



MU News Bureau

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University of Missouri looks to its future after cuts

By Rudi Keller

Job cuts, reallocation and big ideas have come in waves at the University of Missouri since Mun Choi took over as president in March.

A trimmer administration, shorn of its federal and state lobbying arms and operating with a smaller public relations staff, is one result. Choi has presided over the reduction of 474 jobs throughout the four-campus system, cutting \$56 million from personnel budgets.

The cuts, \$101 million in all, have closed deficits in tuition revenue and state aid and freed about \$39 million for spending on priority projects. The decisions have closed the science and agriculture journalism program to new enrollment, slated the university's bed and breakfast for closure and folded the Truman School of Public Affairs into the College of Arts and Science.

The most ambitious plan, the Translational Precision Medicine Complex, is a laboratory building that will cost up to \$200 million. The university will seek state, federal and private support but has no certain source of construction funding.

"In the current environment, trying to raise \$200 million for a building is going to be a heavy lift," Choi said to reporters when asked how quickly he wanted to break ground. "I don't want to have an artificial timeline to make this happen."

Regardless of when it happens, it needs to be built, Choi said.

"That plan will be moving forward very quickly because it is a critical investment that is needed not only to attract new faculty but also to retain the best faculty members we have at the university," he said.

So far, Choi retains the confidence and support of his bosses on the Board of Curators. At the conclusion of the first board meeting since the major budget decisions were unveiled June 2, chairman Maurice Graham said Choi is exceeding expectations.

"I would have to say that I am as optimistic as I have ever been about the future of this university, in large part because of the important decisions that Dr. Choi has made," Graham

said. “But even more important than the decisions is the culture he is bringing, not only to the system but to all four campuses.”

During his report to the curators, Choi said he wants to decrease the faculty to student ratio, now greater than 20 and emphasize hiring tenured faculty to do so. A disturbing trend in recent years, he said, has been to hire non-tenure track faculty while tenured faculty numbers shrank through retirements and other departures.

“Our heart lies in the strength of the faculty,” Choi said. “We have to strategically invest in faculty members who will contribute to research and teaching.”

With the new, smaller budget approved and layoffs complete, many of the short-term plans are in place. The next phase will be more difficult, with decisions on which programs to cut and which to expand.

The decisions will be discussed in open, with campus and public input, Choi said. Once a decision is made, he expects resistance.

“There will be blowback, but the way we are going to explain it is that we have had a chance to evaluate it carefully with input from various groups, but the final decisions that we make are the best decisions for the institution,” Choi said.

In the state budget for the year that begins next Saturday, lawmakers allocated \$419.2 million, \$12 million more than Gov. Eric Greitens recommended, and \$7.9 million for projects that Greitens did not want to fund. Greitens must act on the budget bills by Friday.

In its annual request for funding, the board asked for that much again and \$29 million more. Choi is not optimistic about the outcome. The plans being made now will allow the university to meet its goals without counting on more money from taxpayers, he said.

“We are facing a situation where state finances or state support, I believe, will be maintained at the current level or most likely fall in future years,” Choi said. “We can’t just react to future cuts without having plans in place to address our own best interests.”

To back up those requests, the university has hired the consulting firm Tripp Umbach to assess the university’s economic contribution to the state. Using internal economists, the university issued a report in early 2016 stating its existence has boosted the state’s economic output by 25 percent, and that each dollar of state support means \$38.43 in economic activity over the ensuing 25 years.

Choi, however, said he wants a more comprehensive look.

“It is about time that we concretely evaluate and demonstrate the value we provide to the state of Missouri,” he said. “It is a number we can only guess at this point.”

To rebuild student numbers, recruiters will visit every high school in the state, Choi told the curators. To attract industry funding and partnerships, the university will recruit the research talent companies need, he said. And to rebuild the university's image, he wants to find high-profile research projects.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

University of Missouri rescinds Bill Cosby's honorary degree

By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Jun 23, 2017

COLUMBIA, Mo. • The University of Missouri-Columbia has joined more than 20 other colleges around the country in rescinding Bill Cosby's honorary degree.

The University of Missouri system Board of Curators unanimously agreed Friday to revoke his honorary degree from the flagship campus, Mizzou.

Cosby received an honorary Doctor of Human Letters degree in December 1999. This is the first time Mizzou has rescinded an honorary degree.

System President Mun Choi said Cosby's actions are "incompatible" with the university's values.

The decision, similar to those at other schools, stems from the ongoing allegations and legal battles surrounding Cosby after more than 50 women came forward and alleged the comedian and actor had sexually assaulted them.

[A criminal trial concluded](#) in one of the cases last week after a jury deadlocked. Multiple civil lawsuits are pending.

In his recommendation, Choi pointed to Cosby's 2005 deposition in which he admitted to using over-the-counter allergy medication to "relax" a woman who says Cosby sexually assaulted her.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

University of Missouri rescinds Bill Cosby's honorary degree

BY ELLEN CAGLE
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Bill Cosby's honorary degree from the University of Missouri was revoked Friday in a unanimous vote by the UM System Board of Curators.

Mizzou awarded Cosby an honorary doctorate in humane letters in 1999. Friday's action is the first time the university has revoked an honorary degree, [according to the Associated Press](#).

University of Missouri System President Mun Choi urged the board to rescind it, citing allegations that Cosby sexually assaulted dozens of women. There was no discussion before the curators voted.

Ben Trachtenberg, the chair of the MU Faculty Council, said the board made the right decision.

"Bill Cosby's behavior, which is quite well-documented, is inconsistent with having an honorary degree from the University of Missouri," Trachtenberg said. The board's vote "sent the message that we're not willing to let him have our degree now that we know information that, of course, was not available to us when we conferred it."

[Cosby was charged with drugging and sexually assaulting](#) a woman in an incident that took place in 2004. After a six-day trial, a Pennsylvania judge declared a mistrial last week after the jury said it was deadlocked.

The prosecution said it would seek a second trial.

Cosby, often called "America's dad" for his role as Dr. Cliff Huxtable on the 1980s TV sitcom "The Cosby Show," faced intense criticism after women came forward and said he assaulted them.

At least 25 other universities have revoked honorary degrees received by Cosby, according to the AP.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

U. of Missouri Rescinds Bill Cosby's Honorary Degree, Joining Over 20 Colleges

BY SUHAUNA HUSSAIN

The University of Missouri's Board of Curators voted unanimously on Friday to rescind Bill Cosby's honorary degree from the flagship Columbia campus, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reports.

The system's president, Mun Y. Choi, had recommended that Mr. Cosby, a 79-year-old actor, relinquish his Doctor of Humane Letters degree, awarded in 1999, after his trial for aggravated indecent assault ended on Saturday in a mistrial.

The board's decision added Missouri to the list of more than 20 other colleges across the country that in the past few years have revoked honorary degrees granted to Mr. Cosby. The wave of revocations was at its most intense nearly two years ago.

Mr. Choi also noted in his recommendation that Mr. Cosby admitted in a 2005 deposition that he had given over-the-counter allergy medication to "relax" a woman who has accused him of sexual assault.

"While the Pennsylvania jury in this instance did not find unanimously and beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Cosby had engaged in criminal conduct, the standard for rescinding the university's unilateral gift of an honorary degree is different than that required of the Pennsylvania jury to find criminal guilt," according to a board-meeting document.



Mizzou Revokes Honorary Degree Awarded to Cosby

BY SCOTT JASCHIK

The University of Missouri at Columbia announced Friday that it is revoking an honorary degree that was awarded to Bill Cosby before dozens of women came forward with allegations of sexual assault against the comedian. A statement from the university said,

"Honorary degrees throughout the University of Missouri System are reserved for those who have ascended to the pinnacle of their fields while conducting themselves consistent with the university's core values. The evidence presented during the recent criminal trial indicated that he engaged in behavior that is in direct conflict with the core values of the University of Missouri."



University of Missouri revokes Cosby's honorary degree after sexual assault allegations

COLUMBIA, Mo. — The University of Missouri's Board of Curators has voted unanimously to revoke an honorary degree it granted to Bill Cosby.

University system President Mun Choi recommended that the board strip the comedian of a doctorate in humane letters he received in 1999. Choi cited allegations from several women that Cosby sexually assaulted them. Choi says Cosby's actions do not reflect the university's values.

The university said at least 25 other colleges and universities across the country have withdrawn honorary degrees and honors from Cosby since the sexual assault accusations became public.

The Missouri Faculty Council recommended in November 2015 that curators revoke Cosby's degree.

It was the first time the university has ever revoked an honorary degree.

MU rescinds Cosby honorary degree

By Rudi Keller

The University of Missouri Board of Curators on Friday voted unanimously and without discussion to rescind the honorary degree granted to comedian and accused sex offender Bill Cosby.

The vote came near the end of the board's meeting and less than a week after a jury in Philadelphia was unable to agree on a verdict in Cosby's trial on charges of drugging and assaulting a staff member for Temple University's women's basketball team. At the time of the assault in 2004, Cosby was a member of Temple's Board of Trustees.

Despite the lack of a conviction, the evidence is clear that Cosby has repeatedly engaged in such behavior, UM System President Mun Choi said to the curators. More than 50 women have told similar stories about being drugged and raped by Cosby, he said.

"The evidence that was presented at the criminal trial documents activities by Mr. Cosby that are incompatible with the honors and values granted to him by the University of Missouri in 1999," Choi said.

The MU Faculty Council in October 2015 asked the university to rescind Cosby's Doctor of Humane Letters degree. The curators changed the university's rules in February to explicitly give the board power to rescind degrees of living honorees. The vote is the first of 404 honorary degrees MU has awarded to be rescinded.

Some members of the General Assembly's Legislative Black Caucus are upset with the university over the decision. In a news release, Rep. Courtney Allen Curtis, D-Ferguson, said the action against Cosby was intended to divert attention from problems closer to home.

Curtis is asking Choi to appear before the House Urban Issues Committee to discuss a February rape on the UMKC campus, the MissouriNet reported Friday. In that incident, a man brought an intoxicated woman to her dorm room, carrying her unconscious past a security desk, and raped her in her room.

Their arrival was caught on video surveillance and allowing the unconscious student to return to her room without providing medical help violates university policies.

"The university system has more important issues to take care of right now than determining whether or not they should take away an honorary degree they gave a celebrity in the 90s,"

Curtis said in the news release. “Currently, Bill Cosby technically should be labeled innocent until proven guilty.”

Choi said he will meet with Curtis and other lawmakers, adding that the action to revoke Cosby’s honorary degree is a serious matter.

“It is not a smokescreen,” Choi said. “This is a matter that is very important to us, as is the incident that occurred at UMKC. We care deeply about how we treat each other, especially our students, and today’s action also strongly emphasizes our commitment to the safety of our students. The value that this message sends is very strong.”

A statement issued by the university notes that MU is following 20 to 25 other colleges and universities that have revoked degrees granted to Cosby.

“Honorary degrees throughout the University of Missouri System are reserved for those who have ascended to the pinnacle of their fields while conducting themselves consistent with the university’s core values,” the statement reads. “The evidence presented during the recent criminal trial indicated that he engaged in behavior that is in direct conflict with the core values of the University of Missouri.”

MISSOURIAN

UM curators rescind Bill Cosby's honorary degree

By McKenna Blair

COLUMBIA — The UM System Board of Curators voted unanimously to rescind Bill Cosby's honorary degree at its meeting Friday morning.

The vote came at the recommendation of UM President Mun Choi, who has cited a 2015 recommendation from the MU Faculty Council as well as the evidence that Cosby has conducted actions "incongruent to our values of respect, of treating people with respect."

Cosby, who was given an honorary doctorate in humane letters by MU in 1999, was recently tried for aggravated indecent assault in Pennsylvania. The court declared a mistrial after the jury deadlocked, but the prosecution has said it will retry Cosby, according to the recommendation.

"The evidence that was presented in the criminal trial documents activities by Mr. Cosby that are incompatible with the honor previously granted to him by the university," Choi told curators on Friday.

The curators voted without discussion.

Christian Basi of the MU News Bureau issued a statement on behalf of the school.

"Honorary degrees throughout the University of Missouri System are reserved for those who have ascended to the pinnacle of their fields while conducting themselves consistent with the university's core values," he said, noting that 20 to 25 other universities also have revoked honorary degrees given to Cosby.

President's message

Choi began his president's report by thanking faculty and staff for their support and patience as budget cuts ran their course.

He then noted the clear decline in faculty numbers and said the system's next step needs to be increasing UM's value to citizens across Missouri.

UM students come primarily from St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield and Columbia, and recruiting efforts are heavy in these areas. Choi said he believes increasing recruiting efforts, particularly in rural areas north and south of the Interstate 70 corridor, could increase enrollment.

"As the state's land grant institution, we have a responsibility to take our research and education and make a difference in the community," Choi said.

He went on to say that UM needs to send a message saying it "cares about every single community in this state."

Choi said it's also important to demolish or update campus buildings that have fallen into disrepair as a way of enticing prestigious faculty who want better teaching spaces.

"In order to attract and retain excellent faculty, we need excellent space," Choi said.

MU has a student-teacher ratio of about 22-1, Choi said, and it is important for that ratio to improve to give students a better chance of connecting with professors outside the classroom for mentorship or research opportunities.



UM Curators unanimously vote to rescind Bill Cosby honorary degree

Watch story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/um-curators-unanimously-vote-to-rescind-bill-cosby-honorary-degree/558970076>

By Alyssa Toomey

COLUMBIA, Mo - The UM Board of Curators unanimously voted to rescind Bill Cosby's honorary degree at their meeting Friday.

President Dr. Mun Choi asked the curators to formally take action, citing a 2005 deposition in which the actor admitted to purchasing Quaaludes to give to women to have sex.

The actor's sexual assault trial ended in a mistrial last week, but the prosecutor said he will re-try "The Cosby Show" star. Choi said Cosby's actions are not in line with the mission of the university system and added that more than 50 women have accused the actor of sexual assault.

"The University of Missouri-Columbia with full support of the Board of Curators and at the urging of administrative and faculty leaders, has revoked Bill Cosby's honorary degree," the UM System said in a statement. "Honorary degrees throughout the University of Missouri System are reserved for those who have ascended to the pinnacle of their fields while conducting themselves consistent with the university's core values. The evidence presented during the recent criminal trial indicated that he engaged in behavior that is in direct conflict with the core values of the University of Missouri. We join 20 to 25 other universities in rescinding his honorary degree."

Cosby was awarded the honorary degree by the University of Missouri in 1999.

University of Missouri finds hot market for rental dorm rooms

By Rudi Keller

The offer of dorm rooms for football games has proved wildly popular with the public but area hotel operators are grumbling.

After reporters attending the University of Missouri Board of Curators meeting tweeted that 4-bed residence hall suites were available for \$120 a night on football weekends, it took only a day to sell out for Homecoming and Family Weekend. In all, by the close of business Friday, 280 rooms had been requested, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

Dale Griessel of Columbia booked four rooms in Respect Hall for the night before the Sept. 16 contest with Purdue, the Family Weekend game. Every year, a group of friends who graduated in 1952 from William Chrisman High School in Independence attend a game, he said.

The annual outings started in 1992 with five friends going to a road game. As the group has aged – and the distances grew with MU’s switch to the Southeastern Conference – they changed the tradition to a home game gathering.

This year, 12 will attend. Before the residence halls were offered, they were booked into a Boonville hotel, Griessel said.

“We tried to book a room in Columbia and they were sold out,” he said.

The university’s Columbia campus has seven residence halls that will be unused this fall due to plunging freshmen enrollment. The annual cost of keeping those buildings in good order and paying bonds for their construction will be \$4.9 million, Vice Chancellor for Operations Gary Ward told the Board of Curators last week during an update on facilities, part of MU’s Master Plan.

The university set a target of growing the number of students housed on campus by 3 percent per year through a combination of marketing to sophomores and transfer students and stricter enforcement of a policy requiring freshmen to live on campus.

The policy was on the books but it wasn’t enforced when freshmen enrollment meant the dorms were overbooked, Ward said.

“We were having to rent off-campus housing for students when there was no room in dorms,” he said.

If the growth goal is met, Ward estimated that the dorms currently in use will be full by 2021.

To offset the cost of idle dorms, Ward outlined plans to convert Schurz Hall to educational or general use, dedicate McDavid Hall to overseas engineering students in the final two years of their education, short-term assignment of Responsibility Hall to MU Health Care and Respect Hall to Human Environmental Sciences Extension.

Selling 280 rooms at \$120 will generate about \$34,000 from single nights. That figure does not include 12.975 percent tax – the same sales and lodging rate charged at commercial hotels – or parking. It is not a large amount of revenue compared to the cost but the university is speaking to bond rating agencies about innovative ways of generating cash, President Mun Choi said Friday.

“Given the prospect we are going to face some more challenges with state support and possibly challenges in prospects for enrollment, we have to be very mindful of being able to increase revenue so we are held in high regard by the investor communities, the bond community,” Choi said. “That is going to be very critical.”

MU made large investments in housing at the same time the private market was building quickly, Choi said.

“The fact that we have a number of dorms that are going unused currently speaks to the fact that we may not have been as strategic as we should have been at the time, to recognize what are the market forces available in terms of new, private housing that were being developed around the same time we were developing our dormitories,” he said.

As MU is offering dorm rooms for overnight stays, three new hotels are in various stages of completion in Columbia. TownePlace Suites with 96 suites and SpringHill Suites with 82 will open in August. A Drury hotel under construction on I-70 Drive S.E. will add another 210 rooms in 2018.

The average attendance at home football games was down 14,500 in 2016, making for some soft weekends in the hotel business, said Steve Bales, president of the Columbia Hospitality Association.

“It is going to be an impact for us hoteliers, who are obviously trying to make a living,” Bales said. “You have people who have made huge capital investments in the city of Columbia for this reason.”

Hotels increase their rates 30 to 50 percent or more above standard charges on high-traffic weekends in Columbia, he said. Those dates include graduation, Roots N Blues N BBQ festival and football games, he said.

“It is plain and simple, as you know, but it is competition,” Bales said. “Even the small mom and pop hotels, it is their time to make money.”

The association will be watching to see whether it makes a difference in bookings, Bales said.

“The university does a lot for the city and the hoteliers,” he said. “We will just see how it plays out.”

Administrators should be applauded for imaginative ways to increase revenue, board Chairman Maurice Graham said.

“I can’t imagine that the community is going to react unfavorably to that,” he said. “I also don’t think it will make a huge difference in the revenues of the local businesses who are so supportive of the university campus.”

It will make a big difference for Griessel and his buddies. They were ready to pay \$477 for double occupancy rooms – more than \$2,500 per night to accommodate friends from Kansas, Nebraska, Springfield and elsewhere. Four rooms in Respect Hall will cost less than \$550 with tax.

There was only one important issue, he said. He and his friends are in their early 80s.

“My only question is, is it too far for them to walk?” he said.

the maneater

MU to make residence hall rooms open to rent for football weekend visitors

By Cole Bollinger

The University of Missouri will open up idle residence halls to weekend visitors this fall. Home football games, August’s solar eclipse, graduation and conferences will all be events where the residence halls are available to rent.

With incoming freshman enrollment down to about 4,000 students, a decrease from 6,419 in the fall of 2015, the university closed seven residence halls with 1,461 beds.

Mizzou hopes to fill some of those beds by renting out two-bedroom, four-bed suites for \$120 a night. A website is available for people to reserve the rooms.

Some of the same amenities guests might receive in a hotel downtown will be offered in the residence halls. “Free high-speed wireless access, and economy bed linens and towels are included,” the registration site says.

This option could serve as an attractive alternative for some to staying at hotel such as the Holiday Inn Executive Center, which would cost about \$244 a night for two double beds the weekend of the Homecoming matchup on Oct. 21.

To request a reservation, interested visitors must complete the guest housing request form. According to the website, submitting a request does not guarantee a reservation. A Residential Life staff member will then contact prospective visitors within two business days to confirm a reservation.

With the university offering rooms in the residence halls to visitors, hotels in neighboring cities like Kingdom City will likely be hurt most, with Columbia hotels remaining largely unaffected. MU Vice Chancellor for Operations Gary Ward told the Columbia Daily Tribune he does not expect area hotels to complain about competition.

“My understanding, and this would have to be verified with them, is the hotels are full anyway, so we won’t be competing on game days,” Ward said in an interview with the Tribune. “We could be competing with out-of-town hotels.”



[MU to rent out empty dorm rooms in an attempt to counter declining enrollment](#)

Watch story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-to-rent-out-empty-dorm-rooms-in-an-attempt-to-counter-declining-enrollment>

By Michael Rizzo

COLUMBIA - More than 200 requests have come in so far in just the twenty-four hours after MU leadership announced a plan to rent out rooms in some of its empty residence halls. MU leaders introduced this plan to the Board of Curators at their meeting Thursday.

The initiative is not just for football weekends, MU will rent out the dorms throughout the academic year. Residential Life at MU added a link on its website to fill out the guest request

forms. The plan allows MU to use some of the dorms that would remain unoccupied throughout the 2017-18 academic year.

MU Spokesperson Christian Basi said leaving the dorms unused would cost the university millions.

"If we had left the halls unoccupied and unused, all seven of them together would have wound up costing the university a little more than five to five and half million dollars," he said.

MU will rent out Excellence and Discovery Halls on Virginia Avenue. The rooms will be two-bedroom, four-bed suites and cost \$120 per night.

"They're in a great location," Basi said. "Its close to areas both for sporting venues as well as the downtown area," he said.

MU Alum Reagan Roberts said the low price and location makes the dorms an intriguing option.

"They would be something I personally would be interested in because I know that hotels can get ridiculously expensive over football weekends," she said. "A lot of people fly in for games, and if you stay in the dorms you can walk downtown, walk to the game, go get food, I think it's pretty perfect," Roberts said.

Although many requests are already coming in, Basi said this is not a long term solution.

"The hope is, of course, that we eventually have enough students that we are back filling these resident halls with students," he said.

People can stay in the dorms starting the weekend leading up to the first week of class Aug. 21.



[Mizzou to rent out residence halls for football games, hoteliers react](#)

Watch story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/mizzou-to-rent-out-residence-halls-for-football-games-hoteliers-react-1/559577301>

By Sara Maslar-Donar

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Broadway Hotel owner David Parmley was left wondering Friday just what the impact of the University of Missouri's decision to rent out some of its residence hall rooms to

families would have on the local hospitality industry.

He said he's going to wait and see, but he knows that the university could be competing with hotels for bookings on some weekends.

"Parents weekend and Homecoming, those two for sure, there's always a ton of demand and I can't see it affecting us on those weekends," he said. "It's going to be those other three games at the beginning and end of the year that there're probably more than enough rooms to go around, so now you're just eating into the number of people staying."

Parmley said the first few games and the last few games historically have lower attendance because they fall on holiday weekends. If the football team isn't playing at its best, the bookings also fall.

"Even in the best of years, we sometimes have problems with the first one or two games and the last one or two games," he said.

Mizzou officials said Thursday they're trying to find use for seven of the residence halls they had to close due to low enrollment numbers.

"It's not a responsible act to have those buildings sitting idle when you can look for additional ways to use them while generating some revenue," MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

Many of these solutions, including renting out the rooms on the football weekends or for other events like conferences, are short-term. Residence hall renting will only happen in FY 2017 and 2018.

Some other fixes include putting international students in dorms rather than off-campus housing and converting Schurz Hall into office space until enrollment bounces back.

Officials said Thursday they hope that in addition to generating revenue, the extra use could be good for enrollment.

"If we can get someone here to see our facilities, a family for a football weekend that may have a high school student, they can see if this is where they want to be," said Vice Chancellor for Operations Gary Ward.

Basi said that they don't know how renting rooms will affect hoteliers. He said that they hope that this will encourage more people to come to Columbia and provide more business for restaurants and other businesses.

Rooms will go for \$120 a night and can already be reserved [here](#).

"I can kind of see them going more head to head with the highway hotels that are economy class," said Parmley.



(AAU science news website; more than 1.9 million unique viewers per month)

Good and bad teen body image tied to drinking

This story was generated by an MU News Bureau press release: [Perceptions about Body Image Linked to Increased Alcohol, Tobacco Use for Teens](#)

Past studies show that teenagers who feel badly about the way they look are more likely to develop eating disorders and suffer from depression and low self-esteem.

Now, a new study shows that body image is also linked to increased tobacco and alcohol use, for both young men and women. But it's not just negative body image that leads to problems. Girls who believe they are very good looking are more likely to binge drink.

“We know alcohol and tobacco can have detrimental health effects, especially for teenagers,” says Virginia Ramseyer Winter, an assistant professor of social work at the University of Missouri, and author of the study in the *Journal of Child and Adolescent Substance Abuse*.

“I wanted to see if the perception of being overweight and negative body image leads to engaging in unhealthy or risky substance use behaviors. Understanding the relationship means that interventions and policies aimed at improving body image among teenage populations might improve overall health.”

Researchers used data from a national survey of American teenagers to determine the associations between perceived size and weight, perceived attractiveness, and levels of alcohol and tobacco use.

The findings show that perceived size and attractiveness were significantly related to substance use. Adolescent girls who perceived their body size to be too fat were more likely to use alcohol and tobacco. Boys who thought they were too skinny were more likely to smoke, and boys who considered themselves fat were more likely to binge drink.

“While poor body image disproportionately affects females, our findings indicate that body image also impacts young males,” Ramseyer Winter says. “For example, it’s possible that boys who identified their bodies as too thin use tobacco to maintain body size, putting their health at risk.”

Further, researchers also looked at the connection between perceived attractiveness and substance use. Girls who thought they were not at all good looking were more likely to smoke—and girls who thought they were very good looking were more likely to binge drink, perhaps because attractiveness may be associated with popularity, which is related to increased alcohol use.

To improve body image awareness, parents, schools, and health providers need to be aware of body shaming language and correct such behavior to help children identify with positive body image messages. Body shaming language can affect teenagers who have both positive and negative perceptions of themselves.

Andrea Kennedy, a doctoral candidate at the University of Southern California, and Elizabeth O’Neill, a doctoral candidate at the University of Kansas, are study coauthors.



[After budget cuts, MU Libraries seeks book donations](#)

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=d45426dd-4782-40db-a55b-0a9f0e6a6818>

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - **The University of Missouri Libraries is asking book lovers for some help.**

Library officials have a wish list of more than 400 books that they hoped to buy but are not able to because of budget cuts.

The most expensive is "Complete and Truly Outstanding Works by Homer," which costs \$5,250. The least expensive book on the list is "Another Time, Another Place," by Jessie Kesson, which costs \$16.75.

The Columbia Missourian reported the wish list was posted two weeks ago on the MU Libraries website, which gives willing donors a way to buy specific books for teaching and research.

MU Libraries cut \$1.2 million in material costs for fiscal 2017, and is facing about \$1.3 million in one-time cuts to its collection expenses in fiscal 2018.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

MUPD clears Mizzou Rec Center after reported bomb threat

The University of Missouri Police Department has given the all clear sign after searching the Mizzou Recreation Center late Friday night after an anonymous report of a bomb threat was received.

UM spokesman Christian Basi said the report came in about 9:15 p.m. and the MU Alert System put out a notice of the anonymous bomb threat just before 10 p.m. The building had been evacuated and search with an explosive K9 team as a precaution, according to the MU Alert System.

By 10:05 p.m., the MU Alert System reported there was “nothing to indicate that there is an actual device or credible threat,” but that all precautions were being taken.

By midnight, MUPD finished searching the building and had found no signs of explosives. Basi said police are investigating the identity of the caller, who will be charged if the incident is determined to be a hoax. He urged anyone with information about the incident to call MUPD.

The university last responded to a bomb threat in April 2015, and that incident also was unfounded, Basi said.

MISSOURIAN

MU finds no explosives after rec center bomb threat

COLUMBIA — Emergency crews and a K-9 unit searched the MU Student Recreation Complex for almost two hours late Friday night after MU received an anonymous bomb threat to the building.

MU police received the call at 9:13 p.m. The call specified the MU rec complex, which was closed at the time. MU police evacuated a few people who were in the building at the time, said MU spokesman Christian Basi.

At 11:50 p.m., the all-clear was given by MU Alert. The initial alert was sent at 9:50 p.m. and the search began shortly thereafter.

MU police's bomb-sniffing dog Brass was brought to the scene and MU police conducted a search of the entire complex.

"At this point there is nothing to indicate that there is an actual device or credible threat," read a status update from MU Alert as the search was being conducted.

MU police said the complex was evacuated, but it's unclear who was in the building at the time. The complex closed at 7 p.m. Friday, according to its website.

MU police is asking for any information about the threat be reported. Campus police can be reached by calling 882-7201, and Crimestoppers can be reached by calling 875-8477.



MUPD: All clear, no device found after MizzouRec bomb threat

By Daniel Perreault

COLUMBIA - MUPD officers gave the "all clear" late Friday night after authorities said they did not find an explosive device inside the MU Student Recreation Complex.

According to MU Alert, the university's emergency information system, officers responded just before 10:00 p.m. after someone anonymously called in a bomb threat to MUPD.

MizzouRec was immediately evacuated and multiple MUPD patrol cars were positioned to block each entrance to the building.

Police officers and an explosives K9 team searched the complex, but were unable to find any indication of an explosive device.

Authorities said the investigation to determine who made the call was ongoing.

MISSOURIAN

MU parking tickets about to get more costly

By Mitchell Bartle

COLUMBIA — MU campus parking citations are going to become substantially more expensive starting Aug. 1.

At the moment, after accumulating five parking tickets, a \$15 excessive violation fee is added onto each subsequent ticket, and it goes up to \$50 for each one after the 11th ticket.

The new fees are going up to \$25 after three violations and \$75 after the seventh.

Violations are tallied per academic semester and add to the count whether or not the ticket is paid.

An hour of enforcement for metered parking, lots and garages has already been added. It's now 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

MU garages are also getting new signs to identify pay stations. Some garages will be getting a "pay-by-plate" system with new kiosks that will give automated parking permissions instead of printing a receipt.

Drivers will have to enter their license plate numbers into the pay stations. Parking enforcement will then scan plates to determine whether vehicles have paid for parking permission.

According to the MU Parking and Transportation Services website, the additional fees are collected to reduce the number of excessive violators and the need for towing.

T COLUMBIA DAILY **TRIBUNE**

Evaluation planned for site of new middle school

By Megan Favignano

Columbia Public Schools will evaluate property in south Columbia, which is planned for a new middle school, before closing on the land's sale.

The Columbia Board of Education recently approved a \$2.9 million land purchase agreement for 63 acres of Sinclair Farm, which is owned by the University of Missouri. Sinclair Farm is on Sinclair Road south of Nifong Boulevard and previously was used for research.

Between 1972 and 1981, liquid radioactive waste from MU research was placed into a pit and burned on a 2-acre plot of the more than 500-acre Sinclair Farm. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has since tested the land and determined it safe to use and sell.

CPS Superintendent Peter Stiepleman said Board of Curators approved the contract and the Board of Education approved a two-phase evaluation plan for the property Thursday.

“Our first job, before anything else, is to keep children safe,” Stiepleman said in an email. “The NRC was asked to evaluate the entire 500+ acre farm to determine if there were any concerns that would preclude the University to sell ... and as other community members who live near the property have pointed out, the land was determined to be safe.”

He said the district is approaching the property just like a prospective homeowner would approach a home. That means inspecting the property with a third party to confirm what the university and NRC have found in prior evaluations of the property: that it is safe to purchase.

Christian Basi, UM spokesman, said this is the first section of the property to be sold. The money made from the land sale will benefit the nursing school.

The district plans to use the property to open a new middle school by 2020. The school is needed to relieve overcrowding at Gentry Middle School. Stiepleman said the district has six middle schools and five of them are on Worley or above. Most of the school district, he said, recognizes the need to respond to growth in southwest Columbia.

“The greatest growth is projected to be in the southwest - a projection of more than 30 percent over the next 10 years alone,” Stiepleman said in an email.

Stiepleman said the Columbia Board of Education chose the property after what he called an extensive search. The district initially considered more than 20 possible sites. He said the Sinclair Farm property was most desirable for many reasons and specifically mentioned the access the infrastructure being a positive.



[MU Hosts High School Students and Legislators for Emerging Leaders Conference](#)

This story was generated from an MU News Bureau press release: [MEDIA ADVISORY: Emerging Leaders Conference to Offer Legislative Leadership Opportunities to High School Students](#)

Watch story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=0094c806-def8-4c59-b869-6819d7104d72>

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

TOP DRAWER

Generated from a MU News Bureau Student Honors Release

ONWARD & UPWARD

Kasey Schaumburg, of Camdenton, was awarded the Mel Carnahan Graduate Fellowship for Public Service from the Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri.

The Carnahan Fellowship is awarded to a graduate student studying public affairs and preparing for a career in public service. Candidates for the award are nominated by students, faculty or other organizations, and are reviewed by a committee of Truman School faculty and students.

KUDOS

KOMU 8 has won two national Edward R. Murrow Awards for Excellence in Website and Excellence in Social Media. KOMU 8 previously won the regional Murrow Awards in these categories and went on to win the national awards, competing against hundreds of television stations from 160 other markets across the United States.



MU students escape unharmed after house fire

Watch story; <http://krcgtv.com/news/local/mu-students-escape-unharmed-after-house-fire>

By Megan Sanchez

COLUMBIA — A group of University of Missouri students woke up to fire alarms early Saturday morning. Ross Kurczynski was staying at 315 Rosemary Lane when flames engulfed a couch on the front porch.

He said the group that was there exited quickly, and a passerby called 911. Crews arrived and were able to put the fire out in 30 minutes, but Kurczynski said much of the front of the house was in flames when the fire department arrived.

The call came in after 3:00 a.m. Kurczynski said their landlord spoke with them early Saturday morning. The landlord has insurance, and Kurczynski said he and his friends are hoping to be able to move back in by August.

Kurczynski also said the fire department told him there is around \$20,000 worth of damage.

"It still feels surreal now," he said. "You're not used to waking up in a fog. Smoke had filled the room and it was hard to see and stuff."

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

What's next for Missouri Democratic darling Jason Kander?

BY LINDSAY WISE, BRYAN LOWRY AND ALEX ROARTY

The Kansas City Star

ATLANTA -Missouri Democrat Jason Kander spent last week knocking on voters' doors, shaking hands, giving speeches and snapping selfies with eager young campaign volunteers. In Georgia.

He was in Atlanta on the last leg of a cross-country tour, the sort that tells the political cognoscenti that this is an up-and-comer to be watched closely.

But this is a guy who's never held an office higher than secretary of state in Missouri. He narrowly lost a winnable Senate campaign last year. He currently holds no political office, and the Kander Political Action Committee is dormant. He says he's dedicated to his current job advocating for voters' rights as the head of Let America Vote, a nonprofit he founded that primarily helps Democrats.

In the past month, Kander has spoken to Democrats in New Hampshire, visited with the party faithful in Iowa, and canvassed for Georgia House candidate Jon Ossoff. He also made appearances in Massachusetts, Arizona, Kentucky and Utah.

What is Jason Kander up to?

Aiming higher

The telltale signs of national ambition are hardly subtle.

Kander's Twitter feed — followed by more than 162,000 people — blasts out videos and photos of the lanky Army veteran, 36, his shirt sleeves rolled up, looking every bit the part of a political candidate. He has a contributor contract with CNN, and the Beltway-based Politico recently called him the “hottest star in Democratic politics.”

His campaign quietly formed that political action committee after the election to eventually raise and spend money for fellow Democrats.

Kander has been asked so many times about his future that his answers are well-rehearsed: He's humbled so many Democrats across the country are asking him to speak, and he's busy promoting his voting rights group.

He insists any other ambition isn't a priority — for now.

“If I'm good at protecting elections, then maybe one day I'll be in one,” he said in Georgia.

Even his voting rights group has a political tinge. It opposes requirements, for instance, for photo IDs. The success of the group would bolster Democrats at the polls, because their supporters are more easily tripped up by such rules, and hurt Republicans.

Democrats who know Kander well say what he wants is a national profile and a lead role in reshaping the ailing party.

That's a significant shift for Kander, who didn't seem too eager to associate himself with 2016 presidential nominee Hillary Clinton or the national party organization during his Senate run. He skipped last year's Democratic National Convention.

“I think his goal right now is to create a national profile, and within six months of the election, I think he's done that,” said Jack Cardetti, a Jefferson City-based political consultant who advised Kander on his 2012 campaign for secretary of state.

“He has a seat at the table when it comes to the future of the Democratic Party.”

Next?

Kander's loss last year to Sen. Roy Blunt, the Missouri Republican, has an upside, said Josh Earnest, President Barack Obama's former press secretary.

“There’s a benefit to not being No. 97 or 99 on the seniority ladder in the U.S. Senate” — especially when the Republican president isn’t likely to sign many Democrat-sponsored bills into law, Earnest said.

As the head of his own nonprofit, and in his new role as chairman of the Democratic National Committee’s commission on voting rights, Kander “doesn’t have a lot of constraints,” Earnest said. “And he can measure success in ways other than legislation.”

John Hancock, a former Missouri Republican chairman, scoffed at the idea of Kander going places nationally.

“The level of excitement that the Democrats are expressing about Jason Kander,” he said, “is a startling example of how thin a bench that party has in national American politics today.”

Peverill Squire, a political scientist at the University of Missouri, said that Kander has “caught the attention of a lot of national Democrats as somebody they would like to groom.”

Timing complicates his ability to use that support as a springboard for higher office.

Kander lives in a House district occupied by former Kansas City Mayor Emanuel Cleaver, 72, who hasn’t indicated any interest in retirement.

Missouri’s Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill is up for re-election next year, but Kander quickly dismissed rumors he might challenge her in a primary.

Kander could challenge Republican Gov. Eric Greitens in 2020, Squire said, or wait 5 1/2 years to make another run at Blunt’s seat.

He also could be angling for an appointment to a future Democratic administration, if the party wins back the White House in 2020.

“I don’t know if there’s a clear path for him to get elected to anything in Missouri at the moment, but I think national Democrats look at him as somebody who has prospects,” Squire said.

Story continues: <http://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article157930459.html>