UMKC vows to find all $96 million for downtown arts campus without state help ahead of veto

BY SCOTT CANON

University of Missouri System officials touted plans Wednesday to raise money for building a downtown Kansas City arts campus without matching funds from the state.

The announcement came hours before Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens vetoed a plan to underwrite half the construction costs with state money.

But UM and University of Missouri-Kansas City officials said they were braced to find other ways to raise the full $96 million they want to build the campus — shifting some dollars from elsewhere across the UM System and raising more private donations. Their specifics on that added funding will come in the fall.

UM System President Mun Choi said in a news release “that details of the financial plans for the $96 million construction project and the $2 million operating costs are being developed without reliance on state funding. These plans will be presented for approval to the Board of Curators at the September meeting.”

This spring, the General Assembly passed a bill to issue up to $48 million in bonds for the arts campus near the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Backers of the plan feared that a veto would jeopardize $48 million in pledges from private sources, including $20 million from Julia Irene Kauffman. City Hall had also pledged $7 million toward the campus.

Without state money, proponents feared, the entire project might dissolve.

Capitol watchers broadly suspected the conservative Republican governor was bound to say no. He had not included the funding in his proposed budget.
About four hours after the university brass said it would pass on the state money, Greitens’ office posted on the governor’s Facebook page a picture of a bill with “veto” stamped across it.

“Politicians … passed a bill that would put taxpayers on the hook for over $75 million to build and run a conservatory for dancers and art students,” the statement said. “I’m ready to fight them on this. … You know who would have to pay that bill? You. Missouri families. I think that’s wrong.”

He appeared to take credit for the curators’ decision to bypass state funding, saying “they don’t want any additional taxpayer money to pay for a conservatory. Instead, they’ve committed to develop a detailed plan to pay for it by making tough budget decisions and using private funds along with strong leaders in the Kansas City community. … That’s how it should be.”

Wednesday’s announcement hinted that the curators shared Greitens’ view: a project targeted for downtown Kansas City ought to be paid for with Kansas City, not Missouri, dollars.

By beating Greitens to the punch and pushing a plan without state matching funds, the university system’s governing body sought to avoid a sense of doom for the project that the veto might signal. It also gave the governor political cover on a move that could anger Kansas City voters toward the Republican chief executive.

The curators made clear in their news release that existing pledges — made with the belief that the state would match contributions dollar for dollar — held firm. For instance, it noted Kauffman would still back the arts campus.

“The Downtown Arts Campus will be a critical element of our performing arts community,” Kauffman said in the release. “It needs to happen.”

The release said a “new funding mechanism would honor and preserve those pledges by delivering matching funds.”

The MU Board of Curators and system officials said in the release that they “will develop plans for an alternative funding match … rather than seek funding from the state under the 50-50 matching program for capital projects.”

UMKC Chancellor Leo Morton had viewed the new arts campus as a signature achievement of his tenure. He said in a statement he’ll still retire at the end of the 2018 spring semester and remained “optimistic that the project will move forward as envisioned.”

The money, he said, would come from the “reallocating resources at both the UM System and UMKC level.”

“We understand the various financial challenges facing the state and believe that this action will help us start construction sooner,” Morton said in a statement released by UMKC.

In an interview, UM system and curators spokesman Christian Basi said the shift away from state bonds aims to speed up the project. Even if the governor had signed the bond authorization,
UMKC would still have been at the mercy of future budget decisions by the legislature and the governor, he said.

By taking on full responsibility for piecing together a funding package, Basi said, UMKC would increase its chances of starting construction earlier and avoiding inflation in building costs.

Administrators have not yet figured out how much they might cut other programs or what portion of the remaining $48 million would be filled by shifting dollars from other school projects, he said, and what part would come from added private fundraising.

The arts campus project was seen in many corners as a potential game changer both for downtown Kansas City and for UMKC. Putting art students in the city’s revitalized center has been pitched as a way to maintain momentum for downtown development, and for the university to further capitalize on its urban location.

That’s why lawmakers from the region put the arts campus bonds atop their list of legislative priorities this year.

Boosters of the arts campus talked about the shift away from state help, and the governor’s veto, in upbeat terms along with muted disappointment.

Joe Reardon, the president and CEO of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, said in a statement that the business group “welcomes (the) expression of support by the University of Missouri System for the proposed downtown UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance facility.”

That same statement, issued before Greitens veto, also said the Chamber “will await the funding details for this alternative plan before commenting, and we hope the Governor will allow (the bond legislation) to become law so this important option can still be available if needed in the future.”

The arts campus was among the “Big 5” goals the chamber had proposed to remake Kansas City when Greg Graves was its chairman. On Wednesday, Graves spoke about the move as a way to hurry up the project but said “I’m disappointed in the state government for not meeting its end of the bargain.”

He pushed back on the perception that state funding would amount to a pork barrel project for Kansas City.

“UMKC is the arts campus of the UM system. So to the extent that we can expand the arts program it is good for the system, which is good for the state,” said Graves, the retired chairman and CEO of Burns & McDonnell. “It’s great for downtown, which is why we raised half the dollars.
Alternative funding planned for Kansas City arts campus

UM System Mention

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=2da50308-02bb-42f7-ba87-a51d012e2600

Missouri Republican Gov. Eric Greitens on Wednesday vetoed use of state funds to help pay for a $96 million arts campus in downtown Kansas City, just hours after University of Missouri System officials said they would seek alternative funding in anticipation of his opposition.

Greitens released a statement slamming the legislation approved by the Legislature this spring, saying it would have allowed the state to issue up to $48 million in bonds to support the arts campus.

"You know who would have to pay that bill?" the Republican said. "You. Missouri families. I think that's wrong."

The veto came shortly after a statement about alternative funding was released by the Missouri Board of Curators and University of Missouri System President Mun Choi. The statement said details of funding for the University of Missouri-Kansas City's downtown arts campus, along with its $2 million in annual operating costs, would be presented at the curators' meeting in September.

"This approach will allow construction to begin sooner and save money by avoiding construction cost inflation on a project that will benefit the students of UMKC, the people of Kansas City and the state of Missouri," Choi said.
Supporters of the project had raised concerns that a veto by the governor would damage efforts to raise the other $48 million from private sources. Julia Irene Kauffman has already pledged $20 million to the campus, which would be built near the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. The city of Kansas City also has pledged $7 million for the project.

"The Downtown Arts Campus will be a critical element of our performing arts community. It needs to happen," Kauffman said in a statement released earlier Wednesday, before the veto was announced. "That's why I have supported it, and that's why I am so grateful to Chancellor Morton and President Choi for taking this bold step to make it a reality."

Supporters argue the arts campus could stimulate economic development while attracting more cultural activities and creative students to Missouri. Kansas City Democratic Sen. Jason Holsman has said the university hoped to create the "Julliard of the west."

House Democratic Minority Leader Gail McCann Beatty, also of Kansas City, criticized the governor's veto.

"Eric Greitens talks a great deal about economic development, but his veto of HCR 19 exposes his words as the empty rhetoric of professional politician," McCann Beatty said in a statement. "The extra hurdles the governor has erected will delay the jobs and economic benefits the downtown campus ultimately will generate for Kansas City."

During debate on the issue, some lawmakers raised concerns about the cost amid the state's budget constraints and questioned the value of more students studying the arts.

_Similar stories ran across Missouri and nationwide_

**Tax revenue shortfalls could mean more cuts for MU**

GABRIELA VELASQUEZ 11 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — It appears the bleeding hasn't stopped. _Just as the UM System Board of Curators passed its budget for fiscal 2018, tax revenue shortfalls could set the stage for more cuts in higher education funding across Missouri._
Rep. Scott Fitzpatrick, R-Shell Knob, said on Wednesday that state revenue growth was below 2 percent instead of the projected 3 percent for fiscal year 2017. That means Missouri is facing a $150 million shortfall heading into fiscal year 2018, which begins Saturday.

"Part of it is probably related to some people holding off on realizing income with the hope that the Congress will lower taxes given the new administration," Fitzpatrick said.

Rep. Kip Kendrick, D-Columbia, said the shortfalls have more to do with special interest tax cuts. Corporate tax collections have fallen in Missouri, which Kendrick attributed to Senate Bill 19, according to previous Missourian reporting.

Gov. Eric Greitens also said in his fiscal year 2018 budget summary that "revenue is being drained by special interest tax credits," but he also blamed the Affordable Care Act for creating "faster-than-projected growth in health care expenditures" for the state's budget crunch.

"(The tax cuts) significantly impacted our ability to fund our priorities and to balance the budget," Kendrick said.

The shortfalls could mean more withholdings than initially expected.

Fitzpatrick said overall Missouri legislature withholdings could range from $250 million to $300 million. Those withholdings would come on top of the $450 million withheld from the overall fiscal year 2017 budget.

The reason why the withholdings are greater than the shortfall, Kendrick said, "is mostly in preparation for slower revenue growth."

Greitens faces a Friday deadline for signing the spending bills that formulate the fiscal year 2018 budget.

Current withholdings in higher education funding are over $200 million. Former Gov. Jay Nixon withheld $200 million before leaving office, and Greitens pulled another $80 million in January.

In his original budget proposal, Greitens suggested cutting higher education funding by 10 percent. Legislators reduced the cuts to 6.5 percent, but Kendrick said Greitens could be getting closer to what he wanted with the shortfalls.

"At this point," Kendrick said, "we're cutting priorities."

The UM System and the MU campus could very well face even more cuts for fiscal year 2018.

"It's not great news for the University of Missouri," Fitzpatrick said. "The revenue shortfall is not great news for any entity who relies on state appropriations. The university is one of those institutions.

The news couldn't come at a worse time for MU, which has been forced to cut more than 400 positions and eliminate various programs in the midst of state cuts from fiscal year 2017. The UM System recently passed its budget for fiscal year 2018, which included 12 percent cuts, mostly across the board.

"Those cuts that we have already done have put us in a very difficult position," Christian Basi of the MU News Bureau said, adding that he couldn't speculate on what further cuts would mean for MU.
"We made some very difficult and hard choices this past fiscal year, and we are really working very hard to make some strategic investments for the future of the university."

Change, Kendrick said, will be necessary to get revenue growth back on track. In Greitens' budget for fiscal year 2018, revenue was projected to grow by 3.8 percent. Kendrick said he doesn't see that happening.

"The General Assembly needs to take a long hard look at repealing some of the special interest tax cuts that have been given out over the last several years," Kendrick said. He said he also wants to explore how the state can create equity in sales tax collections from physical and online retailers. As it stands, online merchants collect no state sales tax unless they have brick-and-mortar operations in Missouri.

Missouri's budget problems won't just go away: Cuts have been made over and over again throughout the past decade, Kendrick said, and the state has yet to find a solution to its budget woes.

"I don't think the budget's going to be any easier to fix in the coming year," Kendrick said.

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**MCA concerned over budget cuts at University of Missouri**

The Missouri Cattlemen’s Association is not staying quiet on recently announced budget cuts at the University of Missouri. Association leaders say the cuts take aim at agriculture and some of the decisions will directly and indirectly impact the farm and ranch families it represents.

“Our state is blessed to have so many great colleges and universities for our young leaders to choose from. We all have a vested interest in the University of Missouri because it is one of two land-grant universities in our state. They need to be accountable to taxpayers,” said MCA President Butch Meier, who is a cattleman from Jackson, Missouri. “The series of recent cuts
will have direct and indirect impacts on the cattle industry. While farmers and ranchers certainly understand budget constraints, we prefer smart cuts over convenient cuts.’”

The university is eliminating the reproduction (theriogenology) specialty section from the veterinary teaching hospital.

“There is no logical reason for anyone to even consider cutting this specialty section and simply wrapping it under the regular food animal program,” said Meier.

MCA Executive Vice President Mike Deering said this section is responsible for teaching skills like pregnancy diagnosis, breeding management, bull breeding soundness examination and more.

“These students go on to become an integral part of the cattle production industry in Missouri,” said Deering, who also raises cattle in Montgomery City, Missouri. “In a time when we have a shortage of large animal veterinarians coupled with the industry investing heavily in whole herd reproduction management, it is beyond ludicrous to eliminate a section that is critical to the training of future cattle veterinarians.”

Deering also expressed concern about the “phasing out” of the agricultural journalism degree program at the university.

“This program has produced some the best and the brightest in the business. Think Jerry Litton. Think Tyne Morgan, first-ever female host of the U.S. Farm Report. The impact of this program over the last 95 years extends far beyond the pen and pad,” said Deering, who graduated from the agricultural journalism program at the university in 2004. “There are plenty of inefficiencies at the university as pointed out in the state auditor’s findings. Kicking students in the gut is the wrong way to handle budget cuts.”

Meier said the agricultural journalism program is increasingly important.
“One of the biggest challenges we face is communicating effectively to a consumer base that is far removed from production agriculture,” said Meier. “If anything, we need to be investing more in this effort. We certainly shouldn’t be killing the program.”

Deering said some have forgotten that the university is a public, land-grant institution founded on agriculture, and that they are accountable to taxpayers.

“It is our job to remind them of this fact.”

HANNIBAL COURIER~POST

Newspaper in Hannibal, Mo (Ralls County)

MU researchers: Health care process a roadblock for adolescents with autism, caregivers

Generated from News Bureau press release: Health Care Process a Roadblock for Adolescents with Autism and their Caregivers

For most people, trips to the doctor can be quite scary. For adolescents and young adults with autism, taking control of health care decisions is not only frightening, it also can be a barrier to independence.

For most people, trips to the doctor can be quite scary. For adolescents and young adults with autism, taking control of health care decisions is not only frightening, it also can be a barrier to independence.

Now researchers from the University of Missouri have found that the health care process not only impacts adolescents with autism, but caregivers also feel they lack the skills and support necessary to help those adolescents achieve health-related independence. As more children with autism enter adulthood, improved communication between providers, adolescents and caregivers is needed to help those with autism transition to independence.

“A significant part of adulthood is managing health care, which includes regular trips to the doctor, following treatment plans, and being aware of symptoms and changes in health,” said
Nancy Cheak-Zamora, an assistant professor in the MU School of Health Professions. “This can be especially challenging for adolescents and young adults with autism.”

Cheak-Zamora and her team conducted interviews with adolescents with autism and their caregivers. They found that both groups had a strong desire for the adolescents to manage their health care needs and that they attempted to take small steps toward independence, such as using pill boxes to help adolescents manage their own medications throughout the week. However, both groups lacked confidence when it came to building independence with adult health care. In many cases, caregivers were confused about their role in their adolescent’s path toward independence. Decisions about guardianship and who makes legal health care decisions were found to be especially problematic. Adolescents expressed feeling upset that health providers would not talk directly to them, instead speaking only to the caregivers.

“Many caregivers said they felt forced to remain involved in their adolescent’s care, even when their goal for the adolescents was independence,” Cheak-Zamora said. “Meanwhile, adolescents want to overcome their fears. They feel it is important to have alone time with doctors and are frustrated when doctors communicate mainly with caregivers. These findings reiterate the importance of understanding the perspectives of both caregivers and adolescents and improving communication between caregivers, adolescents and providers to achieve shared independence goals.”

“Exploration and comparison of adolescents with autism spectrum disorder and their caregiver’s perspectives on transition to adult health care and adulthood,” recently was published in the Journal of Pediatric Psychology. Co-authors of the study were Michelle Teti, associate professor of health sciences; Anna Maurer-Batjer, a graduate student in the School of Social Work; and Erica Koegler, a post-doctoral fellow in the School of Health Professions. Research was supported by the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs through the Autism Research Program. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the funding agencies.
Mizzou cashes in with Sterk as AD

By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch 3 hrs ago (0)

COLUMBIA, MO. • When he left San Diego State for Missouri last summer, athletics director Jim Sterk hoped to deliver a sense of stability to a department smothered by months of turmoil and most recently stunned by the departure of predecessor Mack Rhoades.

Rhoades lasted 15 months at Mizzou before leaving for Baylor.

While MU’s two high-profile teams languished during Sterk’s first year on the job, he revived the football team’s chief facility project, then recaptured interest in men’s basketball with the hiring of coach Cuonzo Martin.

While coaches are measured in championships, their bosses are also defined by dollars. In that department, Sterk has enjoyed unprecedented success.

During the 2016-17 fiscal year, which ends Friday, Mizzou athletics has raised a school-record $50.4 million, more than double last year’s fundraising total of $21.9 million. In the last year, Mizzou collected 11 pledges and cash gifts of $1 million or more, also a school record.

MU’s previous best single-year total for fundraising came in 2011-12, just when the school was leaving the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference. That year, it raised $45.7 million.

Last August, Sterk arrived at Missouri as the school still was recovering from the November 2015 campus protests that involved the football team and led to widespread turnover among university leadership. Sterk...
said he found Mizzou donors shocked by Rhoades’ departure and uncertain about the school’s stability.

That’s where Sterk worked to build support through trust.

“I’ve just tried to share the vision of what we could do and that I intend to be here a long time. … I’m not in it for the short term,” he said Wednesday in an interview with select media outlets. “I think people understand that. I think they could see I was telling them what I believe. I do believe that I’m going to work as long as I can and be effective for Mizzou.

“I believe in the (university’s) land-grant mission. I believe in what we’re doing here. And then I’m competitive as hell. And I want to win. I want to win championships but do it in the right way. My motto is, ‘Win it right.’ That’s what I want to do. As I’ve talked to donors and alums they’ve been great. That’s what they want for this place, too.”

Last fall, after meeting with first-year football coach Barry Odom and key donors, Sterk rebooted plans for a new football complex that will be part of a renovation of the south end zone of Memorial Stadium. Sterk said MU athletics has raised $49 million for the project, which is expected to cost around $95 million. Revenue bonds will cover the difference. See More

The UM System Board of Curators is expected to approve the project this summer, perhaps during its meeting in July.

Story continues: http://www.stltoday.com/sports/college/mizzou/record-fundraising-marks-sterk-s-first-year-as-mizzou-s/article_1364937b-7ab4-5bd4-9b87-de240738e7c1.html

Missouri athletics announces school-record $50.4 million raised during fiscal year

With two days left in the 2016-17 fiscal year, Missouri athletics announced Wednesday that it raised a record-breaking $50.4 million toward MU’s 20 athletic teams.

The 2016-17 total broke the previous record, $45.7 million raised during 2011-12, by $4.7 million.
In a release from Missouri athletics, Missouri athletic director Jim Sterk thanked more than 7,000 donors who contributed to the University of Missouri's Tiger Scholarship Fund (TSF).

"We deeply appreciate our generous alumni and friends for stepping forward during this important time in our program's history to help us provide the best possible academic and athletic experience for our 550 student-athletes," Sterk said in the release. "With the momentum generated from this year's achievements, we believe a strong foundation is in place to ensure future success within our athletics program."

Missouri received a school-record 11 gifts of $1 million or more towards the 2016-17 TSF, and the 2016-17 total more than doubled the $21.96 million raised in 2015-16. This fiscal year also marked the second time in school history that the TSF surpassed $40 million and the fifth time it topped $30 million.

**THE KANSAS CITY STAR.**

**Mizzou football will return to Kansas City in 2024 against Boston College**

BY TOD PALMER

**Missouri football will return to Arrowhead Stadium in 2024.**

First-year athletic director Jim Sterk confirmed Wednesday that the Tigers’ scheduled home game against Boston College in seven years would be moved to Kansas City.

Mizzou plays at Boston College in 2021 as part of a two-game series announced last October.

Sterk said he isn’t opposed occasionally to moving games off campus to the state of Missouri’s largest population centers, including plans to resume a series against Illinois in St. Louis.

“I’ve had discussions with (Fighting Illini athletic director) Josh Whitman about playing Illinois in St. Louis, but we haven’t gotten a date,” Sterk said.
During an appearance at the Tiger Club of Kansas City Golf Tournament two weeks ago, Sterk also said he’s interested in restarting the Border War with Kansas.

However, he noted Wednesday that he’s never had a dialogue with Jayhawks athletic director Sheahon Zenger about the possibility.

“I have not gotten anywhere,” Sterk said, “as far as Kansas or Kansas State on football there in Kansas City.”

The Boston College game is something of a makeup game for Arrowhead Stadium after the last game in Kansas City — against BYU in November 2015 — failed to meet revenue expectations in the wake of a brief boycott by Tigers players earlier in the week that threatened to cancel the game.

According to the licensing agreement for the BYU game, Mizzou received $3.5 million from Arrowhead Events for the BYU game, which only drew an announced crowd of 42,824 after the tumultuous week.

Speaking of revenue, Missouri enjoyed a record-shattering fiscal year on the fundraising front under Sterk’s leadership.

The athletic department announced Wednesday that more than 7,000 donors combined to give $50.4 million for the Tiger Scholarship Fund in 2016-17.

That figure includes money donated for the proposed new football facility in the south end zone at Memorial Stadium, a $95 million project that has attracted $49 million in donations to date.

Sterk hopes the project will be approved by the University of Missouri System Board of Curators next month.

“It will be sometime this summer hopefully we get that thing done,” said Sterk, who said construction should begin shortly after Mizzou football’s 2017 season ends.

The Tigers’ previous single-year record for donations was $45.7 in 2011-12, the first year MU moved into the Southeastern Conference.

It’s the fifth year in program history the Tigers topped $30 million in donations, including four — with $32.3 million in 2012-13 and $31.4 million in 2013-14 — since leaving the Big 12.

Missouri raised a then-record $39.4 million during the 2001-02 fiscal year.

Buoyed by a school-record 11 seven-figure gifts this year, the Tigers increased year-over-year giving by 129 percent in Sterk’s first year after raising only $21.96 million during 2015-16.

Sterk credited MU deputy athletic director for external relations Brian White and senior associate athletic director for development Ryan Alpert, who’s in charge of the Tiger Scholarship Fund, for a systematic approach to boosting the annual fund and improving fan engagement.
Tickets sales for men’s basketball are expected to spike significantly after Cuonzo Martin was hired in March and he signed a buzz-worthy recruiting class, which includes 2017 top prospect Michael Porter Jr.

Missouri, which averaged fewer than 60,000 for football games last season for the first time since 2006, has sold roughly 21,000 season tickets plus another 2,400 student tickets, which is double the number purchased at this time last season.

The Tigers sold at least 42,166 football season tickets during each of its first four years in the SEC, but that dropped to 36,954 last fall on the heels of a dismal 5-7 campaign in 2015, which featured the brief player boycott and longtime coach Gary Pinkel’s retirement.

Mizzou Arena vandalism suspect left behind license plate, cell phone

BY TOD PALMER

University of Missouri police quickly zeroed in on Nathaniel J. Conant as a suspect in the vehicular property damage incident Sunday morning at Mizzou Arena after a license plate and cell phone were found at the scene, according to MU athletic director Jim Sterk.

Conant, 23, allegedly drove a Volkswagen Passat through two gates and a garage door located at the arena’s loading dock during a rampage that left skid marks on Norm Stewart Court.

The vehicle’s license plate came off and was lodged in the wreckage from the first gate he rammed on the south end of the arena.

It’s unclear where police found a cell phone belonging to Conant, a Columbia resident who graduated from MU in December with a bachelor’s degree in English.

Conant also was employed temporarily as a utility worker for the SEC Network, pulling cable for broadcasts of events at the arena.

He hadn’t worked an event since February and is no longer a Mizzou employee as of Monday, an athletic department spokesman told The Star.

“ I feel sorry for him,” Sterk said. “He just graduated, so something’s not quite right.”

Sterk said there was no significant damage to Norm Stewart Court and the tire marks already have been removed.
“It wasn’t lasting,” he said.

Preliminary repairs to clean up debris around the gates have started, but repairs hadn’t been completed by Thursday evening.

MU police estimate the total damage, which included a few wrecked golf carts, at $100,000.

Sterk learned about the vandalism via an email from Mizzou deputy athletic director and chief financial officer Tim Hickman.

“I don’t know why (Conant did it),” Sterk said. “We were surprised. It’s one of the strangest emails I’ve gotten.”

Conant was contacted by MU police Sunday afternoon and surrendered. He was booked in Boone County Jail on one count of second-degree burglary and four counts of first-degree property damage, which are all felonies.