



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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Ten lives for cats? Mizzou maps feline genomes, identifies source of illnesses

BY ANDY MARSO
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Generated from News Bureau press release: [Rate Feline Genetic Disorders Identified Through Whole Genome Sequencing at MU](#)

Researchers at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine have mapped the entire genetic makeup of 50 felines and are using the data to identify the source of illnesses that cause blindness and death in cats.

The research, named the [99 Lives Cat Genome Sequencing Initiative](#), was started by Leslie Lyons, the school's Gilbreath-McLorn endowed professor of comparative medicine. In a prepared statement, Lyons said the results could lead to better treatments and breeding strategies for both exotic, endangered cats and more mundane varieties of house cats.

"Genetics of the patient is a critical aspect of an individual's health care for some diseases," Lyons said. "Continued collaboration with geneticists and veterinarians could lead to the rapid discovery of undiagnosed genetic conditions in cats. The goal of genetic testing is to identify disease early, so that effective and proactive treatment can be administered to patients."

The project's ultimate aim is to sequence the entire genome of 99 cats. Getting halfway there has already given the Missouri research team insights into genetic mutations that lead to serious health conditions.

[One study](#) found a genetic mutation responsible for progressive retinal atrophy, which causes blindness in the endangered African black-footed cat. [A second study](#) identified a mutation that causes Niemann-Pick type C1, a fatal cellular disorder, in a 36-week-old silver tabby kitten that was referred to the MU Veterinary Health Center.

According to the university, veterinarians will use the research to diagnose other cats with Niemann-Pick disorder and get them quicker treatment, and zookeepers will use the research to refine their species survival plans for the African black-footed cat.

MU planning for 12 percent cut to academic operations

By [Rudi Keller](#)

Preliminary budget plans call for a 12 percent cut to academic operations on the University of Missouri's Columbia campus in the coming year, with layoffs likely and the first program consolidation already announced, interim Chancellor Garnett Stokes wrote in an email distributed across campus.

Cuts to other campuses and system administration, while substantial, will be smaller.

The size of the cut, Stokes wrote, "will unquestionably impact our workforce, facilities and the breadth of services we provide. Good people and good programs will be affected."

The university will stop using the Environmental Health and Safety Building and move those operations to the General Services Building, Stokes wrote. The Truman School of Public Affairs will become a division of the College of Arts and Science, she wrote.

"I have given unit leaders authority to use one-time funds to bridge any costs that cannot be reduced immediately or until new funding sources are developed that can offset recurring costs," Stokes wrote. "As the campus works through long-term planning, there is an expectation that specific investments in our highest priorities will allow for very intentional support of the aspects of the campus that are most crucial to the long-term mission."

Stokes issued the memo on the day set by UM System President Mun Choi for all four campuses and the system administration to issue public statements on budget plans. The Tribune requested the budget proposals from each campus and the UM System administration.

A second consecutive sharp drop in enrollment on the Columbia campus and state budget cuts of about 6.7 percent for all state colleges and universities are forcing the moves. The incoming freshman class at MU is expected to be about 4,000, the smallest in almost 20 years, and overall enrollment could decline 5 percent or more. The St. Louis campus also is expecting enrollment to decrease by about 5 percent.

In April, Choi set a goal of cutting each campus by 8 to 12 percent to make up for state funding cuts and lower tuition revenue. The plans are now open to comment and discussion, with final plans expected at the system administration offices by May 19. On June 2, Choi will announce his budget decisions for the year beginning July 1.

Revenue available for administration will decline \$1.8 million, Choi wrote in the system budget statement. Mandatory costs and initiatives on diversity and other issues will require \$1 million, he wrote. The combined total represents about 7.8 percent of the system administration budget approved in June by the Board of Curators.

“Our guiding principle is to protect essential programs that create excellence,” Choi wrote. “In addition to vertical cuts to some programs, there will be savings through attrition and some separations of administrators and staff.”

At Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, cuts of about 4.6 percent in general revenue spending would fall heaviest on administrative offices. The dean’s office in the College of Arts, Science and Business would be cut by 15.4 percent and the dean’s office for the College of Engineering and Computing would be cut 13.6 percent.

The Rolla campus plan is the most detailed of the proposals available Wednesday.

“The leaders of each division on campus were asked to come up with various budget reduction scenarios,” Walt Branson, vice chancellor for finance and administration, wrote in the Rolla memo. “This proposed plan is the result of those various inputs. It also reflects our intention to protect our academic core, preserve revenue streams and move forward strategically to ensure that we stay focused on the objectives of our strategic plan.”

For the Kansas City campus, the plan calls for 3 percent cuts in general revenue allocations. Savings plans include eliminating or delayed hiring in open jobs and “a small number of layoffs or non-renewals of employees who work on annual contracts,” the memo signed by Chancellor Leo Morton and two other administrators stated.

On the St. Louis campus, administrators are looking for revenue or cuts to cover a \$17.1 million shortfall, Rick Baniak, vice chancellor for Finance and Administration wrote in a memo. UMSL expects a 5 percent decline in enrollment and a \$5.6 million state funding cut. The campus also is planning to put \$2.5 million into a pool for faculty and staff raises, Baniak wrote.

The campus has identified funds to cover \$14.1 million, leaving \$3 million in additional actions to be determined.

To meet the goals for future reallocation, the campus has set a target of a \$6.25 million pool, Baniak wrote.

“I don’t expect revenue, expense, investment or the academic review to individually account for our improvement, but rather a combination of all,” Baniak wrote.

The directives to each campus and the system, nearly identical and signed by Choi and each chancellor, stated that the budget-cutting and reallocation effort will be a long-term process.

The memo sets out “guiding principles” that led with “Challenge the status quo and long-held traditions that are impediments to change” and ended with a promise for a transparent, collaborative process for making decisions.

In her memo to the campus, Stokes emphasized the cuts for the coming year are the beginning of a process of cuts and reallocation.

“Although our circumstances are not what we would wish, we have an opportunity in front of us: to reimagine Mizzou,” she wrote. “Over the next 12 to 18 months, we will engage in a top to bottom review of all programs, centers, processes, policies, organizational and departmental structures, and funding models.”

MISSOURIAN

[UM campuses release 2018 budget plans with few specifics](#)

ANDREW KESSEL, May 10, 2017 Updated 10 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — **MU is cutting 12 percent of its budget from all schools, colleges and divisions on campus in fiscal year 2018, according to an afternoon email from Interim Chancellor Garnett Stokes.**

"Good people and good programs will be affected," Stokes said in the email.

Few other specifics were provided. Stokes' email mentioned personnel losses and the reallocation of certain programs but did not say which departments or programs stood to face the most cuts.

Specific cuts are left to the discretion of division leaders, and Stokes' email requested those leaders determine who loses what using University of Missouri System President Mun Choi's guiding principles. Stokes also authorized leaders to use "one-time funds to bridge any costs that cannot be reduced immediately."

The reason there aren't more specifics is to protect personnel, she said in the email.

"Throughout this process, it will be important to recognize the balance between transparency and respecting personnel who might be affected," the email said.

The email said one cost-cutting measure would be to reassign the Truman School of Public Affairs, which in recent history has been an autonomous unit, under the College of Arts and Science. In April, the search for a new dean for the Truman school was called off.

Other proposed changes include moving the Environmental Health and Safety Department to the General Services building and sharing common services across units.

Final details won't be shared until after June 1.

In the meantime, MU will hold two forums for input and suggestions before the budget has to be submitted to Choi on May 19. The forums will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Monday and from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday in Jesse Wrench Auditorium in the Memorial Student Union.

Public input can also be shared in [an online suggestion box](#).

Budget plans for fiscal year 2018 were released by all four UM System campuses Wednesday — one step in a [system-wide planning timeline](#).

The process began on April 3, when Choi [sent an email](#) announcing that cuts of 8 to 12 percent across the system would be necessary for fiscal year 2018. After the campus plans are submitted to Choi and

reviewed, he and campus leaders are expected to share the final decisions with the UM community on June 2.

The cuts come on the heels of an expected decline in fall enrollment and a decrease in state funding.

On May 3, the Missouri General Assembly voted to [reduce UM System core funding by 6.5 percent](#) for the coming fiscal year. On top of that, MU announced on Friday that freshman fall enrollment is expected to be about 4,000 students, down from 4,772 last year and 6,191 the year before, [according to previous Missourian reporting](#).

Other UM campuses are facing the same challenges.

Missouri University of Science and Technology's budget proposal breaks down cuts for different offices and programs, adding to about [\\$6.9 million in cuts](#) for fiscal year 2018. That's actually greater than S&T's \$4.6 million expected shortfall. The remaining savings, plus about \$35,000, are being used for new 2018 spending.

At the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the expected gap is \$17.1 million, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Rick Baniak said in an email. UMSL's current plan accounts for \$14.1 million of that through a combination of tuition and fee increases, program consolidation and other factors, but a more detailed breakdown was not included. UMSL experienced a 5 percent drop in enrollment over the last year.

The University of Missouri-Kansas City's plan calls for each unit to cut 3 percent from its budget. An email from campus leadership indicated that certain vacant positions will remain unfilled, and layoffs of up to about 30 people are expected.



University of Missouri cutting 12% of budget from each school, college, division

Watch the story:

<http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=21bab870-85fa-4c61-9553-c5d42d793fdb>

COLUMBIA — In an [email](#) updating colleagues on the budget for fiscal year 2018, interim MU Chancellor Garnett Stokes said the general revenue allocation to each school, college and division within the university will decrease by 12%.

"Twelve percent is a substantial reduction that will unquestionably impact our workforce, facilities and the breadth of services we provide," Stokes wrote. "Good people and good programs will be affected."

Stokes was not specific as to which programs and which people would be affected in the email sent Wednesday.

Stokes said that in addition to personnel downsizing, other proposals include eliminating the Environmental Health and Safety Department building from the MU Education and General-use facilities portfolio, and relocating the facility to the General services building. Stokes also said administrators are considering relocating the Truman School of Public Affairs to fall under the administration of the College of Arts and Science; and sharing common services across units.

"It has been requested that leaders vary reduction in allocations across programs and departments within their areas. In addition, I have given unit leaders authority to use

one-time funds to bridge any costs that cannot be reduced immediately or until new funding sources are developed that can offset recurring costs," Stokes wrote.

Two forums on budget priorities are scheduled for University employees. The first is scheduled for May 15th from 2-4 p.m. The other is scheduled for Tuesday May 16th from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Both forums will be in Jesse Wrench Auditorium.

Stokes said over the next 12 to 18 months, university leaders will do a top to bottom review of all programs, centers, processes, policies, organizational and departmental structures, and funding models.

"I am ready for change, and I believe you are too," Stokes wrote. Stokes also noted four new committees were being formed to address the resource allocation model, capital financing, strategic enrollment management, and statewide engagement plans.

Stokes said budget plans were due to University of Missouri System President Mun Choi April 19th. Final budget details won't be available until June 1st.



MU budget update: 12 percent cut for each college, school and division

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/interim-chancellor-releases-mu-budget-updates/491514670>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Interim Chancellor Garnett Stokes has released a statement about the budget changes coming to the University of Missouri.

In her statement to the university, Stokes said that each school, college and division will decrease their budgets by 12 percent.

Interim Chancellor Stokes goes on to say that these cuts are based off of President Choi's guiding principles of challenging the status quo, making strategic decisions based on performance measures of excellence, protecting programs of excellence and being transparent.

According to Interim Chancellor Stokes' statement, these budget cuts could also result in personnel downsizing, eliminating the Environmental Health and Safety Department building from the MU Education and General-use facilities portfolio, relocating EHS to the General

Services Building, relocating the Truman School of Public Affairs to the administration of the College of Arts and Science and sharing common services across units.

The final plans for MU's budget is due to President Choi on May 19.



MU interim chancellor gives update on budget allocations

COLUMBIA - MU Interim Chancellor Garnett Stokes said in an email Wednesday that changes will be made to various university programs following a 12 percent decrease in funding attributed to state budget cuts and lower projected enrollment.

Expected program changes include eliminating the Environmental Health and Safety Department building from the MU Education and General-use faculties portfolio and relocating it to the General Services building, relocating the Truman School of Public Affairs to the College of Arts and Science's administration and "sharing common services across units."

The final budget plans are due to UM System President Mun Choi on May 19. Stokes said the Mizzou senior leadership teams are encouraging the public to participate in a series of forums regarding opinions on budget priorities leading up to the turn-in date.

Those forums are being held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on May 15 and 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on May 16 in Jesse Wrench Auditorium.

Missouri basketball narrowly avoids APR sanctions

May 10, 2017

By [Daniel Jones](#)

Missouri basketball's Academic Progress Rate isn't stellar, but it is high enough to keep it out of hot water for at least another season.

The NCAA issued APR Institutional Reports for its members Wednesday. The four-year score for men's basketball fell to 934, narrowly clearing the minimum score of 930 to avoid sanctions. That score is the lowest of any men's basketball team in the Southeastern Conference.

The Tigers' 2015-16 score was 930. It recorded an abysmal score of 851 in 2013-14, the last season under former Coach Frank Haith. That year, Jordan Clarkson and Jabari Brown turned pro, Zach Price and Torren Jones were dismissed from the program and Stefan Jankovic and Shane Rector transferred.

The constant turnover of the basketball roster has been the anchor pulling down the team's APR. Each player on a team's roster can earn up to two points per semester, one for staying in school and one for posting a GPA of 2.6 to remain academically eligible. The number of points earned is then divided by the number of points possible, and that number multiplied by 1,000 equals a team's APR.

Football's four-year score came in at 978, which tied for fifth-best in the SEC.

Four sports — women's golf, soccer, tennis and volleyball — recorded perfect scores of 1000, while five other sports had scores above 990: Men's cross-country (996), men's golf (994), women's basketball (991), women's swimming and diving (995) and women's track and field (991).

Across the board, Missouri's average ranking within the conference was 5.12. That number was only bested by Vanderbilt, which had an average ranking of 3.77.

INSIDE HIGHER ED

Mixed Views on Higher Ed

Americans see the work force and societal value of getting a college degree, a survey from New America finds, but community colleges have more support than do other sectors.

NO MU MENTION

BY PAUL FAIN MAY 11, 2017

Americans see the value in getting a college degree, but they're not particularly happy with our nation's higher education system.

Those are among the results from a new survey conducted by New America, a think tank based in Washington. The report, which New America plans to update annually, is based on a survey of 1,600 American adults. The group probed people's perceptions of higher education and economic mobility, with the results broken out by age, gender, region and socioeconomic status.

Fully three-quarters of respondents said it's easier to be successful with a degree than without one, in a finding that generally transcended the race of respondents. Yet 51 percent believe that plenty of well-paying jobs do not require going to college, despite solid evidence to the contrary.

Of concern for colleges and universities, just one in four of the survey's respondents feel higher education is functioning fine the way it is. The results also include sector-specific findings, with a range of results across the sectors on some questions.

A contributor to the widespread belief that higher education too often does not deliver on its promise, the survey found, is that 58 percent of respondents believe colleges put their own long-term interests first instead of those of their students.

Millennials in particular felt this way, despite being on track to be the most educated generation yet and the most experienced with the system. Among this group, 64 percent said colleges put their own interests first and only 13 percent say higher education is fine as it is, compared to 42 percent and 39 percent, respectively, for the Silent Generation (age 72 and up).

So despite 79 percent of respondents saying most people benefit from enrolling in college (see chart, below), they also realize there are few alternatives, said Amy Laitinen, New America's director for higher education and a former official in the Obama administration.

Respondents also expressed anxiety about economic mobility after the recession, with 59 percent saying it's more challenging to find a job than when their parents were their age and 64 percent saying it's harder to afford a family.

And while the survey didn't find quite the same level of skepticism about higher education that Public Agenda did in a survey last year -- just 42 percent of Americans said college is necessary for work force success, that survey found, a 13 percentage point decline from 2009 -- Laitinen said New America's research doesn't mean colleges are off the hook.

"It shows that Americans see the value," she said. "But it doesn't mean they're happy with it."

For example, just four in 10 believe there is a decent chance of getting into a "good" college, the survey found. And while 67 percent of respondents said colleges should help their students succeed, the survey identified a broad recognition that many college students aren't getting to graduation.

Only 46 percent said most people who go to college finish with a degree, the survey found.

"Americans seem to be aware that we have a completion crisis," said Rachel Fishman, a senior policy analyst at New America and a co-author of the report.

Community colleges and public, four-year institutions fared better in the survey than did for-profit or private colleges. That suggests the stigma around attending community colleges may be fading.

Story [continues.](#)