A recent study with rats on a cookie dough diet suggests the brain circuit that causes us to crave food may be separate from the one that makes us eat it.

Scientists are eager to understand why we eat when we’re not hungry—called non-homeostatic eating—and how it works in the brain.

“Non-homeostatic eating can be thought of as eating dessert after you’ve eaten an entire meal,” says Kyle Parker, a former grad student and investigator in the University of Missouri Bond Life Sciences Center. “I may know that I’m not hungry, but this dessert is delicious so I’m going to eat it anyway. We’re looking at what neural circuitry is involved in driving that behavior.”

Matthew J. Will, an associate professor of psychological sciences and Parker’s adviser, says for behavior scientists, eating is described as a two-step process called the appetitive and consummatory phases.

“I think of the neon sign for a donut shop—the logo and the aroma of warm glazed donuts are the environmental cues that kick start the craving, or appetitive, phase,” Will says. “The consummatory phase is after you have that donut in hand and eat it.”

WHY THE RATS STOPPED BINGE EATING
Parker studied the behavior patterns of laboratory rats by activating the brain’s pleasure center, a hotspot in the brain that processes and reinforces messages related to reward and pleasure. He then fed the rats a cookie dough-like diet to exaggerate their feeding behaviors and found that the rats ate twice as much as usual.

When he simultaneously inactivated another part of the brain called the basolateral amygdala, the rats stopped binge eating. They kept returning to their food baskets in search of more, but only consumed a normal amount.

“It seemed as if the rats still craved the dough,” Will says. “They kept going back for food but simply didn’t eat. We found that we had interrupted the part of the brain that’s specific to feeding—the circuit attached to actual eating—but not the craving. In essence, we left that craving intact.”

To find out what was happening in the brain during cravings, Parker set up a spin-off experiment. Like before, he switched on the region of the brain associated with reward and pleasure and inactivated the basolateral amygdala in one group of rats but not the other. This time, however, he limited the amount of the high fat diet the rats had access to so that both groups ate the same amount.

Outwardly, both groups of rats displayed the same feeding behaviors. They ate a portion of food, but kept going back and forth to their food baskets. However, inside the brain, Parker saw clear differences. Rats with activated nucleus accumbens showed increased dopamine neuron activity, which is associated with motivated approach behavior.

The team also found that the state of the basolateral amygdala had no effect on dopamine signaling levels. However, in a region of the brain called the hypothalamus, Parker saw elevated levels of orexin-A, a molecule associated with appetite, only in rats with activated basolateral amygdala.

“We showed that what could be blocking the consumption behavior is this block of the orexin behavior,” Parker says.
“The results reinforced the idea that dopamine is involved in the approach—or the craving phase—and orexin-A in the consumption,” Will says.

The team believes that these findings could lead to a better understanding of the different aspects of overeating and drug addiction. By revealing the independent circuitry of craving vs. the actual consumption or drug taking, this could lead to potential drug treatments that are more specific and have less unwanted side effects.

Their study was recently was published in Behavioral Neuroscience and funded in part by the National Institute of Drug Abuse.

**Missouri Governor Jay Nixon to visit MU Campus**

**COLUMBIA, Mo -**

**Missouri Governor Jay Nixon will visit the University of Missouri Thursday.**

Governor Nixon will visit the Bradford Research Center and will meet with plant science students and faculty.

It is the only academic program in Missouri to study plant production, protection, and biology from lab to field.

The governor may also talk about the latest student enrollment numbers. You'll recall ABC 17 News has [reported](#) that a drop in first year enrollments and student retention is expected to lead to a significant budget shortfall for the university.

Governor Nixon's round table discussion is expected to start around 10:15 Thursday morning.
Columbia business leaders react to MU enrollment projection


As the University of Missouri decides how to deal with a multi-million dollar budget shortfall, business leaders in Columbia will look at the "domino effect" it could have on the community.

Gary Ward, the school's Chief Operating Officer, told board of the Regional Economic Development, Inc. that the school expected to fall behind by 1,500 new applicants for the 2016 fall semester. That drop continued from Interim Chancellor Hank Foley's estimation in January of falling behind by 900 applicants. Ward said Wednesday the loss could translate into a $32 million shortfall in MU's budget for the next school year.

Foley sent an email Wednesday describing "guidelines" for next year to make up part of that shortfall, including a hiring freeze, cutting the merit-based raise program for the next year and a five percent cut to the school's general revenue budget. Foley said even increasing tuition by .7-percent, the highest raise allowed by state law this year, would not cover the estimated budget shortfall.

Columbia Chamber of Commerce President Matt McCormick said the drop in enrollment, and subsequent effect it had on faculty and staff at school, concerned the group. Numbers from the latest Boone County budget show in 2014, the University employed 8,709 people - more than nine percent of the county's population, and more than double the next largest employer, University Hospital & Clinics.

"People who's spouses and families are working in our business community and spread throughout our entire community," McCormick told ABC 17 News. "So what would that mean as it dominoes into that."

Shakespeare's Pizza manager Kurt Mirtsching said Columbia's businesses, though, have become more than just reliant on MU's student population. He said he's seen the town grow into a more "mature" economy, with the growth of healthcare and insurance companies in town, as well as the
"butchers, bakers and candlestick makers" that make up the town's service industry. He didn't expect his business to feel as much of a sting as the University.

"If enrollment's down a little bit, that's not the greatest thing in Columbia," Mirtsching said. "But it's not the end of the world either. Things ebb and things flow, things go up and things go down. It's doing that right now, and I'm sure Columbia's gonna keep on going, and do just fine."

ABC 17 News also obtained current enrollment numbers for MU. While overall attendance went down by just 30 students from this time in 2015, undergraduate and minority student numbers by around 100 in each category.

Foley said the school was actively working to "stem the tide" of dropping enrollment for next year, including hiring more out-of-state recruiters and reaching out to students and their families admitted to the school, but not yet enrolled, through phone calls, texts and even Skype. The interim chancellor told the state's Joint Committee on Education that many prospective students and families expressed concern over last November's protests, and wanted to ensure the school was a safe place to go.

"The key is to be faster, more personal and much more interactive," Foley said in the Wednesday email.

Mizzou Protests Lead to Plunge In Freshmen, Massive Budget Deficits

By Clay Travis

TRIGGER WARNING:

The fallout from the fake Mizzou protests continues to destabilize the University of Missouri. Today the interim chancellor of the university emailed students that the university will enroll 1500 less students than projected and faces a budget shortfall of $32 million this year.
While the 1500 fewer students aren't broken out by year, the vast majority of them will come from the entering freshman class. How substantial is the decline in enrollment? Based on Mizzou admission data from past years we're talking about a potential 20% drop in enrolled freshmen.

That's staggering.

Here was the email from interim chancellor Hank Foley:

"Dear university community,

I am writing to you today to confirm that we project a very significant budget shortfall due to an unexpected sharp decline in first-year enrollments and student retention this coming fall. I wish I had better news.

The anticipated declines – which total about 1,500 fewer students than current enrollment at MU – in addition to a small number of necessary investments are expected to leave us with an approximate $32 million budget gap for next year. A smaller entering freshman class will have continuing impact on finances as they progress toward their degrees at MU...

Given that these declines are the result of drops in first-time student enrollments and retention of enrolled students, there are a number of initiatives and projects currently underway to stem the tide in both the short- and long-term. We are reaching out to admitted students who have not yet enrolled and to their parents with phone calls, Skype calls, videos and a text campaign – all of which involve current students, faculty and administrators throughout the university. We also are in the process of adding more out-of-state recruiters and we are redesigning all our Admissions materials to ensure they meet the expectations and needs of prospective students. I have also asked Admissions to develop a new web-based admissions platform that is streamlined and that will involve live feedback to prospective students. The goal is to make it easy to apply and to know very quickly what their prospects are for admission to MU. The key is to be faster, more personal and much more interactive.

To this end, we are implementing the following guidelines for FY17 budget planning. We will:

Impose a cut of 5 percent to all annual recurring general revenue budgets (rate dollars) without exception. Should the current assumptions that led to a $32 million gap be absolutely accurate, we will be $10 million short of balancing our recurring budget. A gap of that nature will be addressed in FY17 with reserves (cost dollars), and then any additional cuts necessary to balance the recurring budget will be carried into the following year.

We are implementing an across-the-board hiring freeze for all units on campus. We urge all campus administrators to carefully review their staffing levels and to not refill any positions unless they are absolutely necessary to the mission. Decisions to add faculty or
staff must be exceptional, but will be left to the discretion of the deans, vice chancellors, vice provosts and the director of athletics.

We will not have an annual merit increase program this year. Effectively that means merit increases are at zero for the entire campus. Promotional increases for faculty will still be provided.

While these budget challenges will affect our ability to deliver teaching, research and service to Missourians in the short term, we also know that we have survived other stressors of this kind before. We will endeavor as a campus to make decisions on these reductions that will least hamper our ability to deliver our core mission. We also will seek to build on the strengths of this university as we move forward.

Wow.

Congrats to the Mizzou protesters on their fake protest. You -- in conjunction with your idiot football players who also went on strike -- have nearly killed a great university over a poop swastika, an alleged off campus racial slur that may not have even happened, and one racial slur on campus from a non-student in the past year. Oh, and your top faculty defender, Melissa Click, the woman who demanded muscle to confront student reporters on your quad, is suing saying her firing wasn't justified.

Hope it was worth it.

P.S. almost all current Mizzou students hate the protesters and think they're full of shit. Here's a great letter from a current student that we featured on Outkick a couple of weeks ago.

P.P.S props to ESPN for paying Spike Lee to glorify the fake protests with a documentary on them that he's currently filming on campus. That should really help enrollment too.
University of Missouri announces budget cuts, hiring freeze

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — An anticipated enrollment decline of 1,500 students following protests that roiled the University of Missouri has forced the college to cut general revenue budgets by 5 percent and institute a hiring freeze to help close a projected $32 million shortfall.

Interim University of Missouri Chancellor Hank Foley sent a memo to the campus on Wednesday detailing the moves, the Columbia Daily Tribune (bit.ly/1py0K0h) reported.

"I am writing to you today to confirm that we project a very significant budget shortfall due to an unexpected sharp decline in first-year enrollments and student retention this coming fall," Foley wrote in the memo.

Foley’s memo did not address the protests, which stemmed from what some students perceived as indifference by university administrators to racial discrimination. But officials have said they believe the turmoil, which culminated with the resignations of the former system president and campus chancellor, contributed to the enrollment decline.

Vice Chancellor Gary Ward discussed the university’s budget Wednesday at a meeting of the regional economic development board, where he said the budget gap will affect hundreds of university employees.
"Realize most of our expenses are people," Ward said. Take "$32 million, and look at an average salary of $40,000, $50,000, and we’re talking about hundreds and hundreds of positions impacted."

The 5 percent cut would eliminate about $20 million of the shortfall, Ward said, leaving the university with a $10 million gap. He stressed that the revenue drop was independent from threatened legislative cuts to state funding.

The Missouri House on Tuesday cut $1 million from the Columbia campus' allocation of state money and $7.6 million from the University of Missouri System's administrative funding. That measure still needs a final vote in the House and consideration in the Senate.

The hiring freeze will allow only jobs "absolutely necessary to the mission" to be filled, Foley wrote. Other steps to close the budget gap include eliminating raises except in conjunction with a promotion, or tapping reserves for the remaining $10 million.

University administrators initially expected a drop of 900 students in the fall, but now peg that figure at 1,500. The revenue shortfall will be ongoing as a smaller freshman class moves toward graduation, Foley wrote.

At the economic development board meeting, several members encouraged other members to use any political leverage they have to pressure lawmakers considering cuts to the university's funding.

"If you have any political clout with people outside of our district . we desperately need help there," Columbia Chamber of Commerce President Matt McCormick told the group.
University of Missouri cuts spending, freezes hiring in effort to close $32 million budget gap
By Koran Addo

The University of Missouri-Columbia has halted all merit-based pay increases, instituted a university wide hiring freeze and is cutting spending by 5 percent in an effort to close an estimated $32 million hole in its budget in the upcoming budget year.

The news was announced in a message from Interim Chancellor Hank Foley, who blamed the budget gap on an “unexpected sharp decline in first-year enrollments and student retention this coming fall.”

Mizzou administrators are anticipating 1,500 fewer students enrolling in the fall. Last month, administrators said that enrollment decline alone could lead to a $20 million shortfall.

“I wish I had better news,” Foley said.

The university can’t close the budget gap with tuition increases because state law ties tuition to the consumer price index.

At CPI’s current level, if the university’s Board of Curators did vote to raise tuition, it would account for only $2 million in new money, Foley wrote.

Foley’s announcement comes just one day after the Missouri House of Representatives voted to cut $7.6 million from the University of Missouri’s network of campuses in Columbia, St. Louis, Kansas City and Rolla.

Because of its status as the flagship campus, Mizzou probably would bear a significant portion of that cut.

The difficulties in Columbia mirror problems farther east at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where administrators are expecting a $15 million budget shortfall.

UMSL’s woes are the result of shrinking funding from the state and a steady drop in transfer students.

UMSL Chancellor Thomas George has said he expects the school will announce layoffs at some point this year.
While Mizzou has, so far, not announced any layoffs, administrators say they still expect to be about $10 million short of balancing the budget, even with the hiring freeze, spending cut and suspension of merit-based pay increases.

Mizzou’s current yearly budget is about $617 million.

The university will make up the residual $10 million funding gap using money held in reserve accounts and through additional budget cuts carried into the next year, Foley said.

“While these budget challenges will affect our ability to deliver teaching, research and service to Missourians in the short term, we also know that we have survived other stressors of this kind before,” Foley said.

**THE KANSAS CITY STAR.**

**Enrollment drop forces University of Missouri cuts and hiring freeze**

An anticipated enrollment decline of 1,500 students following protests that roiled the University of Missouri has forced the college to cut general revenue budgets by 5 percent and institute a hiring freeze to help close a projected $32 million shortfall.

Interim University of Missouri chancellor Hank Foley sent a memo to the campus on Wednesday detailing the moves, the Columbia Daily Tribune reported.

“I am writing to you today to confirm that we project a very significant budget shortfall due to an unexpected sharp decline in first-year enrollments and student retention this coming fall,” Foley wrote in the memo.
Foley’s memo did not address the protests, which stemmed from what some students perceived as indifference by university administrators to racial discrimination. But officials have said they believe the turmoil, which culminated with the resignations of the former system president and campus chancellor, contributed to the enrollment decline.

Vice Chancellor Gary Ward discussed the university’s budget Wednesday at a meeting of the regional economic development board, where he said the budget gap will affect hundreds of university employees.

“Realize most of our expenses are people,” Ward said. Take “$32 million, and look at an average salary of $40,000, $50,000, and we’re talking about hundreds and hundreds of positions impacted.”

The 5 percent cut would eliminate about $20 million of the shortfall, Ward said, leaving the university with a $10 million gap. He stressed that the revenue drop was independent from threatened legislative cuts to state funding.

Missouri House lawmakers have proposed chopping $1 million from the Columbia campus and shifting those funds to Lincoln University, the historically black college in Jefferson City.

The cuts proposed this week for MU’s flagship campus would be on top of $7.6 million in cuts that Missouri lawmakers had earlier proposed for the entire university system’s budget.

The House is expected to send the budget plan to the Senate on Thursday.

Missouri lawmakers have repeatedly criticized university administrators for how they handled student concerns and have threatened to cut state funding.

Hiring freeze, department cuts ordered at University of Missouri
The University of Missouri will use a hiring freeze and a 5 percent cut to all recurring general revenue budgets to close a projected $32 million shortfall for the coming fiscal year, interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley wrote in a memo to campus Wednesday.

Foley wrote that the need to cover a projected fall enrollment decline will leave the campus $32 million short in the year that begins July 1.

“I am writing to you today to confirm that we project a very significant budget shortfall due to an unexpected sharp decline in first-year enrollments and student retention this coming fall,” Foley wrote in the memo addressed “Dear university community.”

At the Regional Economic Development Inc. Board of Directors meeting Wednesday, Vice Chancellor for Operations Gary Ward discussed the university’s budget situation.

A 5 percent budget cut would eliminate about $20 million from the budget, still leaving the university with a $10 million shortfall. He emphasized the decline was independent from legislative threats to cut state funding. On Tuesday, the Missouri House cut $1 million from the campus' allocation of state money and $7.6 million from UM System administrative funding. The measure still needs a final vote and consideration in the Senate.

“Realize most of our expenses are people,” Ward said. Take “$32 million, and look at an average salary of $40,000, $50,000, and we’re talking about hundreds and hundreds of positions impacted.”

The hiring freeze will only allow jobs “absolutely necessary to the mission” to be filled, Foley wrote. “Decisions to add faculty or staff must be exceptional, but will be left to the discretion of the deans, vice chancellors, vice provosts and the director of athletics.”

Other steps to close the gap include elimination of raises except in conjunction with a promotion and tapping reserves for the remaining $10 million, Foley wrote.

University administrators have increased the anticipated drop in enrollment from 900 in the fall to 1,500. The shortfall of revenue will be ongoing as a smaller freshman class moves toward graduation, Foley wrote.

The campus will feel the cut to system administration because “critical functions provided by the system offices will need to be carried out on behalf of each of our campuses,” Foley wrote. “We at
MU would probably bear a significant percent of the system reduction in order to maintain treasury, legal counsel, benefits administration and other services system administers.

The gap cannot be closed with tuition increases because state law ties maximum increases to inflation, which was just 0.7 percent over the past year, he wrote. If approved at that rate, the extra tuition would increase campus revenue by $2 million, he wrote.

One step being taken to mitigate the loss is an aggressive recruiting program to reach students granted admission who have not yet confirmed their fall enrollment. More out-of-state recruiters will be added and a new online admissions system will be created to streamline the process, Foley said.

“While these budget challenges will affect our ability to deliver teaching, research and service to Missourians in the short term, we also know that we have survived other stressors of this kind before,” Foley wrote.

At the REDI meeting, several board members encouraged other members to use any political leverage they had to pressure lawmakers considering cuts to the university’s funding. The general consensus seemed to be that while little could be done to stop the financial bleeding from dropping enrollment, there is still time to salvage some of the university’s state funding.

“If you have any political clout with people outside of our district … we desperately need help there,” Columbia Chamber of Commerce President Matt McCormick told the group. “We’ve gone everywhere from being flipped off by senators while we’re sitting there meeting with them, to being cussed out by staff to everything you could possibly imagine. It’s been an interesting cycle.”

REDI board member and Lathrop and Gage LLP partner David Shorr reiterated the call for members to contact lawmakers to protect MU’s funding.

“Many of us have a great deal of angst and dissatisfaction with what’s transpired in the last eight months,” Shorr said. “Right now, the issue isn’t about that. The issue is that we spend all of our time trying to generate jobs in the community, and at no point have I been faced with a question of losing 600 jobs.”

Others had concerns about the ripple effects of the revenue drop.

“This impact is not just at the university,” Boone County Commissioner Karen Miller said. “It’s all of the student housing we have downtown. We’re going to have a whole lot of vacancy going on, and that’s only going to make things worse for our business community as a whole.”
UPDATE: MU will enact hiring freeze, budget cuts

COLUMBIA — MU will implement a campus wide hiring freeze and a 5 percent cut to its fiscal year 2017 general revenue budget, Interim Chancellor Hank Foley announced in an emailed memo Wednesday afternoon.

The memo also:

- Urged campus administrators to review staffing levels and to not refill any non-essential positions.
- Said that decisions to add faculty or staff will be left to the deans, vice chancellors, vice provosts and the director of athletics.
- Said that MU will not have its annual merit-based increase program this year, but faculty raises that come with a promotion will still continue.

These changes are the result of a decline in MU’s expected fall enrollment and student retention, the memo said, which was the result of a projected $32 million budget gap. MU expects about 1,500 fewer students to enroll in the fall compared to the current enrollment.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said the two main factors contributing to the decline in expected enrollment are an increase in competition from other schools and a decrease in the number of high school graduates in the region. He also said that recent protests on campus have played a role in the decline, but he said he is not sure how much of an effect they have had.

“We would be remiss if we said protests haven’t affected application numbers,” Basi said. “We just can’t put a number on it.”
A report released by MU earlier this year partially attributed a 4.87 percent decline in fall enrollment applications to recent campus protests, according to previous Missourian reporting.

To address the decline, MU is in the process of adding more out-of-state recruiters and redesigning the admissions process to make it easier for prospective students to apply, the memo said.

The $32 million budget gap does not take into account a potential $7.6 million cut from the Missouri legislature. The House Select Committee voted March 4 in favor of a bill that would cut MU’s funding.

“I wish I had better news,” Foley said in the memo.

MU to experience $32 million budget loss from enrollment decrease
Budget cuts and a hiring freeze are two of the plans that will be implemented to save money.

By Claire Mitzel
March 9, 2016

MU is expected to be $32 million short of next year’s planned budget, interim Chancellor Hank Foley announced in a letter sent to staff Wednesday.

“I wish I had better news,” Foley wrote in the letter.

The shortfall comes from an anticipated enrollment of 1,500 fewer students for fall 2016 and does not include the proposed $1 million loss from state appropriations.

Without exception, MU will impose a 5 percent budget cut. With the cut, Foley wrote that MU “will be $10 million short of balancing (the) recurring budget.” Reserve funds will be
then used to fill the gap in the 2016–17 budget. Additionally, there will be no raises, unless through promotions.

There will also be a hiring freeze. It will be left to the discretion of campus administrators to choose whether to hire faculty or staff, but the need for new employees must be “exceptional” and “absolutely necessary to the mission,” Foley wrote.

The Missouri state legislature is also proposing a $7.6 million cut to the UM System budget as a whole, which would bring a further challenge.

“Such a cut to the system budget would have to be shared with the four campuses as critical functions provided by the system offices will need to be carried out on behalf of each of our campuses,” Foley wrote. “We at MU would probably bear a significant percent of the system reduction in order to maintain treasury, legal counsel, benefits administration and other services system administers.”

He wrote that there are a number of initiatives underway to encourage more first-time students to enroll at MU in the fall. Current plans include reaching out to admitted students via calls, texts and Skype and adding more out-of-state recruiters. Foley also said the admissions department will develop a new web-based admissions platform that gives live feedback to prospective students.

“The goal is to make it easy to apply and to know very quickly what their prospects are for admission to MU,” Foley wrote. “The key is to be faster, more personal and much more interactive.”

Foley noted in his letter that an increase in tuition is not the solution to the budget shortfall because an increase in tuition is limited to the Consumer Price Index. The CPI last year, Foley wrote, was 0.7 percent. An increase in tuition, if approved by the Board of Curators, would account for $2 million, not nearly enough to make up for the losses.

Because tuition alone cannot solve the budget shortfall, Foley announced a variety of plans that will be implemented to reduce expenditures.

Revenue projections for a single year have little impact on large campus projects with dedicated sources of funding, Campus Facilities spokeswoman Karlan Seville said in an email.
“The large capital projects that have had recent Board of Curators action include a variety of funding sources but all that are dedicated to the particular project,” Seville said. “Examples like donor funds, state appropriations for facilities improvements and bonds repaid by auxiliary revenue are generally set aside from the day to day operating revenue stream.”

Spokesman John Fougere said in a statement that the UM System is reviewing multiple scenarios and creating multiple plans.

“As currently proposed, a reduction to the system budget could have a number of impacts on campus budgets as critical, centralized functions performed at the system offices would have to be funded or replicated at the campuses,” Fougere said in the statement. “In the meantime, we will continue to work closely with our state legislators as they determine our appropriation, and are committed to doing so by being accountable, transparent, and fiscally responsible in our leadership and our actions.”

The challenge will affect the university short-term, Foley wrote, but “we have survived other stressors of this kind before.”

“We will endeavor as a campus to make decisions on these reductions that will least hamper our ability to deliver our core mission,” Foley wrote. “We also will seek to build on the strengths of this university as we move forward.”

**Anticipated MU Enrollment Decline a Factor in Possible Budget Shortfall**
COLUMBIA - University leaders are projecting “a very significant budget shortfall” at MU, according to a statement emailed to MU faculty and staff today.

In the statement, Interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley says that factors including an anticipated drop in first-time students and student retention for fall of 2016 could cause a roughly 1,500 student decline in enrollment at MU. That decline would contribute to the $32 million budget gap projected for next year.

The shortfall does not take into account potential budget losses due to a decline in state appropriations for next year. Foley writes that the current state appropriation proposal to date would keep MU funding flat, but the UM System appropriation could be reduced.

Republican Representative Caleb Rowden of Columbia says this year the budget process changed in the legislature.

“All of the campuses were separated out, separated from the system, and then also extension, and another research line was separated out. There used to be one line, now there are seven. So presently as we stand the campuses’ funding is flat, there’s no increase from last year, and the system has a 7.7 million dollar cut that we are trying to get fixed.”

Rowden says he will continue to challenge cuts.

“I’m still optimistic about some changes being made in the Senate. Our Senate appropriations chair is Kurt Schaefer, who is our Senator here in Mid-Missouri. The conversations I’ve had with him make me think that he is certainly willing to look at what can be done to turn some of this stuff around.”
Foley writes that tuition rates cannot be raised sufficiently to meet the shortfall because of regulations that limit increases, and that expenditures must be reduced. The letter lists three guidelines for financial year 2017 budget planning on the MU campus, which are a five percent cut to all annual recurring general revenue budgets, an across-the-board hiring freeze and a hold on merit-based raises.

UM System Spokesperson John Fougere says the issue of the budget in the legislature is ongoing.

“Certainly what we are seeing is something we have to take notice of, but that’s why it’s extremely important for us to continue again to work very closely with our state legislators as they determine what our appropriation will be.”

New initiatives to increase enrollment include contacting admitted but unenrolled students, adding out-of-state recruiters and revamping admission materials, according to Foley.

**Plunging enrollment creates budget shortage at University of Missouri**
COLUMBIA – Interim Chancellor Hank Foley sent a letter to faculty and staff Wednesday, projecting a significant budget shortfall for next year’s budget starting in July.

Foley said it was “due to an unexpected sharp decline in first-year enrollments and student retention this coming fall.”

“I wish I had better news,” he said.

An approximate $32 million budget gap is possible for next year, Foley said.

He anticipates 1,500 fewer students enrolling next fall compared to current freshman enrollment.

State budget appropriations could be reduced by $7.6 million or more system-wide, Foley said.

“We at MU would probably bear a significant percent of the system reduction in order to maintain treasury, legal counsel, benefits administration and other services system administers,” he said.

Foley said a number of short-term and long-term initiatives and projects are underway to offset the declines in first-time students.

“We are reaching out to admitted students who have not yet enrolled and to their parents with phone calls, Skype calls, videos and a text campaign,” Foley said.

The University is in the process of adding more out-of-state recruiters and admissions faculty is making sure admissions materials meet the expectations and needs of prospective students, he said.

Foley addressed tuition increases in the letter as well. He said the Board of Curators would have to approve a higher tuition increase since it is limited to the Consumer Price Index. Last year the CPI was .7% and if the board approved an increase, it would only account for an extra $2 million in new revenues.

Looking to other options to make up the shortfall, Foley has imposed a cut of 5% to general funding, leaving the university still $10 million short of a balanced budget. The university will also implement a hiring freeze for all units.
on campus unless absolutely necessary. Foley also said raises will end for the budget year but promotional increases for faculty will still be provided.

Dr. Angela Speck, an MU professor and Executive Committee member of the MU Faculty Council, said the cuts were expected.

“We didn’t know how bad it was going to be, but we kind of had it on our radar, so it wasn’t an entire surprise,” Speck said.

She said MU administration has been helpful and open with the Faculty Council about the budgeting issues. However, continued communication is vital.

“If administration does it without faculty, then that’s a problem. But faculty need to understand that we have to play a part in this. If the money’s not there, we have to find a way to survive without it," Speck said.

However, in terms of preparing for falling enrollment numbers, she said the administration failed to prepare for something it should've anticipated.

“The issue of the drop in number of students in that age range, we knew this was coming, and yet we’ve been building up and building up," Speck said.

She also said getting out of the hole will have to happen with the help of Missouri legislators.

“We’re going to need their support in order to not do serious damage to the institution," Speck said. "I think we have the support of our local legislators, but I would say that in general I would say they are not being very good to us.”

Speck also wanted to clear up one misconception concerning why the budget issues have taken place.

"People will think we brought this on ourselves because of the protests last semester, this is mostly not to do with that," Speck said.

The UM System released this statement:

"The UM System has been reviewing potential budget scenarios and preparing a variety of options. As currently proposed, a reduction to the system budget could have a number of impacts on campus budgets as
critical, centralized functions performed at the system offices would have to be funded or replicated at the campuses. In the meantime, we will continue to work closely with our state legislators as they determine our appropriation, and are committed to doing so by being accountable, transparent, and fiscally responsible in our leadership and our actions."

Cuts to University of Missouri clear initial House vote

By RUDI KELLER

Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 2:00 pm Comments (19)

JEFFERSON CITY — The University of Missouri’s budget misfortunes this year could be, in part, the price of political success in the past.

Along with operating increases totaling 6.5 percent over the past two years, the UM System won $154.4 million in capital improvement appropriations, although not all made it past Gov. Jay Nixon’s veto pen. In coming weeks, the pressure will fall on state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, to restore the 2 percent cut passed Tuesday in the Missouri House.

Schaefer is chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and a candidate for the Republican nomination for attorney general. His opponent, Josh Hawley, is a member of the University of Missouri Law School faculty. Schaefer will need to weigh the demands of his current constituency against public anger about recent events and colleagues’ envy of past success.

“There is a validity to the argument that Mizzou has been treated better than anybody else,” Schaefer said.

Only a formal vote Thursday remains before the House sends Schaefer a higher education appropriation bill that gives extra money to community colleges and Lincoln University. For the first
time, the House passed the budget with separate spending lines for each UM campus, Extension, System administration and intercampus programs.

The administration line was cut $7.6 million in the House Budget Committee, and the Columbia campus allotment was cut $1 million on the House floor. The money from Columbia was shifted to Lincoln University to help meet its federal land-grant funding match. Overall, the House budget includes $426 million in basic support for the university.

The cuts are the result of political controversies roiling since last summer.

Some came from outside, such as when Schaefer led a Senate investigation into Planned Parenthood and the resumption of abortion services at the Columbia clinic that took an unexpected turn into University Hospital’s decision to grant privileges to the clinic's doctor. Most were internal, from badly handled health insurance for graduate assistants, a deans’ revolt against former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and the mutual distrust and animosity between Loftin and former UM System President Tim Wolfe.

The Concerned Student 1950 demonstrations, resignations of Loftin and Wolfe and Melissa Click’s employment saga, however, made the cuts politically possible.

“I think there’s been a lot of build-up in the body since everything happened last fall, and I think that hasn’t dissipated any,” said Budget Committee Chairman Tom Flanigan, R-Carthage. “And I think that residual angst is still there.”

During floor debate Tuesday, state Rep. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, received a vehement “no” on the voice vote against his amendment to provide $4.3 million to the UM System for meeting performance measures. The money, from a pot of surplus revenue set aside for road needs, would be available only if tax receipts exceed baseline projections.

“They hit those goals, and they are entitled to this money,” Rowden said during the debate.

After the defeat of his amendment, Rowden decided there was no chance his other proposals to reduce the cuts could succeed. He had prepared amendments to restore funding to UM System administration with money allocated to the Medicaid program.

“I think that those were admittedly tougher lifts from the beginning,” Rowden said. “I think the message there is as much where the money is going as it was where it is coming from. But I am the one guy who offered amendments to try to do something about it.”
State Rep. Chuck Basye, R-Rocheport, said colleagues would not listen to his efforts to reverse the cuts.

“I maintained all along that I didn’t think the cuts were appropriate because I honestly feel in my heart that the cuts are not going to hit the intended target,” Basye said.

During debate on shifting money to Lincoln, Rowden argued with Rep. Jay Barnes, R-Jefferson City, that students would be hurt because MU already faces cutbacks because of a projected decline in enrollment.

Barnes said that made his amendment stronger. “If you serve fewer students, you shouldn’t ask for the same or more money,” Barnes said.

State Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia, Rowden’s rival for the state Senate this year, argued with Barnes that he was forcing an unfair choice on lawmakers.

“A higher education policy that pits students against students for resources will not lead to the Missouri that we want,” Webber said.

Webber did not prepare any amendments to mitigate the cuts. It would have been futile, he said, pointing to Rowden’s inability to win Republican votes for his proposals.

“It is hard to restore money when at every single point they are actively taking money, and I am fighting them continually taking money,” Webber said. “I was disappointed that he failed twice with members of his own party.”

**Acting dean named permanent head of MU College of Education**

*Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 2:00 pm*

*The University of Missouri has promoted the acting dean of the College of Education to a permanent position.*
The university’s news bureau said in a release Tuesday that Provost Garnett Stokes and interim Chancellor Hank Foley had selected Kathryn Chval to be the permanent dean of the college. Chval served as acting dean while Dean Daniel Clay was on a special fundraising assignment for the provost’s office.

The University of Iowa, where Clay had his first tenure-track position, last month hired Clay as the dean of its College of Education.

Chval is a professor of mathematics education and has worked for MU since 2003. In the release about her appointment, university officials said Chval has led inclusion and diversity initiatives in the College of Education as acting dean. Increasing inclusion and diversity has become a major topic at MU since protests during the fall semester led to the resignation of UM System President Tim Wolfe.

MU officials also lauded Chval’s research credentials. She was acting section head in the Teacher Professional Continuum Program at the National Science Foundation, the release said, and the foundation has funded her research since 1995. MU officials also are pushing for increased research funding to bolster the university’s status with the American Association of Universities.

“We will pursue educational engagement, inclusion, innovation and solutions, maximizing our national and international impact and visibility,” Chval said in a prepared statement.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

3 Highlights From a Survey of Presidents on the Campus Racial Climate

By Corinne Ruff

The last several months have been marked by loud protests over diversity and the racial climate on college campuses nationwide. Last year demonstrations at the University of Missouri’s flagship campus, in Columbia, contributed to the resignations of the chancellor and the system’s president, and similar protests rippled quickly to other colleges.
In a climate where freshmen say they are more likely than ever to protest, campus leaders are facing extensive demands from activists who want their colleges to be more inclusive. And many college presidents say they’re meeting with organizers and responding to their concerns, according to new survey results released on Thursday.

Researchers with the American Council on Education’s Center for Policy Research and Strategy set out to gauge presidents’ perceptions and actions on issues of racial diversity. The researchers analyzed more than 550 anonymous responses from presidents of two- and four-year colleges, most of whom have led their institutions for four or more years.

Lorelle L. Espinosa, assistant vice president of the center, said that for the most part, presidents are more engaged with not only discussion but also action related to diversity on their campus, and they know they need to do more.

"I think the claim that campus leaders are out of touch is oversimplified, which is a lot of what the story has become in the media," she said. "I don't think some of that criticism is unwarranted. But this survey is showing us a level of engagement that we haven’t been shown yet."

Below are a few takeaways from the survey results about how college and university presidents are responding to campus racial issues.

**Most presidents have met with student organizers more than once.**

Protests have become common on many campuses: Forty-seven percent of presidents of four-year institutions said students had organized on campus around concerns of racial diversity, while 13 percent of presidents of two-year institutions acknowledged similar protests. That said, 86 percent of presidents at four-year institutions and 71 percent of presidents at two-year institutions said they had met with organizers on more than one occasion.

Almost 100 of the respondents also answered open-ended questions, in which many presidents said they felt they could do more to improve diversity and inclusion on their campus. One president wrote: "Our typical student is an urban young man of color. Faculty and other staff are mostly white and middle class. I’d like greater consciousness among staff and more dialogue in the community about race."

Yet almost all of the respondents "agreed" or "strongly agreed" that staff, faculty, and the governing board on their campus had an awareness or sensitivity to the need for racial diversity and inclusion.

**Racial diversity has become more of a priority in the last three years.**
Fifty-five percent of four-year and 44 percent of two-year college presidents said racial diversity had been more of a priority on their campus in the last three years. The survey asked presidents which actions their campuses had taken over the last five years, and 76 percent of respondents said they had taken steps to increase diversity among students, faculty, and staff, the response that ranked highest. Other common actions included adding support resources for minority students, resources for racial-diversity initiatives, and developing diversity-competency training.

The least-common action presidents said they had taken was to develop new curricula, at 33 percent. However, looking ahead, the respondents signaled that doing so was a priority: Nineteen percent of respondents said curricular revisions were forthcoming based on student concerns over diversity. Diversity and cultural training was another commonly cited change presidents said they would make.

Ms. Espinosa said changing the curriculum is a much different step for a college president to take than adding more minority students to the campus. She described the shift as moving away from a focus on "just numbers" and toward "an environment that values diversity and has diverse perspectives embedded in the curriculum."

**Presidents rely heavily on student-affairs officials to assist on issues of racial diversity.**

About half of presidents at four-year institutions said they had a full-time administrator dedicated to student diversity. Yet even at institutions with such an official, presidents said they were more likely to rely on student-affairs officers to help handle issues of racial diversity.

Considering that those officials work most closely with the undergraduate college experience, Ms. Espinosa said, it is not surprising for student-affairs officials such as advisers, mental-health counselors, and administrators to be called upon during student protests. Diversity officers, on the other hand, may oversee a larger breadth of diversity issues in all areas, including in the administration and at the graduate level.

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**Headed out: Payton says goodbye to the MSA presidency**
Payton Head remembers having a conversation with a waitress at The Heidelberg before beginning his MSA presidential campaign. She told him she would vote for him and his running mate Brenda Smith-Lezama because she felt they “truly got it.”

She said to him: “I work all these hours for the Heidelberg. I barely have time to study. I can barely afford to go here. If I miss one paycheck or if somebody doesn’t tip me the right way, I could be out of here in a heartbeat.”

**Head said the conversation opened his eyes to the amount of privilege he had in even being able to run for and hold the position of Missouri Students Association president. He realized that students like that waitress were not able to be active in MSA because they had to work and did not have some of the options that he did, such as taking only nine credit hours one semester to give more time to the organization.**

“The average student who’s working 40-plus hours a week just to stay a student at Mizzou is not going to be sitting in MSA committee meetings, but somebody has to know their experiences, and somebody has to speak up for them,” he said.

Head has tried throughout his presidency to understand students who come from different backgrounds than his own. He grew up in the South Side of Chicago, so he said when he arrived at MU, he was “still learning about white people.”

He and Smith-Lezama ran on a platform titled “Ignite Mizzou” with a strong social justice emphasis. He said in September 2015 that he was initially told he would “never win” because he was black and, at the time, not a member of a fraternity.

Head and Smith-Lezama were the first two black students to win the presidency and vice presidency together. The election received the highest voter turnout in MSA history.

“I think we did really well (meeting the goals of our platform), honestly,” he said. “The first semester, I was a little concerned because I didn’t know that we would have time to do everything that we wanted, but I think through everything, we accomplished a lot.”
He said one of the major successes was establishing the national It’s On Us campaign at MU, which he said became a model for other universities to follow. The implementation of the campaign came with a few struggles. He and Smith-Lezama were dissatisfied with the lack of national leadership in programming for It’s On Us, which left most of the work to students at individual universities.

He and Smith-Lezama used It’s On Us to promote existing sexual assault prevention organizations and initiatives rather than trying to “reinvent the wheel” and create new ones. He said he was also satisfied with the way his cabinet handled a controversy over a showing of the film “American Sniper” as well as their participation in different leadership summits, including trips to Israel and Washington, D.C.

However, the promotion of It’s On Us and other programs were set aside when MU became the focus of a national conversation on race relations.

Head was at the center of one of the first events leading up to the resignations of former UM System President Tim Wolfe and former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin. After a group of students called him the N-word as he was walking through campus, he made a Facebook post that went viral.

The first “Racism Lives Here” demonstration came 12 days later. As more and more events unfolded, Head played a prominent role in the activism. He had already been interviewed by The Washington Post for an article about his Facebook post and was comfortable speaking with national media outlets.

After the resignations, he went on CNN and MSNBC. He said that by then, giving an interview felt routine.

“I had to be very discerning with the media outlets that I chose to interview with because some people weren’t after the real story,” he said. “Some journalists came down with the story they were going to tell and they just needed two or three people to validate it for them.”

Although Head and other activists celebrated the resignations of the administrators Nov. 9, the next night was different. Concerned Student 1950 tore down their makeshift campsite amid threats on Yik Yak of violence, and Head mistakenly posted on social media that the Ku Klux Klan was at MU.
After that post, which he removed and posted an apology for, calls for his resignation began circulating on Twitter.

“Honestly, that was horrible,” he said. “Nobody wants to scare people or put out misinformation. Especially for me, I had the best intentions of the students at mind in every single thing that I was doing, and I think that was hard for me, you know, to fail.”

Looking back on that week, he described it as hell.

“It was really scary,” he said. “For a peaceful protest, people wanted to take my life. I didn’t go home for two weeks. I was living at my friend’s house or I was sleeping in my office, and there were times when I didn’t even go to my office because it was so bad.”

On Twitter, he and other activists received tweets from “trolls,” he said, who tried to “suppress people who tried to get the word out” for Concerned Student 1950. He said sometimes he would refresh his notifications after just a few seconds and find 30 or more mentions.

He said he felt like he had a target on his back and that he and other activists were “scared for (their) lives.” Since then, he said he has gotten treatment through the Student Health Center and is learning to rely on others to support him.

“I’m still in a traumatic state after last semester,” he said. “I don’t interact with people in the same way that I did before I was elected.”

He said he met with students who emailed him about the incident and said all of those conversations ended positively.

After that semester, Head was ready to move on. In an interview at the beginning of the spring semester, he said he was looking forward to “focusing on being a student” and leaving the stress of the presidency behind.

President-elect Haden Gomez and running mate Chris Hanner both resigned the night they were scheduled to be inaugurated, and Head became interim MSA president for over a month while the Board of Elections Commissioners and Senate organized a new election.
“I’m getting ready to graduate, obviously,” Head said in an interview the night of Gomez’s resignation. “But at the same time, I care about MSA, I care about the students, and I want us to be in a much better place. I don’t want to leave MSA in a place where it’s not productive and not serving the student body like it should be.”

After Sean Earl and Tori Schafer were elected president and vice president at the end of the special election, Head said he believed they genuinely cared for the students.

He said he hoped that Earl and Schafer would put students first and not get caught up in the “gold nametag” mentality. He called the special election “cute” and said he was looking forward to graduating the night of the announcement at Traditions Plaza.

“(MSA president is) something that's been a part of my identity for the past year, it's been a position where I've grown and learned so much about myself, and I'm just excited that that experience can be shared with somebody else moving forward,” he said. “I'm not meant to be here forever.”

Head is graduating with a degree in political science. He does not have concrete plans yet but says he is looking into ways to include his work with advocacy and diversity into his career goals.

“This semester and this experience that I’ve had have changed and shaped what I want to do and what I thought I wanted to do,” he said.

With regards to the protests and resignations earlier in the year, he emphasized that he wanted students to remember that MU was “not a bad place to live” and said he was glad to go to a school that made itself a model in speaking out against racial harassment.

“Every other school in the country has its issues,” he said. “Mizzou just became the epicenter of it. I’ve never been prouder to call myself a Missouri Tiger.”
MU police report spate of catalytic converter thefts

By ALAN BURDZIAK

Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 2:00 pm Comments (5)

After at least seven catalytic converters were stolen from vehicles during overnight hours late last week in parking lots on the University of Missouri campus, police on Tuesday asked the public to watch for suspicious activity.

People loitering in a parking lot, weaving around vehicles, trying to get underneath cars or walking around with tools — cutting tools in particular — might be trying to steal a converter from a car, the MU Police Department said in a news release. The thefts likely occurred last Thursday and Friday, police said.

MUPD Maj. Brian Weimer said Pontiac and Honda vehicles from the 1990s or early 2000s appeared to have been targeted the most. Weimer said a similar series of catalytic converter thefts happened in February 2014.

“About every year we see a rash of them,” Weimer said. No one has been arrested in relation to the thefts, Weimer said.

Since 1991, federal law has required every vehicle to have a catalytic converter installed in its exhaust system. The converter reduces pollutants the car’s exhaust emits into the air.

Police asked students, staff and faculty to check their cars to make sure their converters have not been stolen. The car’s exhaust likely will be louder if the converter is missing, police said, and there would be a visible gap in the vehicle’s exhaust system.

Kyle Stanfield, a service manager at Custom Complete Automotive’s location at 1001 Business Loop 70 E., said thieves can sell converters to scrapyards for about $50 to $100 apiece. The materials and precious metals inside — including titanium, palladium and rhodium — add to the weight of converters and make them a target for scrappers, Stanfield said.

Thieves likely would use a torch or a reciprocating saw to cut the part out, Stanfield said, with the process likely only taking a couple of minutes. It would be “quite loud,” he said.
Stanfield said his shop charges at least $230 to replace catalytic converters, but he has seen costs of nearly $1,500 if the converter has to be built specifically for a vehicle. Older-model cars, Stanfield said, often are targeted because there is more room underneath them to crawl in and cut out the converter.

“Typically with newer vehicles you don’t have a lot of space” underneath, Stanfield said.

Anyone with information about the stolen catalytic converters is asked to call MU police at 573-882-5928 or CrimeStoppers at 573-875-8477 to remain anonymous.

MU student composer works to find his voice

COLUMBIA — A lifelong desire to explore and experiment has helped an MU student composer win awards and find a compositional voice all his own.

Ben Colagiovanni achieved the highest honors at the Music Teachers National Association's Young Artist Performance Competition in January for his piece, "Forest Park Rhapsody," about St. Louis' storied Forest Park.

Colagiovanni started composing as a boy, and, except for a brief period when he grieved the loss of his grandfather, his musical interest never left him. Now he's a composition student at MU, and he plans to write music for the rest of his life.

An organic musical background

Colagiovanni said his musical career began when he was 3 years old and started taking private piano lessons and composing in Clayton, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis.
He was encouraged to compose by his grandfather because they listened to opera music together and talked about music. Then, when Colagiovanni was still quite young, his grandfather died.

“I immediately stopped playing piano — composing, it was too traumatic, and I did not start playing again for about five months after his death,” Colagiovanni said.

While attending Clayton High School, he started to play in the jazz band.

He attended master classes about composition and entered an original jazz trio piece for piano, bass and drums in both the 2011 and 2012 Creating Original Music Project at MU during his junior and senior years at Clayton High. In the competition, K-12 students submit their best compositions for review. Once the winners are selected, the composers are invited to MU to hear their piece performed by a live ensemble, or they can perform it themselves. Colagiovanni won first place both years.

Colagiovanni also participated in a similar program called the Summer Creating Original Music Project where he wrote his first fine arts piece for an ensemble. He participated in this program twice during his high school years.

William Lackey, who was managing director of the Mizzou New Music Initiative until Friday, said the workshop programs were important to the development of new composers such as Colagiovanni.

“I think a lot of learning takes place in the classroom, but further learning takes place outside of the classroom in these performances, rehearsals and the side conversations about various pieces,” Lackey said.

Colagiovanni decided to attend MU after he won a scholarship through the Sinquefield Charitable Foundation to study music composition through the Mizzou New Music Initiative. Although he considered studying history, Colagiovanni decided to stick with music.

"I'm really glad I'm doing music," he said. "It’s a real blessing to have in my life."
A distinct compositional voice

Both Lackey and W. Thomas McKenney, another one of Colagiovanni’s composition professors, compared the young composer to a sponge — he soaks up new influences and uses that material to evolve his compositional style.

"Ben is very diligent at finding new information and absorbing new information and synthesizing that and having it impact his career," Lackey said.

The 22-year-old’s compositional voice blends elements of strong melody, varying dissonance, call-and-response and extended tertian harmony, influenced by jazz. For him, composing is an emotional process, he said. He listens to new sounds, delves into art and applies those influences to his work, also.

Colagiovanni’s previous works include a piece for violin and piano, “Dream Chaser,” and a piece for solo piano, “Confluence.”

He actively works on his compositions with McKenney each week in lessons to assess and analyze the notation, harmonic and melodic aspects. The lessons help him determine what works and what does not in every piece.

Based on the suggestions of McKenney and performers, Colagiovanni makes the artistic decisions and technical changes to the score and parts of his composition.

Colagiovanni has grown since he first came to MU, and Lackey said much of the compositional process lends itself to evolution.

"That's the thing about composers and finding their voice — that it's specifically them and all their experiences encapsulated into their sound world," Lackey said. "Ben today will not be Ben in a month."