



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Mizzou announces full-tuition grants for low-income students

By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Story generated from News Bureau press release: [Land Grant Compact Will Provide Access to Missouri Residents](#) and ran on the front page of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch

COLUMBIA, Mo. • Jacqueline Dreppard was a little bit skeptical at first.

The University of Missouri-Columbia is going to cover all of her tuition and other expenses starting next year?

Her unexpected good fortune is owed to a Mizzou initiative announced Thursday that will dramatically boost financial aid across campus — a step that could offer a jolt to the school's struggling student recruitment efforts.

Dreppard, a sophomore finance major and Oakville High School graduate, is one of more than 3,000 existing Mizzou students who, come fall 2018, will have their tuition covered by the university.

The deal is available to all first-time freshmen, transfer students and existing students who meet the requirements to receive a federal Pell grant, which is awarded to students who demonstrate financial need.

Under the plan, all tuition not covered by the federal grants will be paid for by the university. It's available only for Missouri residents.

Mizzou expects to spend \$5 million annually on the so-called Land Grants program, representing about 40 percent of Mizzou's overall budget for need-based aid.

The new program has two components: the general Land Grants, and an extended program for honors students. Students who are accepted into the Honors College who are Pell grant-eligible will have all of their financial needs met, including room and board.

Tuition alone at Mizzou for an in-state student, assuming they take 14 credit hours, is around \$11,000. But the maximum annual Pell grant amount is \$5,920 for the current academic year, covering just more than half of tuition.

That gap, even after any additional scholarships, is a stressor for students like Dreppard. She works part time at a Columbia sandwich shop to help cover her extra costs, in addition to taking out some student loans.

"I want to go to law school after this, so it would be awesome to be able to start tucking away money I make for that," she said. She might be able to cut back some of her hours down the line to focus on school, too, as appealing as it is to start chipping away at future law school debt.

Students won't have to be eligible to receive the full Pell grant amount in order to receive the new scholarship. The details to qualify for the federal need-based aid vary based on household income and factors like the number of dependents in the family.

Most Pell grant funding goes to students from households earning less than \$30,000 a year, but many families qualify at levels up to twice that or more depending on individual circumstances.

New Mizzou Chancellor Alex Cartwright announced the grants Thursday at a news conference in Jesse Hall, which was packed with students, employees and several legislators.

The chancellor empathized with the struggle of college affordability, as a former community college student who received his GED.

This new aid program will be part of Mizzou's marketing pitch as the school tackles a new recruitment strategy that's been hinted at during governing board meetings for months, highlighting a renewed focus on in-state students.

But a lot of the details around this program are unknown, including how much money leaders could expect to spend on scholarships during the first year. Mizzou currently has around 3,500 students who are Pell-eligible who will qualify for the grant come fall 2018, according to Pelema Morrice, vice provost of enrollment management.

But how will this help recruitment for fall 2018 freshmen? There's no way to know.

"If we are able to enroll more low-income, Pell-eligible students, that's part of why we're here — that's our mission," Morrice said. "Investing in Missourians is why we're here."

The university has always provided need-based aid, but it's usually a percentage of students' unmet need after scholarships that can vary year by year. The goal is for this program to help the school recruit in all parts of Missouri, from St. Louis to the more rural parts of the state.

"We're stepping up effort in a very assertive way," Morrice said.

But one state lawmaker is not impressed with the initiative, calling it a publicity stunt by an institution in need of broader reform.

"This is another roundabout attempt from University System leadership to quell discussions of their systemic problems instead of addressing them head-on," said Rep. Courtney Curtis, D-Ferguson, in a prepared statement.

Still, the response from students who will benefit from the initiative was jubilant.

DeMario Malone, who is an honors student, has a feeling his mom is going to scream into the phone when he tells her his tuition, room and board will be covered by his sophomore year.

Malone, a freshman pre-health professions major from Florissant, said this is huge for his family. His mother is an elementary school teacher with St. Louis Public Schools and his father is an entrepreneur.

“When your school puts a lot of effort into you with scholarships, it gives you a drive to prove to them that you were worth that money,” he said.

His family found a way to pay the \$12,000 or so gap that his scholarships didn’t cover over all four years, but it was a challenge, he said. Malone offered to work to help, but among his scholarships is a time-consuming undergraduate research program, and he has big goals of joining student organizations.

“My parents were already skeptical about me working,” he said. “This will let me focus on school since I want to go to medical school.”



University of Missouri to offer free tuition and fees to qualifying students

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS AND TOD PALMER

The Kansas City Star

AUGUST 24, 2017 1:54 PM

Story generated from News Bureau press release: [Land Grant Compact Will Provide Access to Missouri Residents](#) and ran on the front page of the Kansas City Star

The University of Missouri beginning next year will guarantee payment of all tuition and fees for every Missouri student who qualifies for a federal Pell Grant, MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright announced Thursday afternoon.

“Today we are reaffirming our pledge to provide access to higher education with the belief that an educated citizenry is the key to advancing the state of Missouri, our nation and world,” said

Cartwright, who began his role as chancellor earlier this month. “Today is an investment in Missouri.”

MU is the only public college or university in the state making this level of financial aid commitment to its undergraduate students, according to state education officials.

The offer is for in-state students, including transfer students. Other schools in the University of Missouri System are not included.

Most Pell Grants are awarded to students whose families make less than \$30,000 a year. Under certain circumstances though, some Pell Grants are awarded to students whose families make more than that. The maximum Pell Grant award this year was \$5,815.

For Missouri students who meet the Pell Grant-eligible requirements and also are in the MU Honors College, Cartwright said the university will not only pay all remaining tuition and fees after Pell Grant dollars are applied, but will also pay for the student’s housing, food and books.

Essentially any Missouri student who qualifies could get a free or significantly subsidized education at the University of Missouri.

For state residents, tuition at MU is \$11,008 a year assuming a student is enrolled in 14 credit hours per semester. Housing and dining cost about \$10,808. Students typically pay about \$6,148 a year for books, transportation and personal expenses.

To be eligible for the honors college, incoming freshmen need an ACT score of 31 or higher, must be in the top 15 percent of their class, or have a core grade point average of 3.58. Students with an ACT score of at least 29 need to be in the top 5 percent of their class or have a core grade point average of 3.91.

“This will help eliminate the financial barrier for many students in Missouri,” said Christian Basi, spokesman for MU and the University of Missouri four-campus system.

“Based on Pell eligibility from previous years, we expect that more than 3,500 MU students from Missouri will qualify,” the university said in a news release that included details about the new program, called the [Missouri Land Grant Compact](#).

Lucy Shanker, a junior studying journalism and Middle Eastern studies, is Pell eligible and will benefit from the program.

“This program is truly incredible,” said Shanker, who is from Kansas City. “It is not only an honor, but it means a huge weight will be lifted off of the shoulders of my mother.”

Shanker said her mom is a teaching assistant and a single parent who raised Shanker and her sister, a college graduate.

Having her tuition paid “also means that during the school year, I will be able to focus on my studies without the constant worrying of how my family and I will pay for things,” Shanker said.

Payton Englert, the vice president of the University of Missouri Student Association, welcomed the news Thursday that Mizzou will have provide free tuition to all Pell Grant-eligible students beginning next year. She said college affordability is students' top concern.

This new MU program is similar to financial aid initiatives offered at some elite private four-year schools such as Harvard, which promises a free education for admitted students from households earning less than \$65,000.

The Missouri compact “is MU’s pledge to fulfill its land-grant mission by offering more competitive, affordable education to Missouri residents,” Cartwright said.

He said the free tuition offer solidifies MU as the go-to university for Missouri residents.

“This is something that has been in the works for a significantly long time,” Basi said. “It is not in response to any recent news. We are thrilled about this announcement.”

He said the compact will be funded through a combination of federal, state and university resources. It’s expected to cost about \$5 million a year — \$3.5 million for the Missouri Land Grants and \$1.5 million for the Honors grants.

University officials were not more specific about where the dollars will come from. Earlier this year, University of Missouri System President Mun Choi [ordered every campus](#) in the four-campus system to streamline operations while identifying key areas of investment.

Shrinking state funding and enrollment declines caused the system to cut more than \$101 million from the budgets of its four campuses, resulting in the loss of 474 jobs. MU saw roughly \$60 million in cuts.

The new MU program kicks off in the fall of 2018.

That means an eligible student already enrolled at MU — a junior in 2017, for example — could get tuition and fees paid through the compact in his senior year.

Cartwright and Pelema Morrice, MU’s vice provost of enrollment and management, addressed a packed conference room in Jesse Hall where the announcement was made.

Both said that financial aid had made a higher education attainable for them. They said that while Thursday’s announcement struck a personal cord for them, it is MU’s land grant mission and the advance of Missouri that’s behind the compact.

“Our message here is very clear,” Morrice said. “We care about Missouri and we care about affordability. We want to advance education opportunities for all Missourians.”



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San Francisco Chronicle

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Mizzou Announces New Grants for Low-income Students

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, Mo. — The University of Missouri in Columbia next year will offer scholarships for low-income students to cover the full cost of their tuition.

Spokeswoman Liz McCune said Thursday that the grants will be available in fall 2018 for Missouri residents who are Pell Grant eligible. The university will cover any gap between the cost of their tuition and fees and what is covered by other scholarships.

McCune said the school will cover the full gap in college costs for qualified students in the Honors College, including room and board.

McCune said the university estimates more than 3,500 students could benefit. That's more than 10 percent of the student population.

The grants are expected to cost the university about \$5 million.

Similar stories ran nationwide

University of Missouri launches plan to cut costs for lower-income students

Editor's note: This story ran on the front page of today's edition.

By RUDI KELLER

The University of Missouri has a simple message for students eligible for Pell grants — attend MU and all tuition and fees will be paid.

On Wednesday, Chancellor Alexander Cartwright and Vice Provost for Enrollment Pelema Morrice rolled out a new program the university calls the Missouri Land Grant Compact. It is intended to address several issues facing students and MU — it will reduce student borrowing, encourage new applications and fill idle dorm rooms with sophomores, juniors and seniors.

“We are at a very special time in our institutional history, one that requires all of us to be very reflective about why we are here and who we are here serve,” Morrice said.

For students who receive federal Pell grants, generally from families with incomes below \$30,000, the program will supplement other student aid with enough money to cover tuition and fees. A program for Pell-eligible honors students will provide enough to cover all unmet financial needs, including the cost of room and board.

The program will begin in fall 2018. Only students who are Missouri residents when they apply to the university will be eligible for the grants, but all students on campus who are eligible will receive the money next year. The university will combine funding from federal, state and institutional sources to pay for the program, which is expected to cover about 3,500 students and add about \$5 million to the \$12 million currently spent by MU on need-based financial aid.

Cartwright, who borrowed \$12,500 in the 1980s for his undergraduate education at community college and the University of Iowa, said the issue of affordability is a personal one.

“The whole thing is we allow people the opportunity to really have a leg up and not have to take out as many loans, allow them to do some of the things they may not have been able to do otherwise, things outside of the classroom,” Cartwright said in an interview.

Pell grants provide up to \$5,920 this year for students seeking their first undergraduate degree. Most students who receive Pell grants have a family income of \$30,000 or less and the actual award is based on family income and ability to contribute to the student's education. Many students borrow the difference between grants and other aid and the total cost of attending MU.

Federally guaranteed loans are the biggest source of student borrowing. In 2015, graduating seniors had an average federal loan debt of \$21,647 at MU, about \$8,000 less than the national average.

“This is going to be pretty important,” said Maurice Graham, chairman of the Board of Curators. If it is successful, Graham said, he expects other UM System campuses to create similar programs.

“This demonstrates that we are recognizing the obligation and opportunity to provide significant financial assistance to young Missourians who attend Mizzou,” Graham said.

The decision to increase investment in financial aid comes while the university is adjusting to major budget cuts imposed July 1. State aid to the university was cut this year and the opening day of classes saw the second precipitous drop in enrollment in as many years.

About 4,100 first-time freshmen enrolled, down from more than 6,700 in fall 2015, and overall enrollment is down about 14 percent in that period. University officials hope the program will help stop that decline.

“I think anybody who looks at will see it is a tremendous opportunity for our students and I hope they will see that is what we are doing,” Cartwright said. “We are trying to make Mizzou, which is an incredible place to attend, to be a place that is also affordable for people who are Pell-eligible.”

Encouraging honors students to live on campus can only help student success rates, Cartwright said. Successful upperclassmen can provide mentoring and an example, he said.

“Back when I was going to school, if I had such an opportunity I would have jumped on it,” he said.

The program is another step in repairing the university’s image, tarnished the furor over campus protests in 2015 and the ensuing political battles. It builds on actions to cut the budget in a way that frees resources for the UM System and announced plans to move ahead with major construction without relying on state aid, state Sen. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, said.

“All this stuff compounds on itself,” Rowden said. “There was never a shortcut.”

The program is the first of its kind for public four-year universities in the state, said Paul Wagner, director of the Council on Public Higher Education. Some schools may have aid plans that have similar results but none that are stated the way the Land Grant Compact is framed, he said.

“It is definitely impactful on the pocketbooks of Missourians,” he said. “And it is easily messaged.”

MISSOURIAN

[\\$5 million Missouri Land Grant Compact aims to erase tuition for thousands next fall](#)

[BY EDWARD MCKINLEY NEWS@COLUMBIAMISSOURIAN.COM](mailto:NEWS@COLUMBIAMISSOURIAN.COM)

Story generated from News Bureau press release: [Land Grant Compact Will Provide Access to Missouri Residents](#) and ran on the front page of the [Columbia Missourian](#).

Sierra Applegate, 19, is a sophomore honors student studying aerospace engineering at MU. She hopes to work for NASA and build spaceships that will someday colonize Mars. Next fall, she and thousands of other students won't have to pay a dime of tuition.

The Missouri Land Grant Compact, signed Thursday by MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright and Vice Provost for enrollment management Pelema Morrice, will cover tuition and fees for about 3,500 MU students, according to an FAQ document distributed at the morning ceremony. The compact will begin to cover tuition starting in the fall of 2018.

The grants will be for Missouri residents who are eligible for federal Pell grants and will cover out-of-pocket costs students must pay to make up the difference between the Pell grant and tuition cost. Current students will receive full tuition coverage as long as they were Missouri residents when they started at MU.

MU's total enrollment was estimated by campus officials at 30,400 for the 2017-2018 academic year, so this compact means full tuition will be covered for 11.5 percent of the student body. The compact is divided into two grants: the Missouri Land Grant and the Missouri Land Grant Honors.

Eligible honors students will also have room and board covered, in addition to fees and tuition. Of the roughly \$5 million earmarked by MU for the project, \$3.5 million will be for non-honors students and \$1.5 million for honors. The grants will also apply to students taking summer classes as long as they are taking at least six credits, and it will cover the cost of MU's average tuition and fees for students to study abroad.

The roughly \$5 million annual cost of the compact will come from \$12 million MU already spends each year on need-based financial aid.

The compact will help students with lower incomes across Missouri, both rural and urban, Morrice said.

Applegate, a recipient of the honors grant, was born in Ozark, south of Springfield in southwestern Missouri. Her parents direct an orphanage in Guatemala.

“My parents are missionaries, so we don’t have a lot of money,” Applegate said.

She has taken out tens of thousands of dollars in loans and works full time to pay for college. When she found out by email Wednesday that she’ll go to school for free starting next fall, she was amazed.

Engineering advisers tell their students five years to graduate is typical, and 4 and 1/2 years is ambitious, Applegate said, but right now she’s taking more credits each semester than her peers so she can graduate in four years for cost reasons. Thanks to the land grant compact, she said she’ll be able to take the standard number of credits, so she can study more for classes and perhaps move along her dream of working at NASA.

The reason Applegate wants to become an aerospace engineer stems from the three years she lived with her parents in Guatemala.

“Everything around me was changing — and this is going to sound super cheesy — but the terrain changed, the language changed, the culture changed,” she said. “But the stars didn’t change.”

At the signing ceremony, Cartwright said the land grant compact feels like a personal victory.

“I certainly would not be standing here today if it wasn’t for financial aid,” Cartwright said.

[Pell grants](#) in particular made higher education possible for him, he said. The federal need-based scholarship offers students a maximum of about \$6,000 a year. [The total received by students](#) depends on need, the cost of their school, whether they’re a full or part-time student and whether they’ll be attending school for the full year.

Over 20 million students received Pell grants across the country in the 2015 to 2016 school year. The majority of Pell grants are given to students who come from families making less than \$30,000 annually, though some are awarded to students with extenuating circumstances from families who make more, according to the FAQ document distributed during the signing.

In the 2014 to 2015 school year, 5,926 students received a total of nearly \$23.5 million in grants at MU, [according to the most recent data available](#).

If students receive other scholarships in addition to a Pell grant, they are still eligible for the land or honors grants.

“The grants are a commitment from Mizzou to fund tuition and fees through a variety of resources, including institutional awards,” the FAQ explained.

In addition to Cartwright and Morrice, Missouri Students Association vice president Payton Englert, spoke at the Jesse Hall signing ceremony in front of students, politicians, system and campus leadership and news media.

Morrice credited curator David Steelman of Rolla and Kevin McDonald, MU's vice chancellor of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity, with initiating the conversation many months ago that led to the compact. Morrice said it is the first of similar initiatives to come.

"We are at a special time in our institutional history," Morrice said, "one that requires all of us to be very reflective about why we are here, and who we are here to serve."



Mizzou announces new grants for low-income students

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Land Grant Compact Will Provide Access to Missouri Residents](#)

COLUMBIA, MO. - The University of Missouri in Columbia plans to guarantee payment of all tuition and fees for every student who qualifies for a federal Pell Grant, with even more financial help for students who qualify for the Honors College.

The school announced a plan Thursday that will cover any gap between the cost of tuition and fees and what is covered by other scholarships for qualifying students, starting in fall 2018. Students in Honors College would also receive other expenses, such as room and board and books.

The program, called the Missouri Land Grant Compact, is open only to Missouri residents.

"This award will have a significant impact on our students and our state," Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said. "Today is an investment in Missouri."

The university estimates more than 3,500 students — or more than 10 percent of the student population — will benefit. The grants are expected to cost the university about \$5 million.

Most Pell Grants are awarded to students whose families make less than \$30,000 a year but some Pell Grants are awarded to students whose families make more than that. The maximum Pell Grant award this year was \$5,815.

In-state residents pay about \$11,000 a year at Missouri for 14 credit hours per semester. Housing and dining cost about \$10,808 and students pay about \$6,148 a year for books, transportation and personal expenses, The Kansas City Star reported .

Honors College requires incoming freshmen to have an ACT score of 31 or higher, be in the top 15 percent of their class, or have a core grade point average of 3.58. Students with an ACT score of at least 29 need to be in the top 5 percent of their class or have a core grade point average of 3.91.

“This is going to make a world of difference for me,” said Sierra Applegate, a sophomore Aerospace Engineering student from Fenton. She is an honors student and Pell Grant recipient, qualifying her for the new Land Grants at Mizzou.

Applegate says her parents are missionaries, so the family can’t afford tuition in full. She has student loans, scholarships and works a part time job to pay for college.

“I’m working 22 hours a week in order to try and pay for some of my schooling. So the fact that this is willing to cover [tuition], that means I can focus more on my studies. I can cut back on my hours at work so I can study harder,” she said.

“It will remove the stress of trying to figure out where the money is coming from and it will make everything a lot better.”

The Land Grant program comes as the university is struggling with decreased enrollment and reduced state funding of about \$60 million. The UM system is cutting more than \$101 million from the budgets of its four campuses, causing a loss of 474 jobs so far.

"This will help eliminate the financial barrier for many students in Missouri," said university spokesman Christian Basi. "This is something that has been in the works for a significantly long time. It is not in response to any recent news."

The program will be funded through a combination of federal, state and university resources. It's expected to cost about \$5 million a year — \$3.5 million for the Missouri Land Grants and \$1.5 million for the Honors grants.



MU announces new grants for low-income students

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Land Grant Compact Will Provide Access to Missouri Residents](#)

By: Jalyn Henderson

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-announces-new-grants-for-low-income-students>

COLUMBIA - MU's chancellor and vice provost for enrollment management signed the Missouri Land Grant Compact on Thursday to provide financial aid to Missouri residents.

The Missouri Land Grants are expected to cost \$3.5 million and are for students who meet academic and financial eligibility. It affects holders of Pell Grants, which are typically awarded to students whose families make less than \$30,000 annually.

The grant will cover tuition and fees for all Pell-eligible Missouri residents.

The Honors College will also receive \$1.5 million in grants that will cover tuition, fees and room and board. To be eligible for the honors award, students must be in the Honors College and have a Pell Grant.

"None of this would have come to pass had it not been for the commitment of all Missourians who provided their private and public support to enable us to succeed," Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said.

He said the grants represent an investment in the state of Missouri and meet the university's commitment to provide competitive and affordable education to Missourians.

MU's administration worked for the past nine months on creating the Missouri Land Grants to secure funding for students.

"It takes some time to make sure these things get into place, both from a funding standpoint and also from a strategic standpoint. There are a lot of logistics to make sure this rolls out," said Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Pelema Morrice.

He said the grants use a combination of federal, state and institutional resources to meet the cost of tuition and fees.

The Missouri Land Grant and Honors grants will be made available to students at the beginning of the 2018 academic year.

"I think the students will be quite excited about this opportunity," Cartwright said. "It's an opportunity for them to get the support that they need, maybe be able to do additional things academically that they might not have had to opportunity to do otherwise."



Mizzou's Land Grant program to cover tuition for in-state Pell-eligible students

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Land Grant Compact Will Provide Access to Missouri Residents](#)

By: Greg Dailey

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=e8767f69-f053-47c6-990a-8452e0ac4410>

COLUMBIA — **The University of Missouri announced Friday the Land Grant Compact to help incoming in-state students.**

The program will cover all tuition and fees for all Pell-eligible Missouri residents who qualify for admission to Mizzou, Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said.

It will also meet 100 percent of unmet financial need, including books, and room and board for those enrolled in the MU Honors College.

Mizzou stated that based on current enrollment, the program is expected to impact 3,500 students annually.

“As the founders of this university did nearly 180 years ago, today we are reaffirming our pledge to provide access to higher education with the belief that an educated citizenry is the key to advancing the state of Missouri, our nation and world,” Cartwright said in a release.



MU Adds Grants To Cover Full Tuition, Fees

By KRISTOFOR HUSTED

University of Missouri officials signed an agreement Thursday that will expand financial aid for lower-income students beginning in 2018.

As part of the Missouri Land Grant Compact, Missouri undergraduates who qualify for the federal Pell Grant program will have all tuition and fees covered. In addition, students who are also enrolled in the Honors College will have all room and board covered.

Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said the awards should have a significant impact on the state.

“We have estimated that more than 3500 students would qualify for this award based on our current enrollment,” he says.

Freshmen enrollment at MU is at its [lowest](#) since 2001.

According to MU, Pell Grants typically provide up to \$6,000 annually per student in help. Most families who fall into this category make less than \$30,000 a year.

The new MU undergraduate grants aim to fill the remaining financial gap between other student scholarships and full tuition. They will be available for all incoming freshmen, current students and transfer students.



University of Missouri Announces Missouri Land Grant Compact

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Land Grant Compact Will Provide Access to Missouri Residents](#)

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=c8d05061-cb20-493e-99ce-3d7c6c74995d>



Missouri Orthopedic Institute opens \$40 million expansion

By: Lucas Geisler

Generated from MU Health press release

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/top-stories/missouri-orthopedic-institute-opens-40-million-expansion/612059655>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The Missouri Orthopedic Institute nearly doubled in size Thursday when MU Health leaders opened an expansion of the facility.

The 85,000-square-foot expansion will help accommodate more patients for the growing number of people seeking the institute's help. The facility will now have 12 operating rooms and 42 inpatient beds -- more than doubling the 20 beds it had previously.

"Bed capacity has been really tight at the University of Missouri [hospitals], so it really allows us to add more people," Dr. Jim Stannard, head of the Missouri Orthopedic Institute, told ABC 17 News.

In a news release, MU Health CEO Jonathan Curtright said visits to the Missouri Orthopedic Institute increased by more than 13,000 last year compared to 2011.

The institute will also have a new research lab on the fourth floor and an improved layout for patients to navigate the facility. Stannard said the expansion also includes a new chiropractic center, a service the system did not offer before.

Missouri Orthopedic Institute's growth mirrors that of other services MU Health offers. Births and emergency room visits have already exceeded the expected amount for the fiscal year, and MU Health began expanding its emergency room earlier this year.

MU Health is in exclusive negotiations to take over the lease at Boone Hospital Center, a Boone County-owned community hospital with several hundred beds. While no decision has been made yet, Stannard said a partnership with the doctors at Boone Hospital would only strengthen the area's ability to become a regional leader in orthopedic care.

"You have some really skilled and very, very good private physicians and orthopedics," Stannard said. "Our colleagues at the Columbia Orthopedic Group are quite good. So if you started mixing together things, you could potentially see a time where [further expansion] could be needed."

The Missouri Orthopedic Institute has also seen about 200 new patients for its BioJoint transplant procedure, according to Stannard. Doctors are monitoring the progress of those patients, Stannard said, which will have a year of long term follow up.



Missouri Orthopedic Institute opens \$40 million expansion

Generated from MU Health Press Release

COLUMBIA - MU healthcare opened its \$40 million expansion of the Missouri Orthopedic Institute. The facility expanded by more than 85,000 square feet.

Medical Director of Missouri Orthopedic Institute James Stannard said the research, new facility and exceptional health care takes the medical facility to the next level.

“Our mission at the Missouri Orthopedic Institute is to provide exceptional patient care to all who need it, and this expansion means we can help more patients,” Stannard said. “We added operating rooms, private inpatient rooms, and X-ray rooms. Patients can also receive specialized treatment for limb-threatening conditions through our new limb-preservation program and restorative care through our new chiropractic service and expanded physical therapy care.”

The Missouri Orthopedic Institute expanded because patient volumes have constantly increased. The project included five operating rooms, 22 private patient rooms, three X-ray rooms, 19 outpatient operating rooms, the Thompson Center for Regenerative Orthopedics, as well as an expanded pharmacy and physical therapy center.

MU Health Care started the expansion in June of 2015.

CEO Johnathan Curtwright said patient visits increased from 42,819 in fiscal year 2011 to 56,317 in fiscal year 2017.

“We are proud that the Missouri Orthopedic Institute has been so successful,” Curtwright said.

MU Health Care said the expansion will also benefit MU School of Medicine faculty and staff. The project will allow them to have more space to conduct research.

"We've expanded our class of medical students. We have 28 additional students per year. So this facility affords additional excellent training sites where students can rotate with physicians and learn how to take care of patients."

Residents and nursing students will also be able to work with the orthopedic staff.

MU Health Care has seen patients from 26 states and five countries.

MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said procedures the institute performs will draw people to the facility.

“MU is internationally known for our pioneering Mizzou Biojoint surgery using human tissue,” Curtwright said. “And the specialists at the Missouri Orthopedic Institute are among the national leaders in hand, spine, hip, knee and shoulder surgery.”



Missouri Orthopedic Institute's \$40 million expansion to help with high patient volumes

By: Ashley Zavala

COLUMBIA — **The University of Missouri Health Care formally introduced its expansion to the Missouri Orthopedic Institute Thursday night.**

The \$40 million expansion nearly doubled MOI's original square footage, adding 85,462 square feet to the facility. Hospital administrators say the expansion was meant to accommodate a noticeable growth in patient volumes.

CEO of MU Health, Jonathan Curtright said patient visits to MOI grew from 42,819 in fiscal year 2011 to 56,317 in fiscal year 2017.

Dr. James Stannard, Medical Director of MOI, said the new space added operating rooms, private inpatient rooms, and X-ray rooms. The addition also features a walkway between the building and a parking garage across the street, as well as a new entrance with a cafe and pharmacy in the lobby.

Stannard noted patients can receive specialized treatment for limb-threatening conditions through a new limb preservation program, restorative care, and expanded physical therapy center at MOI.

The original building first opened in 2010.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

The academic spirit is alive and well at MU

BY JUSTIN B. DYER AND JEFFREY L. PASLEY

Special to The Star

AUGUST 22, 2017 8:30 PM

Justin B. Dyer is professor of political science and director of the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri. Jeffrey L. Pasley is professor of history and associate director of the Kinder Institute.

American universities have come off in recent news as lonely, dangerous and polarizing places. The University of Missouri in Columbia has been at the center of this storm, and yet our experience of American academia has been very different from the simplified reports in the media.

Take the authors of this commentary: One of us is a conservative straight out of central casting, a pro-life evangelical who is an unapologetic admirer of the American Founding Fathers and the U.S. Constitution. The other is an enthusiastic Bernie Sanders supporter who co-edited a book urging Americans to go “Beyond the Founders” in understanding their past. Still, we have found common ground and worked together on intellectual projects for years.

In fact, the general spirit of boundary-crossing goodwill on the MU campus has allowed us, in the middle of all the unrest, to create what may be the first self-consciously interdisciplinary and, if we may, “inter-ideological” center for the study of American political thought and history.

At Mizzou’s Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, we have created a unique place where scholars and students from a variety of disciplines and perspectives can come together to learn, teach, research and write in an environment free of artificial boundaries and entrenched orthodoxies. Political opinions can still be intensely held, but as [Thomas Jefferson said](#), “[every difference of opinion is not a difference of principle.](#)”

When our classes and public lectures take on controversial topics, we keep it on a philosophical and historical plane while still tackling difficult issues and highlighting different perspectives. Just before the 2016 elections, we had a socialist critic of the Democratic Party speak on the future of the left, and a conservative critic of the Republican Party speak on the future of the right. Very few people agreed with either speaker about everything, but everyone who listened to each speaker learned something.

At another event, we had a student activist known for advocating the removal of the campus Jefferson statue on a panel with two leading Jefferson scholars. Everyone said their piece and mostly held their ground, but the whole panel was taking selfies together by the end.

Our inter-ideological approach has given us the unique opportunity to model for our students the virtues of civility, reasoned debate and rigorous intellectual inquiry, to show them that discussion and disagreement are not only possible but desirable in an academic institution. The students, for their part, have responded enthusiastically to this inter-ideological mission, not only by signing up for our programs and classes but by combining themselves in unexpected ways.

This summer, for example, we had 22 students living, working and studying together in Washington, D.C., as part of our Kinder Scholars program. They were spread out across the capital city working for Republicans and Democrats, progressive and conservative think tanks and trade associations, museums and governmental agencies. Past graduates of the program have gone on to work for Republicans and Democrats and for organizations ranging from the conservative Intercollegiate Studies Institute to the progressive American Constitution Society.

More importantly, they have been united by rigorous inquiry into the theoretical and historical foundations of American politics and have developed the ability to listen to and learn from one another.

Despite recent headlines, the true spirit of academia does still exist on campus, and it is strengthened all the more when scholars and students of goodwill reach out across the aisle to work together — an increasingly vital endeavor in our hyperpartisan times.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Editorial: MU enrollment data offers a glimmer of hope

By The Kansas City Star editorial board
AUGUST 24, 2017 4:38 PM

The reputation of the University of Missouri-Columbia has taken a hit in the aftermath of student-led protests and accusations of racial insensitivity that roiled the campus in 2015.

But this week, MU saw glimmers of hope.

The campus reports that 86.6 percent of last year's freshmen returned to classes this week, the second-highest retention rate in the history of the university. The fear, bolstered by preliminary enrollment data, was that they would not come back this fall.

This year's freshman class is more than 4,100 students. That's about 700 fewer than last year but higher than grim early estimates. The overall enrollment stands at more than 30,000 students.

Congratulations — with an asterisk — are due. Combating negative perceptions, accurate or not, is a difficult task.

And Mizzou has weathered a deluge of undesirable publicity, much of it earned. Campus leadership was slow to react appropriately when tensions boiled almost two years ago, leading to the resignations of the university system president and the campus chancellor.

Cuts to the university's budget by the legislature have exacerbated Mizzou's struggles, resulting in a reduction in professors and other personnel.

In July, a New York Times headline proclaimed: "Long After Protests, Students Shun the University of Missouri." The article highlighted early enrollment figures, which were down by more than 35 percent in the last two years.

The piece quoted the new system president, Mun Choi, noting that the feeling then was that students from both within Missouri and out of state were hesitant about being Tigers.

But newly released freshman retention data suggest that the university may have endured the worst of this storm. And the University of Missouri's announcement that beginning next year, the school will pay tuition and fees for all students who qualify for federal Pell Grants is a commendable step that could also help boost enrollment.

For now, this year's numbers are still in flux. Enrollment data are fluid in the first few weeks of school as students settle in. Final enrollment figures aren't recorded until the fourth week of classes, but this week's indicators are stronger than expected.

Many factors affect why students choose a particular university, including cost, proximity to family and their chosen majors. But the campus atmosphere and students' comfort level with the university community are crucial during these first weeks of the school year.

To keep moving in the right direction, Mizzou must telegraph that the campus embraces diversity and will be responsive to the concerns of all students. Anything less could unravel early signs of progress.



[Study shows importance of advanced practice nurses in nursing homes](#)

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Advanced Practice Nurses Improve Health Care for Nursing Home Residents, MU Study Finds](#)

By David Rothchild

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/study-shows-importance-of-advanced-practice-nurses-in-nursing-homes>

COLUMBIA - Researchers at the University of Missouri's Sinclair School of Nursing said they believe elderly care can improve.

For the last four years, the school's Missouri Quality Initiative implemented advanced practice nurses in nursing homes to develop better care methods.

MU nursing professor Marilyn Rantz said the initiative's main goal is to reduce hospitalizations of nursing home residents.

“What happens with people when they are transferred to hospitals, especially for older people, is they will decline more, and more rapidly,” Rantz said.

Lori Popejoy, associate professor of nursing at MU, stressed the importance of enhancing quality of life.

“We want to improve care to the resident, improve quality of life for the resident, we want them to be able to stay in their home and not be hospitalized when they become ill,” Popejoy said. “But perhaps more importantly, we want them to not get ill in the first place.”

Entering the initiative’s fifth year, Popejoy headed a recent study to evaluate its effectiveness. She said the focuses of the new research were early illness identification, critical conversations with residents and taking care of the basics.

“[It] includes getting people hydrated, making sure they have enough fluids, making sure they’re eating well, making sure that they’re protected from falls,” Popejoy said.

“One of the key problems in nursing homes is hydration,” Rantz said.

In response to this issue, advanced practice nurses helped elderly care facilities enact hydration stations.

“Making sure that staff knew that they could actually do something, what seems very simple, but that very simple thing changed the trajectory for patients,” Popejoy said.

Rantz said she believes advanced practice nurses need to be implemented nationwide.



MU Research Finds Social Media Increases Engagement During Presidential Debates

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Viewers Who Tweet During Presidential Debates](#)
[Learn More about Political Issues, MU Study](#)

Finds <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=ea680a4b-5a00-4650-8fe4-305344dd9860>

MISSOURIAN

MU plans for strategic investments to be announced Sept. 5

BY EDWARD MCKINLEY NEWS@COLUMBIAMISSOURIAN.COM

Plans for how funding will be strategically directed to key University of Missouri System priorities will be announced at the four campuses on Sept. 5.

The system has also contracted PwC, an accounting firm, for \$428,000 to look at the UM System administration in an effort to identify areas where cost-saving consolidations can be made.

An effort was launched July 21 throughout the UM System to identify areas where money could be saved, and now campus leaders will present implementation plans on how to address key priorities, UM System President Mun Choi wrote in an email Thursday.

Choi's email mentioned several of these priorities. Below are some examples where actions have already been taken.

Faculty and staff compensation: This was a major topic of discussion at a July curators retreat where campus and system leaders agreed it is vital for the future of the system.

Undergraduate scholarships: MU announced the Missouri Land Grant Compact on Thursday, which will provide full scholarships for thousands of students. Pelema Morrice, vice provost for enrollment management, said there are more planned enrollment initiatives like it that have yet to be announced.

Research facilities and experiential learning: The No. 1 planned project at MU is the Translational Precision Medicine Complex. In late July, the UM system submitted its capital

appropriations request to the state, and MU asked for \$150 million to build the facility where students would work on research and patient care.



Diversity & inclusion vice-chancellor encourages community inclusivity

By: Lauren Magarino

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/diversity-and-inclusion-vice-chancellor-encourages-community-inclusivity>

COLUMBIA - MU's vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity, Thursday presented steps businesses and organizations can take to create a more inclusive environment.

Kevin McDonald said the goal is to measure the success of various inclusion efforts. He pointed to MU's own framework which includes increasing the diversity of faculty and staff, creating an environment that celebrates diversity and allowing for various perspectives on issues of diversity, inclusion and social justice.

“This is an opportunity for us to just work together to achieve an end goal that I think we all share from a commonality standpoint,” he said. “I hope the takeaway is that they don’t think, ‘This sounds great, but this is only something that MU can do, that I don’t have that capacity.’”

The Diversity Awareness Partnership, which planned the event, said a framework like this was important to utilize after numerous attempts that lacked guidance.

A statement from the Partnership said, “We've independently held or attended events in an effort to learn how to celebrate diversity and create inclusive environments within our respective organizations. Oftentimes we have done this without guidance. Now is the time to change that.”

McDonald originally wrote the framework for the MU system, but he said he felt it could be implemented off campus as well.

Many of the questions asked during the presentation centered around methods of measurement.

Deborah Howenstine, public health and MU family physician, said, "I was really excited to learn today about some of the ways the metrics are measured to help us capture some of things and work on some of things that we wouldn't necessarily be aware of without having sort of a more comprehensive plan like this."

The Diversity Awareness Partnership said it received around 80 reservations from representatives seeking to attend the presentation.



MU students find white nationalist recruiting flyers on campus

By: Steven Dial

Watch the story: <http://www.kshb.com/news/local-news/mu-students-find-white-nationalist-recruiting-flyers-on-campus>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - This week, students and residents found recruiting flyers for a white nationalist group on the University of Missouri - Columbia campus.

The flyers were recruiting for The Midwestern Alliance, a group that calls themselves "identitarian" and believe all people have a right to an "ethnic homeland."

The group said its members do not see themselves as superior to other races.

41 Action News spoke to a member of the group through a series of emails looking for "young Midwestern patriots."

The group would only speak to us by email stating they wanted to protect the identity of its members.

The group said they want to create a white-only state in the Midwest without violence.

41 Action News spoke to Mizzou students about the flyers.

"It's kind of outrageous to see that happening anywhere in the United States," said sophomore Nichol Corretjer. "There is still a lot of growing that society needs to have."

In an email a member of the group said it advocates for "the creation of a white homeland within the borders of the Midwestern United States."

One MU senior said she thinks that's not possible.

"A majority of our population is made up of different races, ethnicities and backgrounds so it would be very hard to do what they are saying without violence," said Faith Laster. "We need to let them know that that tone and those actions are no longer accepted here."

Corretjer said she thinks something like this would limit progress within a society.

"There are diverse cultures, people from all over the world, that know different things. That's how we will improve as a society and innovate and move forward," she said.

MU tweeted a link to [a statement in response](#) to the discovery of the flyers and group.

It read, in part:

"One of the core values of the University of Missouri is respect. As such, we are committed to fostering a community of inclusion. We are aware that white supremacist groups are recruiting on college campuses across the U.S."

The university asked anyone who knows anything about activity that violates university policies to contact them.

The Midwestern Alliance said recruiting is left up to the members in the region.

They said they vet potential members in Indianapolis.

MISSOURIAN

Flyers suggest white supremacist group recruiting at MU

BY EDWARD MCKINLEY NEWS@COLUMBIAMISSOURIAN.COM

A white supremacist group is recruiting at MU. Flyers around campus encourage “Midwestern patriots” to contact an email address listed. An online search using the address found an archived home page for the Midwestern Alliance. The organization calls for a “white ethnic state.”

Late Tuesday afternoon, Chancellor Alexander Cartwright and Provost Garnett Stokes sent an email to the campus community saying they were aware “that white supremacist groups are recruiting on college campuses across the U.S.” Although the email doesn’t cite the flyers, MU spokesman Christian Basi said campus leaders were aware of them.

The email states that anyone “aware of any activity that might violate university policies” should report it to MU’s Office for Civil Rights and Title IX.

According to University of Missouri System policy, discrimination and harassment are conduct that “adversely affects a term or condition of employment, education, living environment or participation in a University activity” or conduct that stops someone from accessing university services.

The flyer circulating at MU doesn’t appear to violate current policies. It depicts a crest of unclear meaning, the words “Looking For Young Midwestern Patriots” and an email address.

Maj. Brian Weimer of the MU Police Department said the department is aware of the flyers but that no crime has occurred to his knowledge.

“We are keeping an eye out for anything that might threaten safety of the campus community,” Basi said.

On Monday, the MU News Bureau announced the four UM System campuses all accepted the 2016 “Commitment to Free Expression” from MU’s Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Protests, Public Spaces, Free Speech and the Press.

In that statement, MU guarantees protection of freedom of expression for everyone, even those whose beliefs spark intense disagreement. “The University’s fundamental commitment is to the principle that debate or deliberation may not be suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or even by most members of the University community to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or wrong-headed.”

Contacted through the email address on the flyer, Hans Mann identified himself as the founder of the Midwestern Alliance. He called it “an Identitarian organization working on promoting culture and awareness of issues that face white Americans. We seek to promote the end goal of a peaceful creation of a white ethnic state in the Midwestern United States.”

The group has no events planned at this time in Columbia, Mann said.

The site says: “As more and more non-whites are flooded into our country and as the media and the elite in Washington fight to eradicate all existence of not just our culture but our races very existence, it is beyond necessary that we as whites band together and fight for an ethnic home land.”

A Roman eagle design featured at the top of the website is an important Nazi symbol, according to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Flyers for all sorts of organizations can be found on pretty much any U.S. college campus. With the timing nationally, the appearance of the flyers takes on more weight.

In 2015, after several racially charged incidents were reported, MU was the site of widespread protests that ultimately garnered national media attention and led to the resignations of top campus and system leaders. In 2016, racial slurs outside of the Delta Upsilon fraternity house

directed at members of the Legion of Black Collegians were a factor in the fraternity's suspension.

In early August, the NAACP issued a travel advisory warning African Americans about traveling to Missouri. The organization cited the passing of a bill making it more difficult to sue for discrimination, the death of Tori Sanford in a southeast Missouri jail cell and racially-charged incidents at MU.

Nationally, the Aug. 11-12 protests and counter protests at the Unite the Right rally at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville have re-energized conversations about white supremacy in America. At those protests, neo-Nazis and white supremacists wielded torches, guns, clubs and shields and a participant drove a van into a crowd, killing one and injuring over a dozen others.



White nationalists recruit MU students

By Kevin Ko

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/white-nationalists-recruit-mu-students>

COLUMBIA - A white nationalist organization put up fliers around MU's campus in an effort to recruit potential members this week.

MU student Andrew Amidei said he saw fliers "looking for young midwestern patriots" with contact information provided at the bottom for those interested. But he said what he noticed most was the logo in the middle of the flier.

"I was walking to a meeting on campus with a friend of mine, and I just saw the flier on a light pole," Amidei said. "Immediately, I recognized it because of the iconology on the shield. I didn't even think, I just took it down because that was the proper response."

Amidei said he researched the organization online and found out it was a white nationalist group called "Midwestern Alliance." The group's website states it originated in Indiana, but has ties to states throughout the Midwestern region, including in Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, and Iowa.

Amidei said he saw another flier on a different day, causing him to take a different approach.

"The next day, I was walking back from class, and I saw another one (flier) on the bus stop," Amidei said. "So I took that down and took it to the Title IX office on campus."

On the same day that Amidei said he turned in the flier to MU, the university and its administration addressed the situation in a mass email to faculty, staff, and students.

"One of the core values of the University of Missouri is respect," MU Chancellor Alexander N. Cartwright said in the email. "As such, we are committed to fostering a community of inclusion. We are aware that white supremacists are recruiting on college campuses across the U.S."

Christian Basi, the director of the MU News Bureau, said the email and Amidei's report are unrelated. He said the university was already aware of the flyers before Amidei turned one of them in.

"We were becoming aware of it as it was being passed around on social media," Basi said.

Basi said the university sent the email to keep its community notified.

"We became aware of two things: one, that these types of recruiting efforts were happening on college campuses across the country," Basi said. "Then we also became aware of the flier that was on our college campus, so we wanted to make sure that everyone on campus was aware of the situation."

Basi also said university policy is all-inclusive and any group can use specified, public spaces on campus to practice free speech.

"It's our understanding that these flyers were posted on publicly available bulletin boards," Basi said. "For that reason, any group can post a flier on those boards. You would have to go and review the policies that we have just instituted related to free speech and use of facilities on our campus."

When asked to comment on this story, a member of the Midwestern Alliance said, "We are at this time no longer taking questions from press."

The organization previously spoke to [KBIA](#) and the Columbia Missourian.

the maneater

Graduate student rights group holds third annual rally

The Missouri Coalition of Graduate Workers emphasized the importance of having a recognized union for graduate students.

By MAWA IQBAL and STEPHI SMITH

The Missouri Coalition of Graduate Workers held its third annual rally in Traditions Plaza Wednesday to speak out and protest for graduate student rights. The group marched around the Francis Quadrangle before meeting back at the plaza.

There were several speakers at the rally, including former Missouri CGW chair and MU graduate student Sarah Senff.

“Grads make Mizzou work,” Senff said to the sea of graduate students sporting red Missouri CGW shirts.

The rally has been held each year in since fall 2015 as “a reaffirmation of our principles and a rededication to organizing the MU community,” according to the group’s official Facebook page. The coalition hopes this rally will act as a “fall kickoff” to the bring awareness issues that still need to be addressed in the coming school year.

The coalition’s primary goal is to “secure a collectively bargained contract that prevents future crises and guarantees competitive wages and benefits for graduate employees,” according to its website.

“We want to energize graduate students who are just returning [for the school year],” Missouri CGW outreach officer Joseph Moore said. “It’s a symbolic way of saying, ‘Hey, we’re still here. This is what we’ve done, and this is what we still need to do.’”

The organization began in 2015, after MU sent out an email to graduate workers 13 hours before the beginning of the school year reporting that its health insurance coverage period would not be

renewed for the following year. After various rallies and protests, health insurance subsidies were reinstated, Missouri CGW co-chair Simona Simkins said.

The coalition then began to work with the Missouri National Education Association and the National Education Association.

In April 2016, the Coalition of Graduate Workers filed a lawsuit with help from the MNEA against the UM System for official recognition of the graduate employee union and the ability to negotiate a legally-binding contract. Moore believes the lawsuit will lead to a ruling in the coalition's favor.

"The university's primary argument is that we're not employees of the institution," Moore said. "We're all employees. We get W-2s, paychecks [and] have to go through all these HR requirements. That's the argument lawyers are pressing."

Coalition member and MU graduate student Zach Rubins said the cut in health insurance was "the straw that broke the camel's back." He had been wanting a union for a while and said that in years before there had been a "degradation of pay and benefits."

In 2014, MU closed the Student Parent Center, a child care center for students with young children. Rubins expressed his concern with this, explaining how many of his colleagues no longer have access to affordable child care. In addition, MU has discussed ending tuition waivers for its graduate students. Graduate students do not have the same job protections as faculty and, therefore, are more prone to layoffs, Moore said.

Though the CGW has encountered a few setbacks, it has accomplished some of its original goals, such as an increased understanding of the group's mission by the university.

"The first thing I think, the most salient thing, is that the university has recognized the power of [the coalition] acting together in solidarity," Rubins said.

Many members have noticed that undergraduates at MU have also begun to support Missouri CGW. Architectural studies graduate student Dawn Van Scoik believes that forming an allegiance with undergraduate students is crucial for the advancement of the group's goals.

"I told them, 'Most of your teachers are grad students. Wouldn't you like to see them protected under insurance?'" Van Scoik said. "I think it's great that we're finding allies within the undergraduate community because we know they're listening. We hope the administration is listening as well."

In addition, graduate workers have seen an increase in pay. "One of our successes worked to have an increase in our salaries from being incredibly marginal to something that's a bit more manageable," Simkins said.

As for its goals for the future, the Missouri CGW wants to create a contract where their benefits are codified, according to Simkins. In addition, the group would like to train new members for

leadership positions, ensuring that the group will continue fighting for graduate students' rights in the years to come.

“We’re still not recognized as a union and while the university stalls and tries to drag things out at court, we’re trying to make sure that the organization has a solid infrastructure that lasts over the years,” Moore said.

MISSOURIAN

Memorial Stadium end zone expansion up for curators vote

BY ANNA BRETT SPORTS@COLUMBIAMISSOURIAN.COM

A \$98 million expansion of Memorial Stadium’s south end zone at MU is up for approval Friday morning by the UM System Board of Curators.

The board’s Finance Committee is recommending approval of the project, which includes new outdoor general admission and premium seats as well as spaces for the football program in a new three-story building.

The project is scheduled to be done by the 2019 football season.

In its approval summary, the committee notes that “the south end bowl of 10,800 general admission seats was constructed in 1977, and has not been measurably updated to improve the fan experience, showing signs of deterioration and settlement.”

The project would remove the general admission seats and replace them with 16 suites and associated support spaces, about 1,500 premium seats and 1,300 new outdoor general admission seats, “resulting in increased net revenues associated with the new seating and premium amenities,” according to the approval summary.

The football program spaces include a new team locker room for both training and game day use, a football training facility, a weight room, coaching offices and team meeting rooms, public and

recruiting reception areas, and equipment storage, the summary states. New kitchen and dining space is planned to serve premium seating venues as well as team dining functions.

Justification for the project includes a boost to recruiting.

“Top recruits factor access to this type of focused facility in their decision as to which university to attend. Construction of a football focused facility will enhance recruiting for football but also for student athletes across all sports and academic interests by alleviating congestion at the (Mizzou Athletic Training Complex),” the approval summary states.

Money for the project is coming through a combination of private gifts, the Campus Infrastructure Fund and long-term debt financing.

In February, curators approved spending \$4.31 million toward designing the renovation and expansion. The Kansas City architectural firm Populous Inc. was selected to work on the design.

T COLUMBIA DAILY **TRIBUNE**

Council searches ways to rescue public transit

By BRITTANY RUESS

Financial options proposed for the city’s public transit system show its cash reserves depleting soon without the elimination of bus routes and increase to the Para-Transit fare.

The city’s proposed fiscal year 2018 budget includes more than \$575,000 in cuts to Go COMO, Columbia’s bus system recently re-branded from CoMo Connect. The department has suggested cutting routes 6, 7 and 8 in southern portions of Columbia because of low ridership.

Eliminating those routes would save more than \$505,000. An increased fare from \$2 per ride to \$3 for Para-Transit, the city’s bus system compliant with the American Disabilities Act, has been proposed to increase Go COMO’s revenue by \$50,000.

Despite the cuts and increased Para-Transit fare, Go COMO would be nearly \$398,000 below its cash target in the next fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1. In city staff's proposed plan, cash reserves would decrease annually, but Go COMO would not run out of reserves in the next five fiscal years.

Drew Brooks, the city's transit and parking manager, presented two other financing options to the city council Wednesday during an all-day work session focused on the proposed budget.

If the council made no changes to the system, Go COMO would be more than \$1 million below its cash target for fiscal year 2018 and be out of cash reserves in two years.

The council also could opt to eliminate the three routes, but direct Go COMO staff to establish a flex route that still would allow riders access to the bus system. Go COMO would be more than \$700,000 from its cash reserve target and run out of cash reserves by fiscal year 2022 with this option, which includes the higher Para-Transit fee.

In a flex route system, individuals can schedule rides a day in advance, Brooks said. Riders would be dropped off within the flex route's defined area or be taken to a fixed route in the Go COMO system.

Brooks said the city could choose to move toward a rider propensity model, which would prioritize routes based areas of more individuals with certain demographics, like income, age, disability and race. The model could adjust the bus routes to denser parts of the city.

Second Ward Councilman Michael Trapp said Go COMO needs to focus on a "functional core and build out from there" when appropriate.

Fourth Ward Councilman Ian Thomas said he preferred the flex route option because riders depending on the three routes still would have access to the city's bus system. It could give the city time to find financing options, he said.

Route 7, or dark green, which runs from Old Plank Road to Green Meadows Road, has the lowest weekday average passengers per hour of service at 4.4, according to Go COMO. Route 8, which hits Scott and Forum boulevards, has the second lowest with 5.2 passengers. Route 9, running from Grindstone Parkway to I-70 Drive S.E., has 7.4.

"Although those routes do have low ridership, I know that from personal experience, the people that are riding it really need it," Thomas said. "It's going to, A, cause chaos in their lives, not being able to get to work, and, B, it's going to further undermine our efforts to move toward a transit service that is running at a level of service a lot of people are using, at which point we all benefit."

He said the city and the University of Missouri need to form a better transit partnership, possibly one that gives students complete access to the system, thus increasing revenue. Thomas said there has been discussions with the university. A public transit fee could be built in through tuition or the university could pay the city from its general fund or parking utility, Thomas said.

Karlan Seville, spokeswoman for MU Operations, said in an email that the university doesn't have plans to address an agreement with the city's transit system, but a committee led by faculty has been working with a consultant on a master plan for parking at MU.

Brooks said the amount of on-campus parking could affect how many students would use the bus system if they had complete access to it.

When asked about raising fares for the fixed routes, Brooks said Go COMO's \$1.50 fee per ride is at or above the rates for cities similar in size.

Council hears concerns about increased Para-Transit fee

Federal Transit Administration regulations allow the city to set the Para-Transit fare at a maximum of twice the Go COMO fee.

Cheryl Price, chair of the city's Public Transit Advisory Commission, spoke against the increased Para-Transit fee, but suggested raising it to \$2.50.

"This may not seem like that much to some of you, but to those of us living on Social Security and that being our only source of income, that's a lot, trust me," she said to council.

Mark Farnen, who represents more than 200 residents in senior living on low or fixed incomes, said the increased Para-Transit fee will hit all low-income residents too hard. The \$3 proposed fare represents a 50 percent increase.

"That is a larger increase on a percentage basis than almost any other fee, rate or fare increase included in this" proposed "budget in any category," he said.

Dawn Zeterberg, a member of the Disabilities Commission, said she hopes council will approve \$50,000 in spending from fiscal year 2016 savings on grants for taxi companies to purchase wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Zeterberg, who has cerebral palsy, said residents with disabilities need a 24-hour transportation service. Para-Transit runs until 5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Zeterberg said she was once on her way to a Disabilities Commission meeting when she hit a curb and fell out of her chair, onto the street. Someone called 911 and emergency medical technicians wanted to transport her to the hospital. Zeterberg said she refused the ambulance because she would have to leave her power wheelchair behind. A wheelchair-accessible taxi would have helped in that situation, she said.

The council also will consider whether to chop bus service during the True/False Film Festival and Roots N Blues N BBQ, which costs Go COMO \$20,000 every year in overtime expenses, Brooks said.