This Week in Missouri Politics - August 20, 2017

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**UM System President Dr. Mun Choi is This Week’s featured guest**, followed by Gregg Keller, David Barklage, John Gaskin of the NAACP, and Senate Minority Caucus Counsel Chris Schappe.

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COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

EDITORIAL:

**MU grants: Taking advantage of the moment**

By Charles Westmoreland Columbia Tribune

Officials at the University of Missouri are moving quickly to exploit and correct their momentary and, I believe, ultimately temporary budget angst by using shortfalls as assets.

The very idea of shortfalls as assets may seem counterintuitive to many, but enrollment deficits and associated campus dormitory vacancies give officials a chance and an incentive to be unusually creative.
In order to attract more freshman students Chancellor Alexander Cartwright and Vice-Provost for Enrollment Pelema Morrice are building on the federal Pell Grant program with funds from other sources allowing them to tell eligible applicants if they attend MU all tuition and fees will be paid.

Pell grants are generally targeted to help students from low-income families. A major effect will be to reduce the need for student borrowing, a factor of particular meaning for Chancellor Cartwright who came from modest means himself and had to borrow money to attend community college and the University of Iowa.

The program will provide funds to cover all costs including room and board for Pell eligible students, and will encourage honors students to live on campus, a benefit made feasible by the presence of empty dorm space. Cartwright says high-achieving students living on campus will improve the academic atmosphere for all other students.

Sen. Caleb Rowden said the program will help MU free money in its budget for underwriting major construction projects without asking for state aid. “There was never a shortcut, “Rowden said, verifying the fact his GOP majority is not about to find more capital funding.

I like the label of the new program, “The Missouri Land Grant Compact,” indicating the special nature of UM’s designation as a land grant institution. Maurice Graham, chairman of the UM Board of Curators, said if successful the program will be implemented on other system campuses.

I think we are seeing lemonade being made from the lemons handed – earned, some would say – by campus turmoil surrounding the student protests of November 2015 and after. The resulting impetus and opportunity for institutional reform will be seen in retrospect as a major turning point for the university. Without the crisis, initiatives like the Missouri Land Grant Compact would not have been possible, and this is only one of the ways university management under President Mun Choi is reforming institutional priorities. UM is emerging as a clearly improved place.

The criticism levelled at the university after the protests was overblown but is having an ameliorative effect. As new leaders arrive on campus they have the opportunity to refill the turned-over apple basket. As Provost Morrice says, “We are at a very special time in our institutional history.” Indeed.

Chancellor Cartwright announces new financial aid packages for Pell-eligible students
“The grants use a combination of federal, state, and institutional resources to meet the cost of tuition and fees at Mizzou,” according to a Q&A provided by the News Bureau.

By STEPHI SMITH

**MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright announced a new financial aid package that provides full tuition and fees for Missouri Pell Grant recipients at Jesse Hall on Thursday.**

“We know that this award is going to have a significant impact on our state,” Cartwright said. “Today we take a great step forward with this investment in our students.”

The Missouri Land Grant offers full tuition and fees for Pell-eligible students, and the Missouri Land Grant Honors offers tuition, fees, books and room and board for students enrolled in the Honors College, according to a news release.

Both grants are available for first-time MU students, either college freshmen or transfers. At the event, Cartwright expressed how important it is to have affordable education.

“I certainly would not be standing here today if not for financial aid,” he said.

When Cartwright first moved to the United States, he enrolled in a community college and continued his education at a university. He explained how financial aid helped him cover the costs while also working full-time.

Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Pelema Morrice, who also signed the grant, said it will benefit all Missourians.

“The citizens of Missouri want and deserve a high-quality education so that they can work and thrive in the state that they know and love,” Morrice said. “College affordability is an important aspect of that equation.”

According to Nick Prewett, Executive Director of the Office of Student Financial Aid, the grant will affect over 3,500 students. Prewett helped formulate the process for the grant’s final product by collecting and analysing data to ensure it benefits the most amount of students possible. He had been working on this since February, he said.

“The grants use a combination of federal, state, and institutional resources to meet the cost of tuition and fees at Mizzou,” according to a Q&A provided by the MU News Bureau.

The grant will offer “competitive, affordable education for Missouri,” according to an email sent out by the Office of the Chancellor on Tuesday informing the campus community about the event.
The compact is named in recognition of the university’s land grant status. In 1839, citizens of Boone County pooled their money and land together to establish the first public university west of the Mississippi River, and in 1870, MU was awarded land-grant status through the Morrill Act.

Since then, Cartwright said, MU has been “bettering lives” of students and faculty.

“Today we are investing in Missouri,” Cartwright said.

Cartwright said this expansion reaffirms the university’s pledge to offer affordable education to Missourians.

MSA Vice President Payton Englert, who spoke at the event, said higher education and financial aid can change lives. She called the signing of the grant a “historic announcement” and thanked both Cartwright and Morrice, along with the administration, for working to develop it.

“The Missouri Land Grant is something that will make the Mizzou degree more accessible for some of our fellow and future students,” Englert said.

Departing MU Title IX leader recommends discrimination course for freshmen

BY EDWARD MCKINLEY NEWS@COLUMBIAMISSOURIAN.COM

MU’s departing Civil Rights & Title IX leader, Ellen Eardley, said the university should create a semester course for freshmen to raise awareness of racism, sexual violence and the importance of bystander intervention.

Such a course would be most effective if it were built with peer involvement, where students taught other students, Eardley said.

If a longer course is not possible, Eardley said she’d at least like to see more in-depth orientation for students so they can learn about sexual violence, stalking, abusive relationships, racism or similar issues. Right now, incoming students take a “Not Anymore” sexual assault training course online.
Eardley, who was the first leader of MU’s Office for Civil Rights & Title IX, is leaving Sept. 2 to return to private practice at her former Washington law firm, Mehri & Skalet. Her resignation was announced earlier this month.

She also recommended that each division, department, school and college on campus use the Inclusive Excellence Framework to tailor plans to increase diversity within each academic unit.

Eardley said she’s happy with what has been accomplished in her time at MU, but everyone on campus needs to be “vigilant” about racism and sexual violence.

“We can’t pretend that racism doesn’t live here, because it does,” she said.

She added that sexual violence is an epidemic across college campuses in the country, “and the University of Missouri is no different.”

Future work to end sexual violence and racism is going to require everyone to be invested on an individual basis across every level of MU, Eardley said.

“I’m most proud of transforming our Title IX office into an office of Civil Rights & Title IX where we can address areas of intersectionality,” she said, referring to the ways in which social categorizations such as race, class and gender interact. Since the Title IX and civil rights offices are now combined, they can help students in situations of both gender- and race-based discrimination, Eardley said.

Having a hub for anyone in the campus community who feels discriminated against is a new idea in MU’s long history, she said. Before creation of the Office for Civil Rights & Title IX in late 2015, some students who experienced racism, sexism or other discrimination didn’t know where to seek help, Eardley said. Some had no idea the school offered programs that could help them, and some didn’t know which program was right for their situation.

“I hope now there’s a clear space to support everyone,” she said.
An important priority for MU’s future is continuing to ensure faculty and staff fully understand the importance of diversity and seek out ways they can promote it, Eardley said. For instance, on staff and faculty evaluations there is a section devoted to their handling of diversity, Eardley said, which is important.

Eardley came to MU as Title IX administrator and assistant vice provost in April 2015 following a nationwide search. She said that when she took the job at MU, her colleagues at Mehri & Skalet, where she was a partner, were sad to see her go, so she’s remained in touch with them. She said that when the firm made her an offer to return, she decided it would be in her best interest, personally and professionally, to take it.

Eardley graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Law. Her legal career started at the Women’s Law Center in Washington, which helped her build a profound respect for issues of racism or sexual violence people face, she said.

In an Aug. 8 email announcing Eardley’s resignation, Kevin McDonald, MU vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity, said an interim would be announced in the coming days. As of Friday afternoon, one had not yet been chosen. An interim is expected to be announced before Sept. 1, MU spokesman Christian Basi said in an email.

Tina Bloom, an associate professor in the Sinclair School of Nursing, and Emily Love, deputy coordinator for the University of Missouri System Title IX office, will lead a national search for Eardley’s permanent successor. Basi said the team will have its first meeting in October.
MU student and faculty strives to lessen hate speech on social media

By: Shaleeta Norwood

Generated from News Bureau press release: Where’s the Line? Managing Extreme Speech on Social Media


COLUMBIA - Since the killing of Trayvon Martin, Darneisha Coleman said she has used her social media platforms to fight against inequalities and hate speech.

Coleman is an African-American queer woman who experiences hate speech on social media.

The MU student said she experienced the most hate speech during the #ConcernedStudent1950 movement on MU's campus in 2015.

"I have been called all sorts of things, sexual slurs, et cetera," Coleman said. "There's a lot of anger, a lot of resentment, from people who can't quite understand sometime what I say, or where I'm coming from."

Coleman said she doesn't like hate speech, but she doesn't allow it to steal her joy.

"Honestly, I just have to pray about it," Coleman said. "I can't let it get to me. I can't dwell on it because if you let those words sink in to you; they become you."

The 22-year-old activist said she doesn't want hate speech censored, but she does hope people experience the consequences of their actions.
"When you limit free speech you can create a lot of problems, but I do think there should be some penalties for using certain particular phrases," Coleman said. "There are some phrases that are so obscene that just the utterance of them perpetuates systemic violence."

**MU journalism professor Brett Johnson studies extreme speech on social media. According to the MU News Bureau, Johnson released a study that said most people dislike hate speech, but they don't agree with complete censorship on social media platforms.**

Sandy Davidson is a lawyer and a professor at MU's journalism school. She said hate speech is legally allowed.

"The courts allow offensive speech," Davidson said. "But there are limits."

Davidson said people need to educate themselves on the harm hate speech does and how to communicate effectively on social media.

"I do believe in communicating with people that are communicating things that we don't want to hear," said Davidson. "But outlawing and banning people from expressing these ideas might have a downside."

At this time, Coleman said she uses her social media platforms to educate others on hate speech.

"I've reached so many people and inspired so many people, so I can't get upset about hate speech," Coleman said.

**New Brookside residents temporarily relocated to MU residence halls**

KASEY CARLSON 1 hr ago (0)

**Freddie Adkins, an MU junior, thought he would be moved into his brand-new Brookside Downtown apartment on Aug. 4, in time to celebrate his birthday.**

Instead, he is living with most of his fraternity's pledge class in Center Hall at MU. Even though most of them have been living outside of residence halls for the past year, they’ve found themselves having to follow Residential Life rules all over again.
"We have guys that are 21 that can’t have alcohol here," Adkins, 20, said.

Center Hall was taken offline this year because of MU’s enrollment drop, but, for the past couple weeks, people who weren’t supposed to be there in the first place roamed the halls. Construction was delayed on the new Brookside Downtown, so students were scheduled to start moving in this week.

MU signed a master lease with Brookside for 72 residents for 13 days, Aug. 16 through Aug. 28, MU spokesman Christian Basi said. The total price: $26,208.

If residents aren't moved in on time, Brookside also has the choice to go day-by-day for the cost of $28 per resident, per day.

This delayed move-in was not a first for Brookside. In 2012, the Brookside Midtown complex on College Avenue opened about half of its apartments four days later than anticipated. For the other half of its residents, who were dealing with a longer delay, a similar deal was reached with Stephens College as was reached with MU this year, with about a hundred beds rented from the school.

Spokesman Jack Cardetti said Brookside, which has 261 beds at its new downtown location, is pro-rating the first month of rent for residents.

"We’ve reached out to our residents," Cardetti said. "This is an unfortunate construction delay. But we are excited about the new property and are excited to have them as residents this year."

At Center, a suite-style residence hall, people share rooms. Residential Life staff conduct nightly patrols for safety.

Brookside provided a $150 dollar gift card, but residents do not have refrigerators or kitchens in their rooms and are stuck with having to eat out constantly, residents said.

Nicolas Cirese, 20, a junior at MU, was also a would-be Brookside resident living in Center.

"We have to walk to the student center and charge stuff," Cirese said, "and even if we have leftovers, where can we put it?"

Adkins said he and his friends resorted to eating out for every meal.

"The $150 won’t even come close to covering the food costs," he said. "If you eat three meals a day, it won’t even come close."

Residents at Center Hall also had not been provided with parking options, they said.

Not all displaced students were put in Center Hall. Several residents were also temporarily housed in other properties such as Brookside Midtown on College Avenue.
Lucy Reis, 19, a sophomore, was supposed to move into a single bedroom apartment in the new Brookside complex on Aug. 4 but is now living with people she doesn’t know in a Midtown apartment.

"The only word I can keep thinking of is incredibly frustrating," Reis said.

The commute to Reis’ 8 a.m. class was supposed to be five minutes. During the first week of school, she had to wake up at 6:30 a.m. to get ready and make it to class on time. It’s at least a 15-minute walk to the student center from her temporary apartment, she said.

Reis was also looking forward to the rest of her family coming from St. Louis to watch the eclipse with her. Her original plan to host her parents and sister in her one-bedroom apartment was compromised when she was assigned to a four-bedroom apartment in Midtown. Her bedroom alone was not big enough to comfortably fit them all.

Chase Wisniewski, 22, is a fifth-year senior who found himself back in the dorms again. He said the inconvenience had been the biggest pain.

"It could be a lot worse, but I don’t have a refrigerator or a microwave. The stuff that you take for granted is not in the dorm," Wisniewski said.

One of Wisniewski’s two future roommates at Brookside was supposed to be his roommate in the residence hall, but he instead chose to crash on a friend’s couch. Wisniewski pushed two twin beds together for more sleeping space.

Not all displaced residents were frustrated with the situation, even with the inconveniences. Jeff Williams said it hadn’t caused him too much stress to live in Center Hall while he was waiting to move into his new apartment.

"I’m impartial as long as we get compensated and we get taken care of, which I feel like they’ll do pretty well," Williams said.

The Boone Hospital Center Board of Trustees and officials with University of Missouri Health Care will visit Indiana University Health in Bloomington, Ind., on Monday to learn more about the health care provider’s merger with Methodist Hospital.
The hospitals merged in 2014. Indiana University Hospital, Methodist Hospital and Riley Hospital for Children formed the Clarian Health system in 1997, which later became IU Health.

The trustees and MU Health “recognize that creating a new model is important as they explore the successful collaboration of” the two hospitals, a new release said. The two organizations are in talks about a partnership ahead of the end of Boone’s lease with BJC Health Care.

**COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE**

**Missouri Orthopaedic Institute expansion opens**

University of Missouri Health Care opened a $40 million expansion of the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute on Thursday.

The 85,462-square-foot expansion was needed to accommodate growth and added clinical space for inpatient, outpatient, surgical and physical therapy, the organization said in a news release.

The Missouri Orthopaedic Institute opened in 2010 and the number of patients has steadily increased, according to the release. The expansion, which started in June 2015, added to the original facility’s 114,000 square feet.

The fourth floor of the expansion houses the Thompson Center for Regenerative Orthopaedics. The new space will allow 37 researchers with backgrounds in medicine, engineering, veterinary medicine, anthropology and biomedical studies to collaborate on studies in orthopaedic medicine, MU Health said.

**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

'Game changer': UM Curators approve Mizzou stadium project

By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch

COLUMBIA, MO. • **By a vote of 9-0 Friday, the University of Missouri System Board of Curators approved the $98 million football facility planned for the south end zone of Memorial Stadium.**
During Friday’s video teleconference meeting hosted at MU’s Ellis Library, Mizzou athletics director Jim Sterk and Ryan Rapp, the system’s vice president for finance and chief financial officer, made a 20-minute presentation to the board. The curators voted unanimously for the project after a brief discussion.

“It’s going to be a game changer for our university, for the Tigers,” curator Maurice Graham of Clayton said after the vote. Newly appointed curator Jon Sundvold was the only board member in attendance while the others voted via teleconference. John Phillips of Kansas City was in a business meeting and cast his vote just as Sterk started his presentation.

“You’re up 1-0, Jim,” curator David Steelman quipped.

The project, initiated by former coach Gary Pinkel nearly 10 years ago, serves two primary purposes: a plush team facility to entice recruits and a new home for high-end luxury suites to increase athletics revenue. The current setup in the south end zone generates $1.5 million in general admission ticket sales annually. MU estimates that figure will eclipse $6 million under the new plan, Sterk said.

“When you have facilities like this it really showcases what’s going on in your program,” Sterk said. “It opens doors maybe we didn’t have before.”

Construction of the three-story, 200,000-square foot facility is expected to begin after the upcoming season and be finished in time for 2019. The building will include locker rooms, coaches’ offices, a sports medicine facility, weight room, meeting rooms and a recruiting lounge.

The new south end zone structure will feature 16 luxury suites for game days, a 750-person field-level club, a 1,254-seat indoor club and general seating for 1,324 fans. A new concourse will connect the east and west sides of the stadium and include new restrooms and concessions. A roof-top scoreboard will run the length of the new south end zone structure.

COLUMBIA - The Missouri athletic department moved into a really expensive neighborhood five years ago.

In the Southeastern Conference, Alabama, Texas A&M, LSU, Florida, Tennessee and Auburn all reported revenue of $140 million or more during 2015-16.

**Mizzou took in a school-record $97.2 million during the last fiscal year for which figures are available. And on Friday, the football team got a boost when the University of Missouri System Board of Curators unanimously approved the construction of a $98 million football facility in Memorial Stadium’s south end zone.**

“Missouri is making a bold statement with today’s announcement and I am confident that it not only will pay big dividends in recruiting, but it will help improve our game-day atmosphere throughout the stadium,” second-year MU football coach Barry Odom said in a release. “I can’t wait to get the shovels in the ground and get going. I am thankful to lead the Mizzou Football program and represent our University and State, and am pleased we have undertaken a project of this stature.”

The Memorial Stadium South Expansion will break ground early next winter and is expected to open in time for the 2019 season.

Tigers athletic director Jim Sterk, who made a formal presentation that included a finalized funding plan and details of the project’s scope during the meeting, revived the project last December after his predecessor had pivoted toward a renovation of the Mizzou Athletic Training Complex.

“With football, it really helps us overall,” Sterk said. “When you have facilities like this, it really gives you an opportunity to showcase what’s going on in your program, so it opens doors that maybe we didn’t have before and I think Barry will be able to utilize it from a football standpoint. Also, as I talked about, it’s a revenue generator.”

The curators approved construction of a three-story, 200,000-square foot structure — including roughly 150,000 square feet of enclosed space — that will replace the existing general admission bowl, which was built in 1977.

Six months ago, Mizzou received approval to hire Kansas City-based Populous to oversee the project, which will be financed through private gifts ($40 million) and bonds on future ticket revenues ($57.2 million) along with a small contribution from the Campus Infrastructure Fund ($800,000). Sterk told the board MU has received verbal commitments for two other seven-figure donations toward the project, which haven’t been finalized and announced but could further reduce the debt financing needed.

M.A. Mortenson Company, which is headquartered in Minneapolis, will serve as the project’s construction manager and Kansas City-based Henderson Engineers will serve as lead engineer for mechanical, electrical and plumbing.
Plans call for a new team locker room, training facility, weight room, coaches’ offices, meeting rooms, recruiting reception area, dining facility, and equipment storage. The south end zone also will feature new videoboards, a rooftop video deck and two-bay loading dock along with a new road connecting the west side of the stadium to the south side.

“Our goal is to build one of college football’s premier facilities for our student-athletes and coaches to utilize on a daily basis, and we are confident that we can achieve that within the project’s budget and scope,” Sterk said in a release. “When this facility is completed, not only will it be an incredible asset in recruiting, but our expectations are that it will enhance the game-day environment for our fans at Memorial Stadium, too.”

It will include 16 new suites, a 750-person field-level club similar to the Dallas Cowboys’ at AT&T Stadium, a 1,254-seat indoor club area and 1,324 general admission seats plus some standing-room only sections to replace the current 10,800 general-admission seats.

Despite an 8 percent reduction in Memorial Stadium’s capacity, from 71,004 to roughly 65,000, school officials project a net revenue increase of approximately $4.5 million from the new premium options for attendance. The current general-admission seats generate $1.5 million, but Sterk told the Board he expects the new seating options to create “in excess of $6 million” in revenue.

“We can turn some of the cheaper seats into higher-demand seats, and we have high demand in the premium seating area,” Sterk said. “We have 97 percent of our east side that was done in 2014 sold out, so people want those kind of amenities at games. We want to bring more people to games, so this gives us an opportunity to do that and enhance our revenue and raise it so we are more competitive with in the SEC.”

The stadium’s capacity will be approximately 61,000 during the 2018 season after the existing south bowl is torn down and before the new facility is built. South bowl general admission ticket-holders who don’t remain in the renovated section could be displaced to the east-side expansion’s upper deck.

The reduced stadium capacity is in line with current attendance trends and future projections.

“About a year ago in an AD’s meeting, I remember listening to a presentation,” Sterk said. “It was actually (Clippers owner and former Microsoft CEO) Steve Ballmer talking about virtual reality. Everyone in there with 100,000-seat stadiums that had just gotten projects done, they were turning white a little bit. It was like, ‘Oh my gosh, the world is changing.’”

Sterk said current renderings of the newly approved stadium are “pretty accurate about what it will look like.”

This will be the third major project at Memorial Stadium since MU joined the SEC in 2012.

The Tigers renovated the press box and brought the iconic white-rock “M” closer to the field prior to the 2013 season and opened the east-side expansion a year later, adding more premium seating and upper deck.
Missouri announced plans for a new south end zone project in December 2014. Former football coach Gary Pinkel and former athletic director Mike Alden hatched the idea after the Tigers repeated as SEC East division champions, but Mack Rhoades preferred renovating the all-sports training facility during his brief tenure as the Tigers’ athletic director.

Sterk, who was hired last August, breathed new life into the Memorial Stadium project and quickly raised the necessary capital.

Asked what’s next, Sterk laughed and said, “Give me a break.”

He then said a new capital campaign will launch this winter.

“We are going to have a campaign for Mizzou athletics that will be more encompassing of all our needs from scholarships to facilities,” Sterk said.

A new full-length indoor practice facility for football is expected to be part of that project.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

UM Curators unanimously approve Memorial Stadium renovation

By Daniel Jones

The University of Missouri System Board of Curators unanimously passed a plan for a $98 million renovation of the Memorial Stadium’s south endzone seating during a special session Friday morning.

The teleconference was hosted at Ellis Library at MU, with athletic director Jim Sterk and UM chief financial officer Ryan Rapp leading the presentation for the Board of Curators, UM President Mun Choi, newly-appointed MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright and a host of other administrators.

Construction is scheduled to begin at the conclusion of the 2017 season, continue throughout the 2018 season and be finished before the 2019 season.

“It’s been a great process,” athletic director Jim Sterk said. “The board asked tough questions of why and how are we going to do this and what does it do. I thought they did a thorough job of evaluating over the last six months of our financial plan. It was really great to come to a culmination today and get unanimous approval.”

The renovation is two-fold. Large swaths of general admission seating behind the south endzone will be replaced by premium seating, which will increase ticket revenue.
According to Sterk, an outside consulting firm concluded this offseason that Memorial Stadium was “on the low end” in terms of providing opportunities for premium seating. That firm estimated the south endzone’s current configuration generates around $1.5 million annually in ticket sales, but the new configuration could pull in $6 million or more.

It will also create offices for staff, a new locker room, a new weight room for the football team and public areas in the concourse.

Memorial Stadium’s capacity will shrink as a result. The finished product will bring total capacity to around 65,000, down from its current capacity of 71,168.

Capacity will dip to approximately 61,000 in 2018 while construction is ongoing, Sterk said.

Missouri experienced a severe drop in attendance last season, with its biggest crowd pulling 57,098 through the gates against Georgia in Week 3. Its seven home games drew an average of 52,235 spectators.

The trend was not confined to Columbia. CBS Sports reported in December that college football attendance declined in 2016 for the sixth straight year, falling by approximately 1 percent from figures in 2015.

“The world is changing,” Sterk said. “For us, we’re in an environment where we need to provide an opportunity for our fans to engage on a level if they went somewhere” else. “It’s a society thing.”

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**Board of Curators unanimously approves Memorial Stadium expansion**

By: Emily Sanderson

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri Board of Curators came to a unanimous vote Friday morning to approve Mizzou Athletics' Memorial Stadium south end zone project.

The $98 million expansion is set to include new training facilities, locker rooms and premium seating for fans.

Mizzou Athletics said the new additions will give fans more space and amenities like a club area and suite seating.

"We're in an environment where we need to provide an opportunity for our fans to engage on another level, and this will give us a number of opportunities to do that," Mizzou Athletics Director Jim Sterk said.

Funding for the project will come from campus infrastructure funds totaling $800,000, and long-term debt expenditures not exceeding $57 million. Various fundraising efforts are also expected to total around $47 million.

"This has been the largest amount of money that's been raised for a project at Mizzou," Sterk said.

Despite losing around 6,000 stadium seats, project coordinators expect a return in revenue of about $6 million from opportunities like group sales and vendors.

Sterk said the upward economic impact of the project will not only affect MU but the region as a whole, bringing in more jobs for residents.

"I know this is something the athletics department has worked hard on and it's something all of us can be very proud of." UM Curator David Steelman said.

The project is set to be complete by August 2019.

Similar stories ran statewide.
In a unanimous vote, the UM System Board of Curators approved plans for the Memorial Stadium South Expansion Project, which is expected to be complete in summer 2019 and cost roughly $98 million, at Friday's meeting.

This approval comes amidst belt-tightening across the institution. This summer, all departments were required to cut their annual budgets by up to 12 percent. Then, Thursday, UM System President Mun Choi announced in an email to faculty and staff that the institution would be hiring outside consultants to find further ways to reduce operating costs.

Like most athletics projects at the University of Missouri, the stadium expansion will be fueled in part by donors, but the project as proposed would still use $800,000 in university infrastructure funds and $57.2 million in long-term loans. The project summary also states an unspecified amount in short term loans will be taken out to finance the project as donations are still coming in - the university anticipates paying $3 million in interest on this.

This is part of a larger trend – since joining the SEC in 2011, Mizzou Athletics’ contribution to the university’s overall debts has increased from 5 percent to 12 percent.

But members of the board of curators say they think the expense is worthwhile. Board chair Maurice Graham paused while closing the meeting to praise Mizzou Athletics Director Jim Sterk’s work.

"This is a real success, I think," Graham said, "and it’s going to be something that all of us can be very proud of. As we look toward the future of our university, this is going to be a big part of it."

Mizzou isn’t the only school planning big stadium changes – in June, the University of Kansas announced a $300 million expansion to its stadium.

Board of Curators approves Memorial Stadium south end zone renovation
The $98 million expansion project would be completed by 2019.

By GARRETT JONES

The UM System Board of Curators approved the proposition of a new facility in the south end zone of Memorial Stadium during a teleconference at 10:30 a.m. Friday morning.

The curators unanimously voted in favor of the expansion, which is expected to cost $98 million. MU has received $48 million in private gift pledges.
In February, the board previously approved the hiring of Populous, a Kansas City architectural firm, as the designer of the 141,000-square foot, three-story structure.

The south end zone expansion will include a plethora of renovations, such as a new football locker room for use during games and practices, in addition to a football-specific team training facility, which would include a weight room.

Those specified entities will relieve congestion at the Mizzou Athletic Training Complex, which currently houses most of the Tigers’ sports programs.

It will also feature coaching offices, a team meeting room, a reception area for events and recruiting and equipment storage.

Under the proposal, the existing general admission seats will be removed, but Memorial Stadium’s capacity won’t change considerably with the addition of 16 suites, 1,500 premium seats and 1,300 general admission seats. The stadium’s capacity will drop to approximately 65,000 seats, 6,000 less than its current listed capacity.

Memorial Stadium has not been renovated since 2012, when 6,000 seats were added to the west area of the stadium as part of the team’s transition into the Southeastern Conference.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Columbia’s Civil War past lives on

By Megan Favignano

It’s been more than 150 years since the Civil War, but the Confederacy and well-known slave owners remain memorialized in Columbia and Boone County through statues, buildings and street names.

While today the “Lee” in Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School stands for “learn, explore, express,” the school initially was named for Confederate Army Gen. Robert E. Lee. The school became Lee Expressive Arts more than 25 years ago.

The Lee Autonomous School Board on Thursday voted to formally request the Columbia Board of Education start the renaming process to eliminate Lee from the school’s name.

Debates about monuments, historic markers and statues that memorialize the Confederacy have increased across the country this month after white nationalists marched in Charlottesville, Va., to protest the removal of a Robert E. Lee statue. Demonstrations turned violent and a counter protester was killed.

Nationwide, some argue the monuments and statues are racist and should come down. Others say the symbols honor America’s history.
Jack Chance, president of Friends of the Centralia Battlefield, said he doesn’t understand what benefit comes from removing statues and changing school names.

“You can’t change history by just changing monuments or schools’ names,” he said. “This is all about emotion. This is not about logic or thinking things out. This is about people who are upset and want to use it as a tool.”

Chance said it would be expensive to move all memorials and statues for all wars.

Traci Wilson-Kleekamp, member of Race Matters, Friends, said that if the monuments and statues up for debate celebrate history, she wants to challenge others to think about what history it is honoring. It’s more often the history of white slaveowners that is being memorialized, she said.

“When you can go somewhere and expect to see your history very visible, that’s privilege,” Wilson-Kleekamp said. “I think people need to really pay attention to what is around them.”

The protest of the removal of Robert E. Lee’s statue in Charlottesville was not the beginning of the debate. This issue has been heightened since 2015 when a man killed nine African-Americans in a Charleston, S.C., church.

The Southern Poverty Law Center has advocated for citizens across the U.S. to urge for the removal of Confederate symbols. “More than 1,500 Confederate monuments stand in communities like Charlottesville with the potential to unleash more turmoil and bloodshed. It’s time to take them down,” the center’s website states.

The organization said in a report there are at least 109 public schools named after prominent confederates, with schools named for Lee being the most common. Many of those schools, the report said, have a large African-American student population.

While Wilson-Kleekamp said it’s important to bring awareness to displays of white supremacy, it’s only a small part of what needs to be done.

“It’s important to recognize ... but it’s low-hanging fruit,” she said. “Even when we take them down, the challenge is tackling policies that are oppressive and systemic oppression.”

The Sons of Confederate Veterans has been promoting its statement of purpose recently to answer questions the group’s members often receive about what the organization does and where it stands on recent calls for the removal of statues and memorials.

It says the organization has a responsibility to adhere to the country’s founding principles.

"...remembering the bravery, defending the honor and protecting the memory of our beloved Confederate Veterans, which includes their memorials, images, symbols, monuments and gravesites for ourselves and future generations,” the statement reads.

LEE SCHOOL
The Lee Autonomous School Board will send a letter to the district’s board of education asking that it start the process of renaming what now is known as Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School. A committee would need to be formed to consider a new name.

Michelle Baumstark, CPS spokeswoman, said the autonomous school board, which is made up of parents, teaches and administrators, on Thursday night discussed the history of the school and what the building is like now.

The school was named Robert E. Lee Elementary in 1904 and many shortened the name to Lee School, Baumstark said.

Lee’s name is written in the stone above the doors to the school but no other physical presence referencing the Confederate general remains.

“Historically, while we don’t recognize that name as what that building is anymore, having the official name that was recorded back in 1904 still on the building still needs to be addressed,” Baumstark said of the group’s discussion Thursday.

Grant School in Columbia was named for Union Gen. Ulysses Grant — who later became U.S. president — and it opened in 1911. Douglass High School, named for abolitionist Frederick Douglass, opened in 1885. Before the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling ending segregation in 1954, Douglass was the all-black school in the district.

CPS further distanced the association to Lee in the Lee Elementary School’s name almost three decades ago, changing the name to Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School. In that school name, “Lee” stands for learn, express and explore.

Ed Elsea, Lee elementary school principal, said the school song incorporates learn, express and explore in the context of the school’s arts focus.

“We utilize the arts integration. We teach through drama, music and art,” he said. “We believe that learning through the arts helps them create and learn their material better.”

Elsea added that the school does not give any emphasis to the name above the school’s door.

“It’s not something we expose our kids to,” he said.

This month, the school started its 27th year as Lee Expressive Arts. Elsea said he had one person contact him asking about the school’s name after Charlottesville. Elsea said concerned parents have a valid point.

“We need to see if we can have the sign on the school reflective of what we call it,” Elsea said, adding that altering the school building is not something he’s able to do as principal.

Board policy dictates how facilities are named and under what circumstances a facility’s name can be changed. Baumstark said major building renovations are one criterion that can allow the process to rename a building to take place. The district has been planning to make an addition to the current Lee
school building by 2020. It will be up to the Columbia Board of Education to decide if the policy allows a name change to happen now.

Baumstark said the district’s office has only received two calls about the school’s name, one being the call Elsea received and the other from someone out of state.

Baumstark said she explained the history of the school and what its name means today to both people who inquired.

Chance, with the Centralia Battlefield group, said the statues and buildings named for people like Lee were placed there by good people who believed they were doing the right thing at the time. Chance has ancestors who fought on both sides of the Civil War and said he has respect for all of his ancestors on both sides of the conflict.

“Removing monuments and putting them somewhere else or destroying them is wrong,” Chance said.

He said the Centralia Battlefield often has school children visit to watch re-enactments and learn about what happened in Centralia during the Civil War, both the good and bad.

“That’s what it’s all about. It’s education,” he said. “We need to learn from our mistakes and not cover them up.”

MU’S CAMPUS

Lee isn’t the only educational facility with a name referencing a slaveholder. Rollins Dining Hall on MU’s campus and Rollins Road in Columbia refer to James Rollins—a statesman and president of the university’s board of curators for almost 25 years, until he retired in 1886. He helped found and grow the university and its agricultural college.

Rollins was born in Kentucky but later moved to Columbia to practice law. Rollins served two terms in Congress and supported land grants for agricultural colleges.

He was a unionist but advocated the abolition of slavery. Rollins also was one of Boone County’s wealthiest and largest slaveholders, according to an MU alumni magazine publication.

William Switzler, who founded the Columbia Statesman in 1843 and served as a university curator, also was a slaveholder. Switzler often wrote anti-abolition editorials. Switzler Hall, an academic building on MU’s campus, was constructed in 1871 and still stands today with Switzler’s name. Having halls named for slaveholders has drawn criticism, but there’s been no organized movement to get those names scrubbed from MU campus buildings.

In 2015, a student on MU’s campus circulated a petition that argued a campus statue of Thomas Jefferson should be removed. Jefferson, founding father and U.S. president, was also a slave owner.

To protest the statue, students placed sticky notes on it with messages about Jefferson, including “racist” and “slave owner.” The statue remains on campus.
The call for its removal came during a semester which also was filled with calls for the university system’s president, Tim Wolfe, to step down. Concerned Student 1950, a group of students who held protests hoping to increase awareness of race issues, criticized Wolfe for not doing enough to address racism and incidents on campus.

CONFEDERATE ROCK

The community questioned the presence of Confederate Rock, which two years ago rested outside of the Boone County Courthouse in downtown Columbia. The rock is a memorial to people from Boone County who fought for the South during the Civil War.

The rock was moved from MU’s campus to the front of the courthouse in 1975 after black students at MU objected to the memorial rock being on campus. The county paid a couple thousand dollars to move the rock from the courthouse to the Centralia Battlefield in 2015.

Chance said the rock is at the entrance in the picnic ground area. The battlefield has not received any negative feedback or had anyone complain about its presence there.

“It sits there very peaceful and very quietly. It’s an honor to those who fought during the Civil War,” he said. “It’s part of the Civil War and people expect it to be in a place like the battlefield.”

In the 1860s, Boone County’s population was about 19,000 and slaves accounted for around 5,000 of that total. Boone County had the third-highest number of slaves of Missouri counties.

Wilson-Kleekamp said removing statues and school name changes are a good step, but not a final answer.

“By all means, change the names of schools. I don’t think it’s a systemic enough change,” Wilson-Kleekamp said.

UnificAsian brings students together to bond, learn about different cultures

GRANT SHARPLES 13 hrs ago (0)
MU freshman Hannah France has always wanted to learn more about her Filipino heritage, and the Asian American Association's UnificAsian event allowed her to start learning about her background.

The event, held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at Memorial Union on MU's campus, gave students a chance to meet and interact with people of different ethnicities. About 60 students partook in games, bonding and cultural education.

France said that she has never learned much about her Filipino background and that UnificAsian was a perfect starting point.

"I've always wanted to do that; to learn more about where I came from and the people that are part of who I am," France said.

Asian American Association President Alice Yu said that UnificAsian is a great way for students to spend their first weekend on campus because it allows them to meet people of different ethnic backgrounds. She said that the purpose of the event lies in its name.

"Asians are not homogenous," Yu said. "We're not just Chinese, Japanese, Korean; there are so many more identities under Asian-American than what someone might expect."

However, Yu said that, despite differences in heritage, Asians can still "work in harmony." UnificAsian embraces that idea of unity by bringing students together for one shared experience.

"This is an opportunity for you to get out and meet new people who are different from you," Yu said.

The event was Pokémon-themed, and attendees were divided into groups based on regions in the Pokémon universe. They were served Asian-inspired food and were able to network before splitting up for team-building activities.

Jordan Jensen, a second-year medical student, said he attended the event so he could meet people who share similar interests. He went to Vanderbilt University for his undergraduate schooling, where he was involved in organizations with an emphasis on diversity.

Jensen said that UnificAsian is a great way to meet people because of the team-building activities and length of the event.

"It just gives you more exposure to people," Jensen said. "It's a big time commitment, but I think it's really worth it."

The team-building activities included a variety of competition-based games. One of them, called "human architecture," required participants to create a scene of the judge's choice. One of the scenes, a Pokémon battle, had participants acting as Pokémon fighting in a stadium against each other.

Yu and the association put together the activities to create a welcoming environment. Inclusivity and comfort were deciding factors in how the activities were created, Yu said.
"There are a lot of freshmen coming in that don't necessarily feel welcome," Yu said. "Really, I feel like it's the attitude that we all have; the smile we have on our faces; the ears we have ready to listen."

Jay Encina, a member of the association, said that the organization has become his family and introduced him to an entire group of people that he otherwise wouldn't have met.

"I joined last year and they pretty much gave me a place in this campus," Encina said. "If it wasn't for these guys, I probably would have just dropped out last year."

**THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Colleges Announce Closings as Harvey Pounds Texas Coast**

**NO MU MENTION**

By HEIDI LANDECKER

Hurricane Harvey is now downgraded to a tropical storm, but colleges in the Houston-Galveston area have canceled classes at least through Monday, according to the Houston Chronicle.

Baylor College’s Diana R. Garland School of Social Work is closed on Monday. The University of Houston, including its Katy and Sugar Land campuses, will remain closed through Wednesday, but dorms are open for the 2,000 to 8,000 campus residents expected to remain through the storm. The university’s downtown campus is closed through Wednesday; the UH Emergency Operations Center is monitoring the storm and is staffed 24/7. Rice, Sam Houston State, and Texas Southern Universities are closed, as are Galveston and Houston Community Colleges. South Texas College of Law Houston will be closed through Tuesday. Many institutions, such as Rice University, have emergency alerts on their websites, urging families not to come to campus. Lone Star College will be closed through Tuesday, the Houston Chronicle reported; the University of St. Thomas is closed Monday.

Colleges in the Texas Coastal Bend, the deep curve around the Gulf of Mexico, have also announced closures. Texas A&M at Corpus Christi will be closed until September 5, according to the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

Rainfall from the storm could reach 50 inches, the highest ever recorded in Texas, according to the Weather Channel.

Last year the Texas Tribune and ProPublica, working with university scientists, published an investigation into what could happen if the Texas coast were struck by a major storm. (The Tribune updated that article here.) The disaster the news organizations predicted could now come true, according to the Columbia Journalism Review.
The Red Cross for the Texas Gulf Coast Region has updated information about shelters and donations, which can also be made through the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and a Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund established by the Jewish Federations of North America. Seton Hall University is trying to reach some 30 students from the region to offer help.