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MISSOURIAN

UM Administrative review results to be revealed at Friday curators meeting

By: Edward McKinley

Further areas for budget cuts at MU and the main UM System office will be announced during a Friday morning curators meeting, President Mun Choi wrote in a Tuesday email.

The potential cuts have been identified as part of a joint effort between auditing firm PricewaterhouseCoopers and UM System officials that started [over the summer](#).

The review was intended to find “cost savings or risk mitigation through the evaluation of the people, processes, and technology that comprise administrative functions,” according to the [request for proposals](#) made in June that led to hiring PWC.

Since March, when Choi took over as system president, at least \$60 million has been cut from the overall MU budget and hundreds of positions have been eliminated. These cuts have the dual motives of addressing a budget deficit caused by decreased enrollment and state funding, as well as freeing up funds to invest into potential revenue-generating programs at the four system campuses.

In the Tuesday email to the campus community, Choi wrote that the presentation will be live streamed through a link at the top of the UM System web page during the event, and the UM System encouraged any relevant feedback.

“As a University community, we must work together to implement bold strategies to become a more sustainable institution,” Choi wrote.

During a curators meeting Thursday and Friday at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the board will also review an annual economic development report, engagement with the

intercampus faculty council, several new degree programs across the four campuses, an auditors report and other topics.

A full story will be available at that time.



MU engineer develops new method to improve ICU workflow

By CRAIG WHITE

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: <http://munews.missouri.edu/news-releases/2017/1205-new-methods-of-tracking-hospital-nurses-could-help-make-workflow-more-efficient-mu-study-finds/>

Watch video at: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-engineer-develops-new-method-to-improve-icu-workflow>

COLUMBIA - An MU engineering assistant professor has developed a tool designed to improve care for patients in intensive care units by tracking the movement of nurses.

The device will gather data that hospitals can use to improve efficiency and ability to focus on patients.

Dr. Jung Hyup Kim's method tracks the location of ICU nurses within a certain range and picks up data on the actions they perform, such as attending to a patient or using a unit's computer.

The system uses Near Field Electromagnetic Ranging, and calibration points can be set anywhere within range of a monitoring device to pick up location devices worn by the nurses.

Kim said previous studies about nurse efficiency used in-person or video monitoring, which could influence the nurse's performance.

"This is kind of how we initiated this project, and by combining the manual observation and introducing new technology, so that we can clearly see the pictures of what's happening in hospitals," Kim said.

The results helped Kim create a flowchart of the various ways nurses' activities can be performed, which could help nurses and hospitals be more efficient with their time, and focus more on the patient.

He said ICU nurses are experiencing a heavy workload because they have to do both patient care and do a lot of data input into electronic medical records.

"The definition of intensive care unit means you have to take care of your patient intensively," he said.

Kim said the electronic medical records require a great deal of time and attention.

"So this is more like intensive data input rather than intensive patient care," he said.

Dr. Laurel Despins helped coordinate the research in the ICU, provided prior information about patient care and recruited nurses to assist in the research. She said the technology will be beneficial in the long run.

"I would want to look at the sequence of activity paths that the more experienced nurse does, and then immediately use that information to help educate the new nurse coming on board to get them in a system," she said.

The research was presented earlier this year at the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers Conference.



MU Researchers Improving Nursing Home Care, Reducing Hospitalizations

Generated from News Bureau press release: [MU program to improve nursing home care reduces hospitalizations by nearly 50 percent, saving major dollars for Medicare](#)

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=946ae8e8-ab39-4920-9ac6-a5ba073398dc>



MU PhD. student launches app to help visually impaired

By CAMERON LA FONTAINE

Watch video at: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-phd-student-launches-app-to-help-visually-impaired>

COLUMBIA - A doctoral candidate at MU is hoping his new app will help people around the globe who are visually impaired.

Oluwatosin Oluwadare app, EyeCYou, has been in development for the past two years and aims to help people that are visually impaired to picture exactly who they are meeting.

"It gives them a description of whoever they meet, tells them the shirt color, physical appearance, gives the age estimate, gender estimate, even their race, just to give the visually impaired a head start of who they are meeting," Oluwadare said.

He said that can help make people more independent because they have so much more information about who they are encountering.

With the app, the user can hold the phone up for a picture and then a voice, through headphones, could identify physical traits of the person.

"EyeCYou can give the visually impaired a sense of security just in knowing who they are meeting when they meet new people," Oluwadare said.

He said EyeCYou started as a fun project that originally just gave the shirt color of a person standing in front of the user. But, he then realized how it could help people with visual impairments worldwide.

The app went into the Google Play store for Google and Android devices just 20 days ago.

"It's a major milestone and major achievement for me because it's something that has moved through multiple different phases and it's just really incredible that we're finally a mobile app in a major store for people to use," Oluwadare said.

He presented his app at the Hub at Columbia Regional Economic Development Inc. Tuesday night. He's been a client of REDI since going through one of its tech series bootcamps for entrepreneurs.

REDI entrepreneur coordinator Collin Bunch said EyeCYou has great potential to help people.

"There's a need in the U.S. because people can lose vision due to diabetes, glaucoma, things like that. But, around the world, the need is even bigger where there's less of a healthcare infrastructure," Bunch said.

He noted the large number of people who have Android smartphones.

"It's really a great tool to help people that have no vision to navigate their life and meet people and feel safe when they're meeting new people," he said.

Oluwadare hopes to continue development of the app, get into the Apple Store, work to start partnerships with schools for the blind and raise money from investors.

Moody's Downgrades Higher Education's Outlook

NO MU MENTION

By [Paul Fain](#)

December 6, 2017

Citing uncertainty over federal policies as a contributing factor, Moody's on Tuesday [downgraded](#) its financial outlook for higher education to negative from stable. The credit ratings agency predicted that the growth of the industry's expenses will outpace revenue growth for the next 12-18 months, with public universities in particular facing money woes.

Increases of tuition revenue, research funding and state contributions will "remain subdued," Moody's said. And, over all, the sector's expenses will rise by 4 percent, according to Moody's. But less than 20 percent of public, four-year institutions will see their revenue increase by more than 3 percent. More than half of private institutions will achieve growth of at least 3 percent.

Cuts to federal financial aid programs or even funding growth that fails to keep up with inflation would exacerbate higher education's problems, Moody's said. Likewise, the report said the GOP's tax bills could hurt colleges' private fund-raising, increase borrowing costs for private activity bonds and depress graduate student enrollment. And federal immigration policies could decrease international student enrollment, the ratings agency said.

MISSOURIAN

Students describe a painful learning curve in signing leases at new complexes

By: Rachel Mckee Taylor, Nwadi Oko, Janice Zhou and Gabriela Mercedes Martinez

Last August when Cordell Cox, 21, moved into Rise on 9th, he thought he was getting a private room. So he was surprised when he entered his apartment for the first time and saw that he would be sharing not just a bedroom with his roommate — someone he didn't know — but also a bunk bed.

"I'm 21, and now I feel like I'm living in the residence hall again," Cox said.

Lease-signing season is in full swing for college students. With the decrease in enrollment at MU in recent years, there is more housing than potential tenants, leaving students with many options when choosing where to live.

That means more competition among the apartment complexes and more advertising directed at the target market. Some complexes are offering incentives to get students to sign leases, such as Visa gift cards and six-month or ten-month leases for those who will only be in Columbia for one semester or who aren't staying for the summer.

The offers are so attractive, you might be tempted sign a lease without a full reckoning of what you're getting for your money — and that might be a lot of money at a downtown apartment complex.

The Missourian spoke with students who were surprised when they moved into their apartments and wished they'd fully understood what they were getting.

Concerns from tenants

Rise on 9th was still being built in downtown Columbia when Cox signed his lease last spring. He was shown only the kitchen, living area and bathroom of a sample unit, not what the bedroom would look like, he said.

Cox, a junior, said that when he signed his lease, it somehow wasn't clear to him that he would be sharing a bedroom. When he realized what he'd gotten into, he said he was shocked.

The room he thought was going to be his — the apartment's second bedroom — is locked. Cox said when he asked the management if he could move into that room, they told him he could for an additional \$300 in rent from both him and his roommate. His rent is \$589. The website for the complex called his floor plan, "2x2 Terrace 2 Shared." Cox said he interpreted that as sharing the apartment, not a bedroom.

The Missourian reached out to Rise to talk to someone about Cox's situation and received no response.

Aside from the management's response to his sleeping arrangement, Cox has found the staff there friendly and helpful. He said the dryer in his apartment broke the week before Thanksgiving and it was promptly repaired.

Meanwhile, he and his roommate share a room with a full-size bunk bed, two desks and two dressers. The furniture takes up the entire room, leaving just enough space for the two men to pass each other.

"It's brutal," Cox said.

Like Cox, Celine Pence, 20, was caught off guard when she moved into her apartment.

She was excited about moving into a two-bedroom apartment at District Flats with a friend in August 2016. But then she saw that her bedroom didn't have any windows.

“It literally looked like a prison cell,” she said.

Pence said she and her roommate had picked out a different unit but the people living in that unit decided to re-sign their lease at the last minute so Pence and her friend were switched.

Like Cox, Pence was shown a model unit of an apartment at the complex, not the unit she would be living in.

She said when she went to the office, the man she talked to wasn't helpful and said it was the previous management that had helped her secure her original unit.

“Finally, after I started crying in front of him he was like, ‘Okay, let me see what I can do,’” she said.

The apartment complex was completely full. Pence said the man told her he'd tried to get people to move, but no one would.

She said in the end District Flats let her out of her lease because they hadn't notified her they were switching her to a room without windows.

Her roommate, whom Pence said had an "amazing" bedroom, stayed at District Flats, but the room, which Pence couldn't sleep in even one night, remained vacant.

Pence was able to sign a lease last minute at a four-bedroom apartment at Brookside Downtown with random roommates.

Despite the bumps in the road, both Cox and Pence said they enjoy living downtown. Cox likes the proximity to the bars and not having to worry about finding a ride home or catching an Uber.

Pence is a journalism student and said it only takes her about three minutes to walk to class at MU from her apartment.

“I do have a car, but for a lot of people who don’t it definitely makes it a lot easier for them so they don’t have to worry about catching a shuttle,” she said.

Too high a price?

MU Junior Channing Phillips signed a lease at District Flats for August 2016 to July 2017.

“I think overall it was a convenient location for me, but it was way too overpriced,” she said.

Phillips signed a lease on a two-bedroom apartment with three other people. She and her roommates each pay \$695 for rent. Both bedrooms had a set of bunk beds with two people sleeping in each room.

“It was terrible,” Phillips said. “Two desks, two dressers and no room to walk. I wish I would’ve known how small the rooms were before I signed.”

She said she didn't look at the room size before signing.

The appliances were up to date, but she had problems with the dishwasher.

“We always had to get that thing looked at,” Phillips said.

She was also disappointed in the front office.

“The management had no idea what was going on. They constantly did not have answers to our specific questions,” Phillips said.

District Flats refused to comment.

After her lease ended in July, Phillips decided to move back to her sorority house.

Joe Antonacci, 20, moved into the brand new U Centre on Turner between Fourth and Fifth streets on campus, after living at District Flats last August. At U Centre, he pays \$765 for rent, at District Flats he paid \$700.

He's happy with his apartment, though he said it has some flaws. He says it's obvious the construction team had to rush and finish it, so there are craftsmanship problems.

“My room door didn’t close or lock at first,” Antonacci said, “My bathroom cabinets used to not open all the way.”

Antonacci also had problems with the dishwasher, which might have been installed incorrectly.

“Our entire dishwasher was messed up, so it flooded the apartment.”

Even with these events, Antonacci prefers U Centre over District Flats and re-signed his lease for the following school year.

Haley Dzarknowski, a junior at MU, was randomly assigned to a handicapped accessible room at TODD without any notice.

“When we originally signed, we were able to preference what floor we wanted to live on, and our first choice was the third floor,” Dzarknowski said. “They didn’t give any notice or anything that this unit would be the handicapped one, so we spent about eight months believing we’d be living in the (one) we signed for.”

When Dzarknowski and her roommates moved in, they noticed an emergency button outside their front door and that the floor plan was opposite the one they'd seen on line.

Their kitchen was different, too, Dzarknowski said. Instead of having a microwave mounted above the oven, it’s on the counter where it takes up more space. The kitchen sink is shallower, causing dishes to pile up very quickly, she said.

The bedroom posed challenges, she said.

“My bedroom closet ended up being tiny compared to the one that was originally promised, and I had to do a lot of improvising to make the layout of my furniture more functional,” Dzarknowski said.

And yet, Dzarknowski said, she loves TODD, which exceeded her expectations, at \$865 per month.

“The quality of the apartments and the service of the people who work here is amazing,” she said.

She said she previously lived at a downtown apartment complex that wasn't kept as clean and where "service was awful," so her new housing is a big improvement. "The amenities are incredible as well," she said. "I love the pool and the gym. They're kept up really well and are super convenient.”

Away from downtown, the Missourian spoke to students living at two apartment complexes who had problems with their utility bills and size of their apartments.

MU Junior Clark Stith has lived at The Den for two years. When he signed a lease there as a freshman, he didn't quite understand his utilities package.

“I wish I would've known about (The Den's) method of charging for utilities," Stith said. "It's based off how much you use, rather than a set amount each month. I would rather have a set amount.”

The size of his apartment also bothers him.

“I would say the worst part about The Den is how small it is,” Stith said.

Although Stith is not re-signing at The Den, he will miss the “community and the people.”

Tre Warfield, 21, lived at The Den during his sophomore year at MU.

The amenities closed the deal for him.

“It’s very convenient to have a pool, fire pit, grills, a gym and a hammock downstairs,” Warfield said.

But like Stith, Warfield was unhappy with the size of his apartment.

“It was hard to entertain in that small space,” Warfield said. “You could have five guests, max. After that, it was too crowded.”

Paige Reed, 21, lives at Aspen Heights in South Columbia. She said with its two-floor layout and open kitchen, the apartment feels like home.

“Aspen Heights feels more cozy,” she said. “I really like the space itself. It actually feels like a house.”

She shares the apartment with two others with rent set at \$450 per person, but her main concern lies in the high utility rates.

Their first bill was a surprising \$225 for only three people. The bill was split three ways and each roommate paid \$75.

“It’s on the higher side because it’s not factored into the actual lease itself,” she said.

[According to previous Missourian reporting](#), triple-digit utility bills have been a concern for a long time and may be the result of the way the complex was constructed, not resident use.

Another matter of concern for Reed stemmed from the security at Aspen Heights where crime has been a concern [in the past](#). The apartment is gated and at the principal entrance on 3600 Aspen Heights Parkway, there’s a security guard who checks visitors coming in on weekend nights, Reed said.

She finds the security to be more tedious than truly protective.

“It’s been problematic,” she said. “Anytime someone wants to pick you up, they have to call.”

Regardless, Reed plans to live at Aspen Heights again. She had lived at The Domain for two years and felt she didn't have enough room.

“Even with higher utilities, it’s been cheaper all around,” Reed said.

Avoiding surprises

Associate Director of MU’s Department of Residential Life Kristen Temple said the most common problems she sees among students arise from not reading the lease closely enough.

That's part of the purpose of [Off-Campus Student Services at MU](#) — to educate students about each step in the lease-signing process.

Student legal services will look over leases for free, she said. They won’t give you legal advice, but they’ll look through the lease and point out those parts that a first-time renter might not notice or understand.

Temple said her primary advice for someone looking to sign a lease for the first time is to make a list of what you want before you start to looking at places.

“Don’t get distracted by the fancy ads, don’t get distracted because a place gave you a water bottle or because they’re promising you a Visa gift card,” Temple said.

Nearing the end of her college career, Reed regrets not taking longer to make a decision.

“A lot of people were scrambling to get housing,” she said. “Taking your time and weighing the pros and cons of the place you live at is important.”