quipped that her date "was pretty low maintenance, so I didn't have to pay for his dinner."

TOEFL Scams

Inside Higher Ed has considerable interest this week in news about the arrest of four Chinese nationals on charges of engaging in fraud on admissions tests that allowed three of them to obtain admissions to American universities and visas to study in the United States. A Justice Department announcement said that one of the four, a student at the Hult International Business School, in Massachusetts, took the TOEFL exam and reported her scores as if they were the scores of the three others. TOEFL is among the tests taken by international students to demonstrate sufficient English language proficiency to succeed at American colleges. Based on those TOEFL scores, the Justice Department said, the other three were admitted to Arizona State University, Northeastern University and Pennsylvania State University's Erie campus. Then the three were able to get student visas.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

University of Missouri confirms smallest freshman class in 20 years

May 5, 2017

By [Rudi Keller](#)

The University of Missouri confirmed Friday that the incoming freshman class on the Columbia campus will shrink by almost 17 percent, making it the smallest in almost 20 years as the school continues to suffer steep enrollment losses.

Other four-year universities in Missouri that responded to inquiries from the Tribune are expecting slight enrollment gains or modest losses. At MU, figures point to a drop in fall enrollment of 5 percent or more to follow a decline in the current year of 6.2 percent.

In a news release, MU touted the academic qualities of the class of about 4,000 that it expects to enroll in August but made no comparisons to previous years. The 4,009 students who paid a \$300 enrollment fee have an average ACT of 25.5, the release said.

In August, 4,780 first-time college students entered MU as freshmen, a decline of almost 23 percent from 2015. MU has not enrolled a class of first-time freshmen smaller than 4,000 since before 2000. For five years, the actual enrollment in August has been within 100 of the number of incoming students who paid the fee by May 1.

Along with declining enrollment, the university will see cuts in state funding and is working under a directive from UM System President Mun Choi to examine degree programs to decide which should be scaled back or eliminated and which should receive additional funding. Choi is also making investments in research and laboratories a major priority.

Campus committees are examining enrollment, capital building needs and the future of degree programs.

“A class of this size gives us the ability to think carefully about our long-term enrollment planning,” interim Chancellor Garnett Stokes said in the news release. “As part of our planning process, we will be determining the optimum freshman class size for Fall 2018 and future years.

This will help us develop and create strong and renewable resources, targeting our students' best interests as we educate the future leaders of our state and nation.”

The release made no projections for total enrollment for the fall. The university has not released figures on the other two sources of new students, transfer and international applications. Other University of Missouri campuses expect steady or declining enrollment.

At the University of Missouri-St. Louis, applications from incoming freshmen and transfer students are up but international applications are down almost 75 percent from this time last year, Associate Vice Chancellor Bob Samples wrote in an email. The fall 2016 enrollment at UMSL was 17,014.

“We expect our incoming class to be flat as a result of this year's application process, but our overall enrollment will likely be down 3 to 4 percent,” he wrote.

At Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, new incoming freshmen applications declined 3.4 percent, campus spokesman Andrew Careaga wrote in an email. Overall enrollment on campus is expected to change very little from the fall 2016 figure of 8,889, he wrote.

The University of Missouri-Kansas City did not provide figures or an estimate of total enrollment. Spokesman John Martellaro said the campus expects little change in incoming freshmen or transfer enrollments and a decline in international students.

At the state's second-largest campus, Missouri State University in Springfield, applications for new freshmen increased almost 4 percent compared to 2016 but applications from international students are down 17.3 percent, Suzanne Shaw, vice president for Marketing and Communications wrote in an email.

“We expect a modest overall increase in our total enrollment,” Shaw wrote. Fall 2016 enrollment at MSU was 24,116 on the Springfield campus.

Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph and Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau are all expecting little change in enrollment.

“Truman's focus is not necessarily to be bigger but rather to maintain our size as well as quality,” Regina Morin, vice president for Enrollment Management.

At Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, officials are expecting a slight increase in enrollment in the fall, wrote Cassie Mathes, director of University Relations and Marketing.

MISSOURIAN

MU expects smaller freshman class for second consecutive year

THOMAS OIDE, May 5, 2017

COLUMBIA — **For the second consecutive year, MU expects a drop in enrollment for the fall freshman class.**

About 4,000 first-time college students are expected to enroll in August, according to an MU news release Friday. As of this past Monday, 4,009 students paid the fall enrollment deposits, which is the figure officials used to make their projection. Last year at this time, that number was 4,738 students. That represents about a 15 percent drop.

Most freshmen are first-time college students, and when MU talks about the freshmen class, it means all first-time college students. Students can continue to enroll throughout the summer, so the projection could fluctuate. MU hasn't enrolled fewer than 4,000 first-time students since 1999, according to MU enrollment data.

From fall 2015 to fall 2016, MU saw its freshman class decrease by 1,605 students, according to MU enrollment data. MU's fall 2016 class, which includes first-time students as well as transfer students, was 5,995 students compared to 7,600 the year before. First-time college students decreased from 6,191 in 2015 to 4,772 in 2016. Every department at MU saw enrollment decreases from 2015 to 2016 except for the College of Human Environmental Science.

Officials have attributed the decreases to several causes. One factor was the Concerned Student 1950 protests in fall 2015, which generated national media coverage and led to the resignations of then-UM System President Tim Wolfe and then-MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

During a UM System Board of Curators meeting last week, new UM System President Mun Choi said the system is anticipating a \$9 million decline in revenue across its four campuses, according to previous *Missourian* reporting. The system could increase tuition and fees for current students to make up for the shortfall. The increase would add about \$200 to undergraduate resident students and about \$500 to out-of-state students.

In preparation for the lower enrollment at MU, Residential Life decided to temporarily close seven residence halls for the 2017-2018 school year: Center, Responsibility, Discovery, Respect, Excellence, Schurz and McDavid, according to previous *Missourian* reporting. 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.

MU is taking a proactive approach to turn around its enrollment by creating the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee. Pat Okker, interim dean of the College of Arts and Science, and Pelema Morrice, vice provost for enrollment management, will co-chair the committee. The committee will also have at least four faculty members, two staff members and two students.

Committee members will review student recruiting plans, tuition and financial models, student success planning and student yield, retention and degree persistence, with the goal being to create strategies and policies to aid MU enrollment efforts, according to a news release.

“This committee will help us create our strategy for the future in the years to come,” Morrice said in the release. “We continue to expect high-quality, but fewer, first-time college students for the next year or two. We expect this committee to complete its work over the next 12 to 18 months.”

To increase enrollment, MU will look into creating "alternative student pipelines" and increasing student retention, MU Interim Chancellor Garnett Stokes said in the release. In 2014, MU's student retention rate was 84 percent, which ranked 10th in the Southeastern Conference, according to MU enrollment data.

From the fall 2016 semester to the spring 2017 semester, MU's retention rate was 94 percent, according to the release announcing freshman enrollment.

MU's fall 2015 freshman class was bigger than the classes at other colleges in the region such as the University of Arkansas, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Kansas, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Iowa.

Freshman enrollment in fall 2016 was smaller than the University of Illinois and the University of Iowa and was about the same as the University of Nebraska. While the University of Kansas and University of Arkansas had smaller freshman classes than MU, both schools have been growing for the past five years, according to enrollment data from both universities.

Overall undergraduate enrollment in four-year public universities decreased by 0.3 percent from fall 2015 to fall 2016, according to data from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.



[MU expecting major drop in first-time freshmen for Fall 2017](#)

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-expecting-major-drop-in-first-time-freshmen-for-fall-2017>

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri announced on Friday the school will see yet another decline in incoming freshman enrollment.

MU officials estimate about 4,000 freshmen will enroll in August. The projection is based on the 4,009 students who have paid enrollment deposits for the fall semester.

That is a drop of 799 students from 2016 and 2,211 from 2015.

University officials say despite the lower numbers, the class's high test scores are still a good sign for the school's future.

"The average ACT of our incoming freshman class will be above 25.5, which tells us that some of the brightest students in Missouri know that Mizzou will help them with their career goals," said Pelema Morrice, vice provost for Enrollment Management

Officials also pointed to MU's high retention rate of 94 percent from fall to spring of this school year, saying the school expects to hold on to many of the incoming students.

Scores aside, a drop in enrollment will affect more than just what dorms stay open.

Columbia businesses will likely see a decrease in customers due to the high reliance on college students.

Nick Peckham, who serves on the city's Downtown Columbia Leadership Council for local businesses, says it's hard to imagine the continuing enrollment drop will not negatively impact the city's businesses.

"The biggest dog in the city is of course the university and what happens to the university happens to everybody," Peckham said.

University officials said students could continue to enroll throughout the summer, so the projection could change between now and August.



MU fall freshman enrollment numbers confirmed

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=e1f2dab8-ac87-4e04-a59e-7dd12686cc2b>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - On Friday, the University of Missouri released its new estimates for freshman enrollment in the fall, and MU could be seeing a few hundred fewer students.

MU says 4,009 students have paid enrollment deposits for the coming fall semester.

The final enrollment number for last fall semester's freshman class was 4,799.

Officials say that students still can continue to enroll throughout the summer, so the number could change between now and August when the final numbers are out.

ABC 17 News has been following the enrollment and financial struggles at MU. Thursday, we reported to you about the cuts to higher education.

MU has spent more money recently on marketing and hiring recruiters in an effort to increase enrollment. The university has expanded its reach, recruiting in other parts of country like Washington D.C. and Atlanta.

Once those final enrollment numbers are official, ABC 17 News will make sure to report them to you.



Mizzou announces Fall 2017 freshman enrollment numbers, 16% drop from last year

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=d4a979c1-ace0-4130-9c5e-7297c9fa561b>

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri will see a decline in freshman enrollment for the third consecutive year.

According to numbers released by the university, the school anticipates 4,009 freshman students to enroll for Fall 2017. A report from Mizzou stated 4,772 first-time college students enrolled for 2016, a number of 6,191 in 2015 and 6,515 in 2014.

Those numbers translate to nearly 2,506 fewer first-time enrollments combined in the last three years, a 38.5 percent decrease overall in first-time enrollees.

The university release stated the average ACT score of the incoming class would be above 25.5.

To see the breakdown of enrollment numbers at the University of Missouri, click [here](#).

University Of Missouri Freshman Class Projected Lower

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — **The University of Missouri is expecting its smallest class of incoming freshmen in nearly two decades at its Columbia campus.**

The university said in a statement Friday it projects about 4,000 freshmen will enroll at the school in August. That's a 14-percent drop, down by about 700 students from 2015. In 2014, more than 6,000 enrolled.

The shrinking numbers have related at least partly to the 2015 protests on campus over racial issues.

Garnett Stokes, the campus' interim chancellor, said in Friday's statement that size of the incoming freshman class "gives us the ability to think carefully about our long-term enrollment planning."

The university said it has succeeding in retaining students, with 94 percent re-enrolling.

Similar stories ran statewide.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

A growing Missouri S&T leverages a message of economic development

By Ashley Jost • St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7 hrs ago

ROLLA, Mo. • Don't call the Missouri University of Science and Technology an engineering school.

The majority of the students on campus are majoring in some type of engineering program, but leaders don't want to undermine the other programs on campus that draw growing enrollment and graduate students with salaries comparable to those of engineers.

Still, there's benefit from the perception that comes with being a science, technology, engineering and math-focused school.

Students studying education, economics and history graduate with a technical component to their education. It's unavoidable because it's woven so deeply into the fabric of campus, which was formed in response to the industrial revolution.

"We understand that we have a legacy as a technological research university, and we will continue to have that technical focus," S&T Chancellor Cheryl Schrader said. "We're a STEM-focused institution and not a STEM institution."

The school fills a niche in Missouri's higher education market where almost every other public institution has a liberal arts mission.

In contrast to Mizzou, [where enrollment has been dropping](#), S&T has seen a steady increase. During Schrader's five-year tenure, undergraduate enrollment has climbed nearly 36 percent.

Schrader said elected leaders were starting to recognize the school's successes.

"I will say that the last two years, particularly since the unrest at Mizzou and the (University of Missouri) System, legislators have separated us out more and said, 'That's an institution that's run right,' " Schrader said.

The Legislature appears to have rewarded the Rolla campus by approving funding for this coming school year for at least two targeted programs.

Even so, the school is not immune from the budget constraints in Jefferson City. In January, Gov. Eric Greitens, a Republican, withheld \$3.9 million from the current year's budget for the campus. The current budget includes additional cuts for next year.

And like the other University of Missouri campuses, S&T leaders are tasked with filing a proposal on how to cut 8 percent to 12 percent of the budget.

That task is taking place at a time when Missouri S&T is undergoing a change in leadership. Schrader has accepted a job at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. She leaves later this week.

But she and other school leaders say even amid the change and financial pinch, the fundamentals of the school are strong, thanks in large part to its emphasis on triggering economic development.

Economic impact

Working the economic development angle is crucial for S&T leaders when talking to state leaders and even students and parents. A partnership with Missouri State University in Springfield has led to better placement of engineers in the southwest corner of the state. Another program with state backing will boost STEM education in rural areas.

The average starting salary at graduation for S&T students is \$61,800. Computer science majors earn up to \$89,000, and systems engineering grads average \$116,700 out of college.

And the number of employers reaching out to recruit at S&T is constantly growing — including for graduates who don't have STEM degrees. Fields such as human resources and technical communications are also in demand.

“Regardless of the student’s major, it’s still the same quality of education,” said Julie Pittser, associate director of Career Opportunities and Employer Relations.

The second-highest booming major on campus is computer science, which grew 11 percent in the last year.

As national issues such as big data and cybersecurity grow, S&T has changed its programs to meet the unmet need on a federal and state level, according to Bruce McMillin, professor and associate dean for the College of Engineering and Computing. He said companies such as Cerner also continued to look at S&T graduates for health data.

But those programs are also morphing to fit the needs of a changing landscape.

Among the more advanced programs students can hone in on is cyber-physical security, including protecting power grids. Also of interest is fog computing, which involves protecting and managing the interaction of data stored in a cloud and how it interacts with systems on the ground, as with self-driving cars.

True to roots

Cybersecurity might be a buzzword drawing attention to S&T, but the mining roots of the institution are still alive and well.

S&T is one of few campuses nationwide with an experimental mine minutes from campus.

Students participate in blasts inside the limestone mine and around the quarry in their classes, develop an early understanding about mine safety and get direct experience with what it's like to spend hours upon hours underground before they're vying for their career options.

The perception of mining tends to lean heavily toward coal, not materials used by developers all over the world. S&T students learn about many kinds.

“There’s always going to be a need for mining engineering,” said Braden Lusk, chair of the mining and nuclear engineering department. “You look at metals and minerals and the energy sector with coal, there are lots of types of mining to get into, which allows us as a department to decide what we want to teach. As we’re planning our curriculums, we look at what the future holds as far as technology.”

Lusk’s point is that although mining is the root of the Rolla campus, it’s anything but antiquated.

About 150 students are enrolled in mining engineering. Catherine Johnson, assistant professor in the program, teaches classes at several levels and oversees grant-funded research, including studying traumatic brain injuries to soldiers, using explosives at the mine.

But the school also pays homage to traditional mining. So-called mucking teams compete internationally — and win — in timed races to see who can be the fastest to fill a mincart and run it down a track, for example. The competitions vary.

The mining program, and specifically the mucking team, stole senior Jennifer Holloway away from what she planned to do at S&T. She came to Rolla intending to major in electrical or mechanical engineering.

“I came to this department for the people, but now I get to come out here and play with the big toys,” Holloway said. She has a job lined up at APAC Central Inc. in Oklahoma, after she walks the stage this week. On average, mining undergraduates make \$64,500 just out of college.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

MU, KU efforts to curb campus sexual assaults win applause from national association

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
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Evidence of University of Missouri efforts to change the campus climate around sexual harassment and abuse appears as a green dot on a map.

The campus map — a metaphorical symbol — on the university’s website is loaded with clusters of red dots, each indicating an act of sexually abusive language or behavior that might have occurred.

But more and more, those crimson dots are being joined by green ones, indicating moments when someone stood up to or denounced sexual misconduct on the campus. They all create a visual image of a cultural shift taking place on the Columbia campus.

Green Dot is a national violence prevention program started by Dorothy Edwards at the University of Kentucky in 2006-2007. It’s since been duplicated at high schools and more recently on college campuses across the country.

MU's Green Dot program, along with its [Office for Civil Rights & Title IX](#), were highlighted in a new report by the [Association of American Universities](#) as examples of programs that are working to halt campus sexual harassment and sexual violence through education, awareness, training and prevention.

“The premise is to counter those red dots with actions that can keep our campus safe, and that is what is metaphorically considered a green-dot action,” said Chris Walters, the prevention coordinator for MU's [Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center](#), where the campus Green Dot program is housed.

He said the perception is that red dot acts are pervasive on campuses. “The idea is to put so many green dots on that map that there isn't space for any red dot action.”

The AAU report also applauded the University of Kansas. KU was commended for expanding its efforts to address campus sexual violence in the surrounding community, including memorandums of understanding that KU established with the [Sexual Trauma & Abuse Care Center](#) and the city of Lawrence.

Also, KU researchers received a three-year, \$750,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services last year to help colleges and universities in Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska adopt sexual assault policies and prevention strategies.



[MU researchers devised new weapon to fight against skin cancer](#)

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Fighting Cancer: New Microscopic Technique Could Help Detect, Diagnose Metastatic Melanomas](#)

COLUMBIA - Researchers at the University of Missouri just found a new weapon to fight against skin cancer.

For years, researchers have devised a new microscopic technique to detect and analyze single melanoma cells that are more representative of the skin cancers developed by most patients.

According to a report published by the [Royal Society of Chemistry](#), the new techniques is defined that could lead to better and faster diagnoses for the life-threatening disease.

"For many years when we talk about cancer, we assume that all the cancers are very similar, at least for the same type of cancer, " Dr. Luis Polo-Parada, an associate professor of Medical Pharmacology and Physiology and an investigator at Mizzou's Dalton Cardiovascular Research Center, said. "But when you look carefully for every single cell, it looks different."

Polo-Parada said after studying samples of melanoma cells, they found melanomas don't always come in the same shape and hue; normally, melanomas are dark and irregular and look similar, which make them difficult to identify.

"We modified microscope to be able to identify at the level of single cells and we report all of these variabilities that are present normally in this particular case in melanoma and other cancers," he said.

According to a news release, using the modified system, human melanoma and breast cancers as well as mouse melanoma cells were diagnosed with greater ease and efficiency.

Polo-Parada said in a news release that as melanoma cells divided and distribute themselves throughout the blood, they can cause melanomas to metastasize.

"This method could help medical doctors and pathologists to detect cancers as they spread, becoming one of the tools in the fight against this fatal disease, " he said

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

State lawmakers approve budget with nearly 7 percent cut to colleges, universities

May 5, 2017

By [Rudi Keller](#)

State appropriations to colleges and universities will be cut almost 7 percent in the coming year but it appears students will be making up only part of the shortfall.

State lawmakers on Thursday approved budget bills funding state government in the year beginning July 1. The spending plan for higher education provides slightly more than Gov. Eric Greitens' proposed in February and funds several initiatives, **including \$10.8 million for the University of Missouri System that the governor did not recommend.**

None of the four-year state universities that have approved tuition increases for the fall have gone above the inflation cap set in state law and none are likely to do so, said Paul Wagner, executive director of the Council on Public Higher Education.

For the coming academic year, the inflation cap is 2.1 percent. If a school increases tuition more than inflation, it must seek a waiver from the Department of Higher Education.

“I think the schools heard from the governor’s office that he was going to encourage the commissioner to take an extremely hard look at any waiver request,” Wagner said. “That played into people’s thinking.”

The University of Missouri appropriation was set at \$420.5 million, down \$28.6 million from the current fiscal year. Greitens imposed heavy withholdings from higher education appropriations soon after taking office. If the budget is balanced and doesn’t require extra withholdings, UM actually will receive about \$11.2 million less than in the current year.

The House approved the higher education budget by a vote of 114-40. Three of Boone County’s lawmakers — state Reps. Kip Kendrick and Martha Stevens, Columbia Democrats, and Chuck Basye, R-Rocheport — voted against the bill. State Rep. Cheri Reisch, R-Hallsville, supported it.

“What Missouri has done is not uncommon to what other states have done,” Kendrick said. “States continue to use higher education funding as the balancing wheel.”

Reisch said she voted for the spending bill because it was the best possible outcome in this year’s session. Greitens began the budget discussions by proposing a 9 percent cut to all colleges and universities. The plan approved Thursday cuts just under 6.7 percent.

“This isn’t negative, that I was dissing MU,” Reisch said. “I know that the state has X amount of dollars to go around. I knew we couldn’t get another dime out of this budget.”

Reisch said she expects better results in the future.

“I think the Missouri economy is going to be robust and we will have the money to put back in,” she said.

The UM Board of Curators will meet later this month to set tuition rates for the fall. At their meeting in Rolla last week, President Mun Choi recommended increasing resident undergraduate tuition by 2.1 percent at all four campuses.

Schools that have tuition below the average for the state’s public four-year institutions may increase rates by applying the inflation figure to the average tuition. That is what the Missouri Western State University Board of Governors did last Thursday when it increased rates by 2.4 percent, spokesman Kent Heier, wrote in an email.

Northwest Missouri State University’s Board of Regents approved a 2.1 percent tuition increase at its March 16 meeting. Actual rates will go up 2.8 percent, including a 0.7 percent increase approved last year but not implemented.

Missouri State University Board of Governors also approved a 2.1 percent tuition increase.

The earmarked funding for UM includes \$5 million for the School of Medicine to continue a program in Springfield, \$3 million for a dental program run by UMKC in cooperation with Missouri Southern State University and \$1 million for a collaborative engineering program run by Missouri University of Science and Technology and Missouri State.

When Gov. Jay Nixon was in office, legislative appropriations for items he did not recommend often did not survive his veto pen or withholding orders. None of the earmarked items were in Greitens’ original budget and it is unknown how he will deal with them, Wagner said.

“I don’t think that anyone is claiming that this budget is unbalanced,” Wagner said.

Missouri’s economy has low unemployment and should be producing sufficient revenue to avoid cuts, Kendrick said. With Republicans holding the governor’s office and overwhelming majorities in the legislature, it is up to Democrats to question their priorities, Kendrick said.

The state isn’t adequately funding public schools, higher education or roads, Kendrick said.

“We have to do a better job of drawing attention to what special interest tax cuts have done to our state budget and what it means for funding our priorities,” he said.



Missouri budget winners, losers finalized

By Crystal Thomas cthomas@joplinglobe.com, May 6, 2017

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — After a belabored run, the Missouri Legislature passed the baton to the governor on the state's \$27.8 billion budget by the Friday deadline, only leaving behind the question of whether all those who currently receive state assistance for in-home medical care will still do so next year.

Unless the Legislature passes a bill within the week, during the last days of session, about 8,300 patients will be kicked off of Medicaid rolls for in-home and nursing home health care.

After passing all of the budget bills Thursday, the Senate worked late into the night and devised a way to procure the necessary money. Originally, the Senate deliberated a House bill that would repeal a tax credit used by 100,000 elderly renters and would save the \$50 million needed for health care. However, senators balked at taking away a social tax credit that helped seniors stay independent and out of nursing homes.

The Senate's proposal, which passed 28-5, would allow the Office of Administration commissioner to go through the state's more than 700 special funds and collect about \$35.4 million to put toward health care. Funds that can't be touched include those of licensing boards.

"As budget chair, I haven't slept too well," Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Dan Brown said on the Senate floor. He called the change a "nice alternative" that would provide relief to programs for some of the state's most vulnerable residents.

The House would need to pass the Senate's version of its bill by legislative session's end on May 12. With the additional savings, the budget was crafted for a full restoration of the 20,000 Medicaid in-home health care and nursing home patients the governor recommended cutting in his budget proposal. Plus, the Area Agency on Aging would get a \$1 million increase.

The finalized budget numbers include:

- \$3.4 billion in funding for K-12 education, which is a \$48 million increase over last year's appropriation. Lawmakers hit the target for fully funding public schools after the financing formula was revised last year to put a 5 percent cap on increases.
- \$5 million for the schools that receive out-of-district students placed by juvenile courts. Programs in only about 100 school districts utilize what is known as the "Public Placement Fund," including the Turn-Around Ranch in Carl Junction. Lawmakers cut the fund in half, saying that an increase to core budgets would offset the strain.

Phil Cook, Carl Junction superintendent, said that he was relieved the lawmaker's didn't go with the House's original proposal of eliminating the fund. Cook said Carl Junction's program, which takes in about 90 court-placed students a year, won't be facing cuts. He said in order to supplement pay raises and health benefits, the school district will look into dipping into its 12 percent reserve.

"We are hopeful it goes to the governor and he doesn't immediately cut (to balance next year's budget)," Cook said. "We've had that happen."

- \$6 million will go to matching funds to draw down about \$39 million from the federal government to pay for broadband infrastructure projects in rural schools. Greitens announced the deal in early April.

"With this partnership, Missouri's students will finally have access to the same learning opportunities that kids around the country have," Greitens said in a statement.

• No state assistance will go to the Missouri Scholars and Fine Arts academies. Originally, \$250,000 was slated to be shared between the two summer camps that host gifted children at University of Missouri-Columbia and Missouri State University, respectively. Melissa Kerr, the Missouri Fine Arts Academy director, said she is focusing on hosting the 120 kids for its June camp. All of its funding depends on the state, though sometimes Missouri State University pitches in, Kerr said. With funding cuts to colleges, Kerr said the academy can't depend on university for funding.

- A 6.6 percent cut to all Missouri public colleges, including Missouri Southern State University and Crowder College. The cuts come on top of money the governor withheld from the current fiscal year to balance the budget.

Jennifer Methvin, Crowder College president, said that over the past year and the next, the college will have lost out on about \$800,000. Next year's tuition increases — 6 percent for in-district, 9 percent for out-of-district, 12 percent for international students — will offset state funding losses. The money would go into a contingency fund; after this year's restrictions, Crowder's contingency fund was drained.

- \$3 million to Missouri Southern State University and University of Missouri-Kansas City for its dental school cooperative in Joplin.

- \$1 million for the Public Defender's Office to contract "conflict-of-interest" cases to private attorneys. Earlier in the budget process, the House Budget Committee had awarded the office \$6.85 million from unused funds in funds managed by the attorney general. It was thought that historically underfunded public defender's office got the money partially because there wasn't a representative from the attorney general's office present during late-night budget talks to persuade lawmakers to do otherwise. However, as the budget bill passed through each chamber and the attorney general complained the funds were protected by statute, the money was stripped away and replaced with \$1 million from state revenue.

With changes to language in the budget bills, the Missouri State Highway Patrol will no longer be able to apply for grants for DWI checkpoints. As the House Budget Committee vice chair, state Rep. Justin Alferman, R-Hermann, said that in the age of social media, word of DWI checkpoints spread fast and lose their usefulness. Instead, Hermann said the patrol should focus on "saturation," or more officers patrolling during hours of likely intoxication.

The Missouri Department of Transportation also will not be allowed to expend any money to study the tolling of highways, let alone implement them.

Governor's plan

In his recommendation to start the budget process, Gov. Eric Greitens had advised cutting almost 20,000 Medicaid patients receiving in-home health care assistance to save \$50 million in a year where there's a projected \$456 million revenue shortfall. Facing backlash, the governor later backtracked on the proposal and suggested lawmakers use the \$50 million the state was awarded in a case settled against tobacco companies. Budget leaders immediately advised against the move, saying the money still could be lost on appeal.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

ROTC cadets, midshipmen honored before graduation

May 5, 2017

By [Roger McKinney](#)

The 250 cadets and midshipmen graduating from the University of Missouri Reserve Officers' Training Corps on Friday were honored with a ceremony on Francis Quadrangle that dates back to the 1860s.

Graduates from the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force ROTC at MU took part in the Joint Services Awards Ceremony and Parade, also called “pass and review.”

Air Force Cadet Flynn McNeely, of Tracy, Calif., said it was a big day for him and all of the ROTC graduates.

“It’s a great way to come together and demonstrate our ideals to the university that has served us and to pay tribute to those who had served before us,” McNeely said. He said after being commissioned, he plans to be a pilot or an engineer in the Air Force.

Army Lt. Col. Gary Kerr, a military science professor, said the pass and review ceremony was a tradition that dates back to George Washington in 1778. It’s been at MU since the 1860s.

UM System President Mun Choi told the ROTC graduates that they were upholding a long tradition at MU and that they were starting an exciting adventure based on a strong foundation.

“You are our best hope for creating and maintaining a just world,” he said.

Cadet E.J. Gelvin, of Kansas City, received an award for distinguished military graduate. The other recipient of that award was cadet Tariq Mack.

“It’s just awesome to be part of something that has such a long tradition in military history,” he said. He said he’ll be off to Army flight school at Fort Rucker, Ala., where he will be flying helicopters.

Midshipman John Lally, of Maryville, Ill., received the St. Louis Navy League Sword. He said the award is based on a combination of academics, leadership and physical fitness. He graduates May 13 and receives his commission in the Navy on May 14 before heading to aviation flight school at Pensacola Naval Air Station in Florida. He said he anticipates getting his gold wings in three years, signifying he’s a pilot.

The Aerospace Science award winners were cadets Brianne Caldwell and Emma Vickers. Midshipman Jakob Castleman received the Marine Corps League Sword.

The cadets and midshipmen, grouped in their military branches, stood with the Columns in the background during the ceremony. At the conclusion, they marched past the reviewing stand, led by MU students playing flute and drums and onto campus streets.

Kerr said during a reception in Jesse Hall after the ceremony that the university has photos of students participating in the pass and review ceremony from the 1860s.

“It’s important to get it re-indoctrinated into the campus,” Kerr said.

He said bringing the public to campus to allow them to see the ROTC program gives him the opportunity to educate visitors about the military science program at MU. He said he would like to hold more ROTC events on campus for the public.

He said it’s important for the graduates, because they’re able to be part of a historic tradition. He said the military has been part of MU’s history nearly since its beginning and military drills were held on the quad every Wednesday.

“It was a huge part of the culture here,” he said of the military presence.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Advocates: Guardianship law should focus on well-being

May 7, 2017

By Brittany Ruess

Missouri law concerning guardianship and conservatorship of incapacitated adults focuses too much on an individual’s finances and assets in comparison to their well-being, said two guardianship advocates who are part of a group trying to change the law.

After the death of Carl DeBrodie, a Fulton man with mental disabilities, his family and loved ones have said they want to see changes in state law and oversight procedures to ensure no one else endures a similar fate.

DeBrodie was reported missing from Second Chance group homes at 298 Claymine Drive in Fulton on April 17. Fulton police responded to a call of a walkaway at 7:31 a.m. that day.

Volunteers searched Fulton for DeBrodie in the days leading up to April 24, when police discovered DeBrodie’s body in a storage unit at Moore EZ Storage on South Westminster Avenue.

Fulton Police Chief Steve Myers said DeBrodie may have been dead for months.

During interviews at a vigil in remembrance of DeBrodie on Tuesday, family members and loved ones said they want to see law change to include more oversight of individuals like DeBrodie. Many are asking how DeBrodie could have been gone for possibly months without anyone calling attention to his disappearance.

As officers continue their investigation into DeBrodie's death, the circumstances surrounding his care are unclear.

Callaway County Public Administrator Karen Digh Allen became DeBrodie's guardian in 2008.

The law requires guardians of incapacitated adults, or people who are developmentally disabled or elderly and cannot care for themselves fully, to file an annual report with the court. The annual guardianship report is intended to show the court if the guardian is meeting the requirements listed in a section of state law.

The report includes:

- The number of times the guardian has had contact with an incapacitated adult, or ward;
- Whether the guardian received a copy of the ward's treatment or habilitation plan if the ward was institutionalized and whether the guardian agrees with it;
- The date a physician last saw the ward and why;
- Major changes in the ward's physical or mental condition.

Court records show Allen filed annual reports for DeBrodie every year. Thirteenth Circuit Court Judge Carol England approved the most recent guardianship report from Allen on Jan. 18. Those reports are secured documents, meaning they are not available to the public.

Advocates push to update the law

David English, a University of Missouri law professor, is a member of Missouri's Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders, or MO-WINGS, a group of attorneys, public administrators, service providers and more trying to update the state's guardianship law.

The law was last overhauled in 1983 and doesn't reflect modern-day standards, which place more emphasis on an individual's care rather than their property, finances and assets, English said. The law heavily focuses on conservatorship, he said, going back to 1830 when more importance was placed on property than the person.

Despite any modernization of the law, English said a concern still would be how the courts enforce the requirement for an annual report. Some courts don't ensure guardians file the report and even if they do, some courts don't sufficiently monitor the information in them, he said.

If a court sees a guardian is making little to no visits, a judge can call the guardian into court to explain the lack of visitation. English said a guardian should meet with a client at least once quarterly, but state law does not specify how many times a guardian must visit a client.

The story continues: <http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/20170507/advocates-guardianship-law-should-focus-on-well-being>

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Missouri doughnut shop caught in Strange flap

BY LISA GUTIERREZ

lgutierrez@kcstar.com

A doughnut shop owner has apologized for the way he announced the closing of his location in Columbia, Mo. this week after people found it too snarky for their taste.

Strange Donuts owner Jason Bockman posted the news on Facebook and Instagram Wednesday along with a photo of Melissa Click.

The University of Missouri fired the controversial Click, an assistant communications professor, after she called for “some muscle” to remove a student journalist from a protest on the Columbia campus in November 2015.

“Love you Columbia but we gotta keep it moving,” Bockman wrote. “Effective immediately we are closing the como loco. It’s been a lot of fun but there has been a correlation between the student population decline and our sales.

“We are planning some huge things for Strange and need the energy elsewhere. @seoulfacto will remain open and we’re still lovers.”

Bockman said later he was trying to be funny, noting how humor is a key to his brand that encourages customers to “stay strange,” but many people didn’t laugh.

“I am appalled by this business’s decision to base their own failure to appeal to the Columbia community ... on student protests against a racist and apathetic university administration,” one woman wrote on the company’s Facebook page. “Tasteless, classless, and just all around pathetic.”

“It’s so awkward you’d try and correlate student protest/activism and marginalized students feeling threatened/unsafe with low sales,” wrote another Facebook commenter. “How tone deaf.”

Angry folks posted one-star reviews on the Strange Donuts Facebook page and called for doughnut fans to swarm Harold's Doughnuts, one of the other two doughnut shops in downtown Columbia, for a "Strange Donuts Is Over Party."

"Let's all go get Harold's tomorrow to celebrate Strange Donut's PR nightmare/going out of business in CoMo and subsequently blaming Mizzou's lower enrollment lol," the invite read, adding that Harold's had no hand in the event.

According to the Columbia Missourian, Bockman deleted his announcement several hours later. He posted an apology to Facebook on Thursday.

"I'm truly sorry for the post I made yesterday," he wrote. "It was never my intention to be inflammatory or offensive.

"I try to live a life of inclusion and service to my community. The announcement was a poor representation of me and our brand. I was wrong. I want to thank everyone in Columbia for their support. I wish we could have made it work."

Bockman told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch he is "ashamed" of the post. He meant to poke fun at the fact that the store failed, not the school's declining enrollment following the protests that rocked the campus in 2015.

Enrollment on the Columbia campus for the 2016-2017 academic year dropped to 33,266, down 2,182 from last year, a 6.2 percent drop, school officials announced last fall. That's the lowest enrollment since 2010.

Officials blamed the drop in part on a shrinking pool of potential students and to a lesser degree the racially charged protests over a lack of diversity, equity and inclusion of minority students.

"I never delete posts, but I did this time because it was clearly offending so many people, and that upset me," Bockman told the Missourian. "I mean, I really try to live my life of inclusion and service to my community, and it was really upsetting that it offended so many people.

"Even my friends were like, 'Hey, what was this about?' I messed up, man. I really missed what I was going for with that."

He didn't offend everyone, though.

"No apology needed in my opinion," wrote one man on Facebook. "If people can't take a joke oh well, you guys are a great donut shop, donuts and jokes go together, lighten up people, strange donuts are not running for a government office, no need to be politically correct and to try to appease all of the time."

Wrote another man: “Were you down-rated on review sites because some people took offense? Talk about childish. Disliking your post is one thing, but deliberately attempting to discredit your business through false reviews on social media is one thing that this ‘old man’ cannot understand about Millenials. Have some tact, grow up, and quit looking for new ways to be offended.”

Bockman said the Columbia location had performed poorly for about a year and a half. It opened in March 2015, a few months before the protests began.

He told the Post-Dispatch the company’s successful locations in Maplewood and Kirkwood could no longer support the college-town shop, partly because he underestimated the drop in sales when students left for the summer.

“It was our most expensive space to operate,” he said. “When sales would dip, it would be dramatic.”

St. Louis-based Seoul Taco, which shared the space in Columbia with Strange Donuts, will remain open.



[Missouri Athletic Director Jim Sterk sits down with KOMU 8 Sports](#)

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/missouri-athletic-director-jim-sterk-sits-down-with-komu-8-sports>

COLUMBIA - Missouri's athletic director, Jim Sterk, sat down with KOMU 8's Chris Gervino Sunday night to discuss everything from Michael Porter Jr. and the Missouri basketball program to new seating at Faurot Field and the Missouri football team.

You can see the full 11-minute interview above.

INSIDE HIGHER ED

Leaving Over Campus Carry

Professor's public resignation letter points to tensions in Kansas as new law takes effect this summer.

NO MU MENTION

BY SCOTT JASCHIK MAY 8, 2017

Jacob Dorman isn't going quietly. After 10 years (and earning tenure) in the history department at the University of Kansas, he's leaving in large part because of a state law that, as of this summer, will allow guns on campus. That includes academic buildings. When faculty groups oppose campus carry laws, as they did in Kansas, supporters of the legislation frequently voice the view that no one will leave as a result of such laws. Dorman's resignation is evidence that some will leave.

Dorman is leaving for a comparable job (also with tenure) in another state, one without campus carry. The Lawrence Journal-World published his resignation letter Friday.

He starts off by writing about how much he has come to love Kansas, including "getting to know Kansans from rural communities where gun ownership and hard work are equally a way of life."

But he quickly goes on to describe how campus carry has not worked elsewhere and will keep talent out of the state. "In practical terms, concealed carry has proved to be a failure," Dorman writes. "Campus shootings have become all too frequent, and arming students has done nothing to quell active-shooter situations, because students do not have the training to effectively combat shooters and rightly fear becoming identified as a suspect themselves. But beyond the fact that concealed carry does not deter gun violence, the citizens and elected representatives of Kansas must recognize that Kansas is a small state, and in order to run a premier university, which is necessary for the health and wealth of the state, it must recruit professors from out of state. Recruiting the best trained professors necessarily means recruiting from coastal areas and progressive college towns, where most people do not believe that randomly arming untrained students is a proper exercise of the Second Amendment's protection of a well-regulated militia."

Dorman's courses deal in part with racism and other forms of bigotry in American history and American life. He writes that "we discuss sensitive and highly charged topics in my classroom,

concerning anti-religious bias, racism, sexism, classism and many other indexes of oppression and discrimination. Students need to be able to express themselves respectfully and freely, and they cannot do so about heated topics if they know that fellow students are armed and that a disagreement or argument could easily be lethal."

He adds, "Let us not let the NRA destroy the future of the state of Kansas with a specious argument about the Second Amendment. Guns do not belong in classrooms any more than they belong in courtrooms, but a university simply cannot afford metal detectors at every entrance. Kansas faces a very clear choice: Does it want excellent universities, with world-class faculty, or does it want to create an exodus of faculty like myself who have options to teach in states that ban weapons in classrooms?"

While he does not identify his new employer in the letter, he said in an interview that it is the University of Nevada at Reno. As with any job change, Dorman said, there were multiple factors to consider, but he said campus carry was decisive. "I would have left academia entirely rather than teach on a campus that allowed students to have guns in the classroom," he said.

Dorman, who earned his Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2004, has had considerable success in his field. He has won fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Newberry Library and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. His book, *The Rise of American Black Israelite Religions* (Oxford University Press), won three awards for scholarship.

His resignation letter circulated widely at the University of Kansas and at other public institutions in the state over the weekend. The university did not respond to requests for comment. (The political push for campus carry continues to spread, and Georgia's governor signed a bill on Thursday.)

On social media, many Kansas academics say they know of others for whom leaving faculty jobs has been linked to the arrival of campus carry. Many say they have heard of 10 people leaving, although they are not generally providing lists. Decisions involve multiple factors, and some said that various moves aren't final or they do not want potential employers to think of them as simply fleeing a bad situation.

Alice Lieberman, a professor of social welfare who has won several awards for her teaching at Kansas, said that campus carry wasn't the sole reason for her plan to retire, but it was a "tipping point" in her planning. "I teach classes that are inherently political," she said. "And it only takes one disgruntled person."

And Maryemma Graham, a University Distinguished Professor of English, said she plans to look for jobs elsewhere if the university does not find a way to hold off campus carry. "For those who come to KU, we must put learning and respect for the safety of all first and not use the Second Amendment as a bullet and an unqualified right," she said via email. "I will pursue employment elsewhere if implementation goes through -- despite my great love for my colleagues, students and the wonderful work I have been able to do here. That work is highly dependent upon a culture of respect for difference and not fear of it."