

Education • All Missouri students who meet the qualifications are admitted to Mizzou.

Editorial: Out-of-state gets no preference

By Brady J. Deaton | Posted: Thursday, January 20, 2011 12:00 am

As the state's public land-grant flagship, the University of Missouri is a champion whose doors are open to anyone who qualifies to attend Mizzou, regardless of financial background. The Post-Dispatch addressed the issue of affordability in the editorial "Lost generation," published last month.

The university's operating budget is principally derived from two sources: state appropriations and tuition. Even though MU was founded in 1839 as a 'state public university,' since 2004 more of our operating budget comes from tuition than from the state. (MU's state support continues to be below 2001 levels.) And for the past two years, the University of Missouri System agreed to keep tuition flat if the state did not substantially reduce its appropriation.

MU budget planners, deans and faculty work diligently to obtain gifts and generate research funds that provide student jobs assuring that Mizzou continues to offer the same caliber of education for which we are nationally known — while reducing budgets in every conceivable way to keep tuition affordable and financial aid available for those who need assistance.

During the most recent fiscal year, MU gave \$26.3 million from its general operating budget and \$11.9 million from private gifts to Missouri undergraduate resident students in need-based and merit-based financial aid. In addition, MU pays student employees \$50 million yearly in employee wages. Financing education is a tough financial stretch for many students, but we work with each student to make that education achievable.

Missouri students who attended MU also received \$20.3 million in federal grant aid and \$10.8 million in state aid. Federal loans, which have a lower interest rate than conventional loans, totaled another \$64.9 million for Missouri students and their parents.

Added altogether, MU provided more than \$38.2 million from its operating budget to Missouri students and assisted them with acquiring an additional \$96 million in federal and state grants and loans to help them afford MU's tuition. We also offer students a multitude of opportunities to work on campus to supplement this support.

Because all Missouri students who qualify for admission are admitted, no out-of-state students take their places at Mizzou. But it is important to note that recruiting out-of-state students has

become increasingly important for several reasons: Missouri high school graduates are expected to decrease beginning in 2011; out-of-state students, as is the national norm, pay higher tuition than in-state students; part of the revenue generated from out-of-state tuition goes toward funding need-based aid to Missouri students; and the geographic diversity of MU students contributes to the quality of the educational experience for all students.

To further aid Missouri students, the Missouri College Advising Corps is headquartered at MU. The advisers, who are all Mizzou grads, assist low-income, first-generation and underrepresented students by encouraging them to attend college and helping them with the college-application process at any institution of their choice. Last year, advisers helped those students secure \$2.7 million in scholarship funding. Student financial aid is a major focus of our next fundraising campaign that will appeal to our alumni, business and industry, foundations and a wide range of supporters committed to quality education at MU for as many qualified students as possible.

To maintain quality and access in the face of reduced state resources, we expect to increase tuition effective with the 2011 summer session (pending Board of Curators approval). Still, MU remains a truly great value, with tuition ranking 24th out of 36 when compared to our national peers in the Association of American Universities. Human resource development is the best strategy to achieve economic development. An MU education will equip students with the knowledge base, skill sets and inspired creativity to rebuild the state's economy; well-prepared graduates will attract and start new businesses and earn salaries and wages that will generate increased tax revenue. The research conducted by faculty and students will improve the quality of life of all Missourians and beyond.

It is clear that much is at stake in our investments in higher education at MU and the

kindergarten to grade 12 schools that feed it. We all know we must continue to invest in

education even as we realize that our state faces huge financial challenges. Together, and with the support of our elected officials, I am confident that this is a challenge Missourians will meet. MU is proud to be a champion for students who are ready to attend this university.

Brady J. Deaton is chancellor of the University of Missouri.



Nixon proposes 7 percent cut for UM System

By Rudi Keller Published January 19, 2011 at 7 p.m.

JEFFERSON CITY -- Gov. Jay Nixon on Wednesday proposed a 7 percent cut in funding for the University of Missouri System as part of \$206 million in cuts across state government to balance next year's budget.

The \$23.2 billion spending plan unveiled as part of Nixon's annual State of the State message also continues \$270 million worth of withholdings and keeps funding level for basic aid to public schools.

There are some increases, outlined by Office of Budget and Planning Director Linda Luebbering – schools will get an extra \$7.5 million for buses, there will be \$12 million more for three college scholarship programs and \$9.5 million more for Early Childhood Special Education.

Cuts include 863 jobs across all agencies of state government, with the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Social Services and the Department of Corrections among the hardest hit.

The total cut to the UM system will total \$29.9 million.

"Certainly no one enjoys cutting higher education," Luebbering said. "If there was more money, that wouldn't be on the table."

Nixon has not made any recommendations to colleges and universities about how much or if they should increase tuition to make up for the cuts, Luebbering said. State law allows a 1.5 percent increase over this year's tuition without penalty. The UM Board of Curators will meet at the end of the month to set tuition for the coming year.

Medicaid spending will increase by almost \$500 million overall, including \$176 million of additional general revenue from the state. There is not much to cut in Medicaid, known as Mo HealthNet, Luebbering said, but the Department of Social Services will find \$67.4 million in savings, half by reducing reimbursements to providers and the other half through "better management," she said.

The two biggest areas where additional savings could be found wouldn't result in real savings, Luebbering said. The state could stop paying for prescription drugs for Medicaid patients and stop paying for in-home care, but that would mean higher costs for hospital visits and nursing homes, she said.

School spending will be stable thanks to \$189 million in extra federal education funds awarded to the state last fall. That money will be going to districts as part of a supplemental appropriation, but Nixon is asking that schools save \$112 million in other state and local funds from this year's budget to keep spending even.

There are a few items that will produce additional revenue. Nixon is proposing a taxpayer amnesty program, which is estimated to bring in \$20 million, as well as reductions or eliminations in six tax credit programs. The tax credit program changes would result in \$4.5 million in new revenue and much higher savings in future years, Luebhering said.

Less Greenhouse Gas From Farming

By [Tim Wall](#) | Wed Jan 19, 2011 05:51 PM ET

Carbon dioxide deserves most of the blame for trapping heat in the Earth's atmosphere, but it has accomplices. The third most common greenhouse gas in the atmosphere is nitrous oxide, which is about 300 times more effective at trapping heat than carbon dioxide.

The majority of the world's nitrous oxide emissions come from agriculture in the U.S. But researchers at the University of Missouri – Columbia have found a way to limit the greenhouse gas without making farmer's lives more difficult. In fact the technique can also help farmers save money and improve their yields.

“The main goal for our team has been to identify agricultural practices that maintain or increase production while reducing the environmental impact,” said Peter Motavalli of the University of Missouri.

In the past, most farmers tilled whole fields, but that caused tremendous problems with erosion. The Dust Bowl was largely caused by over-tilling the easily eroded soils of the Great Plains. To avoid the fate of the Joad family in John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, American farmers changed their practices to better conserve the soil.

Now, many farmers do not till their fields, but this increases fertilizer run-off. Also, when soil bacteria finds a tasty combination of nitrogen fertilizer and oxygen on the surface, they eat it up and release nitrous oxide.

The university researchers experimented with the technique of tilling strips of the field about a foot wide and eight to nine inches deep. This allows farmers to use less gas in their tractors while still leaving crop residues, like corn stalks, on the field's surface to prevent erosion.

When farmers till strips and apply fertilizer into the soil of the furrows, the nitrogen fertilizers don't run off and pollute waterways. It also improves yield since more fertilizer gets to the plants.

Here's where the climate benefits come in. By placing the nitrogen fertilizer into the furrows, less of the chemical is converted into nitrous oxide by air-breathing soil microbes.

The researchers conducted their study in northeast Missouri from 2008 to 2010. One field was “strip tilled” with nitrogen fertilizer placed in a band in the soil, while another field was left untilled with a surface application of nitrogen fertilizer.



Nixon focuses on jobs in State of State

NO MU Mention

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon delivers his third State of the State address.

By Rudi Keller

Published January 19, 2011 at 9:28 p.m.

JEFFERSON CITY In a speech that focused heavily on job creation and expanding the state economy as it emerges from the deepest recession since the 1930s, Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon laid out his legislative program to a General Assembly that is overwhelmingly Republican.

Nixon's talk didn't seem to impress the Republicans very much, as they often applauded politely or not at all when Democrats stood or cheered Nixon.

The most striking difference was when Nixon called for limits on campaign contributions. The lack of limits, he said, "are undermining the sovereignty of the people and subverting the fundamental principle of free and fair elections."

Democrats stood and applauded; Republican members sat silently.

Almost half of the speech was devoted to achievements in attracting jobs to Missouri, promoting the growth of small business and steps Nixon wants lawmakers to enact to improve those programs.

He pointed out the difficulties facing other states, which face huge deficits or have raised taxes. In Missouri, he noted, taxes have not been increased and the state budget, while facing another year of cuts, is essentially sound.

In his economic development package, Nixon proposed:

-Combining six major incentive programs into a single effort that will reward jobs with high pay and health care benefits.

-Combining three worker training programs into one and adding \$5 million to job training programs.

After noting that over the past two years, state colleges have held the line on tuition increases, Nixon said that has attracted 10,000 more students to state campuses. Even with "modest" tuition hikes, Missourians have been spared the big increases of other states, he said.

In the Republican response immediately after the speech, Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder used questions submitted via Facebook and Twitter to demand that the governor become more engaged, spend less time in front of television cameras and remaining silent on major issues.

“Governor Nixon has been AWOL on the things that are important to you and your family,” Kinder said.

Kinder accused Nixon of both spending too much and not spending enough on important state priorities. He pointed to Nixon’s withholding of funds for school buses.

“We cannot play political games with school funding and the governor should be ashamed of himself,” Kinder said.

House Speaker Steve Tilley said he doesn't like the proposal to combine state economic development incentives into a single program. It will give the Department of Economic Development far too much power, he said.

“When the Department of Economic Development is picking winners and losers based on its own criteria, it creates a possibility of abuse and fraud,” he said.

And discussing the budget, both House Budget Committee Chairman Ron Silvey and Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia and a member of the Budget Committee, said Nixon should not have included money that is dependent on legislation in his spending plan.

“I am always skeptical of putting money in the bank before the bills are on the governor's desk,” Silvey said.

Kelly said that to pass the legislation, Nixon is going to have to work hard personally lobbying lawmakers. “It is easy to stand on the podium and then go back to the second floor and never be heard from again,” Kelly said.

Reach Rudi Keller at 573-815-1709 or e-mail rkeller@columbiatribune.com.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Missouri schools, state employees bracing for potential cuts

NO MU Mention

By DAVID A. LIEB/The Associated Press

January 19, 2011 | 4:50 p.m. CST

JEFFERSON CITY — Missouri schools and state employees are bracing for potential spending cuts as Gov. Jay Nixon outlines his budget plan for next year.

The Democratic governor was to present his annual budget and State of the State address Wednesday evening to a joint session of the House and Senate.

Nixon's budget director has said K-12 public schools will not get the full amount called for by the state's funding formula. But the governor has not said whether he will recommend that school aid be cut or remain flat in the 2012 budget year that starts July 1.

Nixon has said he likely will recommend the elimination of more state employee positions. He also has said that colleges and universities are potential areas for cuts.

Like many states, Missouri has suffered through two consecutive years of declining state tax revenues, forcing cuts that could have been even deeper were it not for an influx of federal stimulus money for states.

Although Missouri tax revenues have begun to grow again, the federal stimulus money will be going away — leaving a budget gap larger than the projected natural growth in state revenues.

Nixon has said the state may have to close a shortfall of about \$500 million during the 2012 fiscal year. Some lawmakers have put that figure closer to \$300 million.

Education and mental health services both are likely targets for additional cuts because they depend heavily on state general revenues, as opposed to federal dollars or specially earmarked taxes such as those that fund roads. The state prison and probation system also depends on general revenues, but Nixon has said he has no plans to close a state prison.

Before Nixon delivered his budget, senators presented their own suggestions Wednesday for cost-saving changes to state government. Their second annual "Rebooting Government" process gathered recommendations online from the general public, then narrowed them down to a package of the best possibilities.

Among the larger ideas senators discussed Wednesday were changes to Missouri's education funding method, privatization of the state lottery and a switch to a four-day work week for state employees.

State Sen. Brad Lager, R-Savannah, suggested Missouri could save hundreds of millions of dollars by using technology to replace the duties of thousands of state employees.

Other senators focused on smaller steps that could produce more immediate savings.

State Sen. Robin Wright-Jones, for example, said it appears that too many agencies spend too much money producing fancy paper-based publications instead of directing people to the Internet.

"We spend a lot of time printing slick, glossy folders," said Wright-Jones, D-St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Nixon plan targets colleges, state jobs

BY VIRGINIA YOUNG • vyoung@post-dispatch.com > 573-635-6178 | Posted: Thursday, January 20, 2011 12:10 am

No MU mention

JEFFERSON CITY • Universities would take a 7 percent hit, state government would eliminate 863 jobs, public schools would sign on to an accounting gimmick and tax scofflaws would get a second chance.

Those are a few of the ways Gov. Jay Nixon proposed Wednesday to balance next year's \$23.2 billion state operating budget without raising taxes.

The governor, who styles himself as the state's cheerleader-in-chief, used his State of the State speech in a packed House chamber Wednesday night to accent the positive.

Noting that new unemployment claims are down and state revenue is on the upswing after two years of sharp declines, Nixon said Missouri's economy had "turned the corner" and was poised for growth.

"By fighting every day for every job, we are turning this economy around," Nixon declared.

However, more spending cuts are needed in the budget year that begins July 1 because Missouri has been patching its budget hole with federal stimulus funds, and they are drying up.

Nixon's proposal would make permanent about \$270 million that he cut from this year's budget and chop about \$300 million more.

One of the most painful reductions: a 7 percent cut, or \$63.8 million, in aid to four-year colleges and universities and community colleges and technical schools. The schools are considering tuition increases to offset the cuts.

"We're anticipating that those tuition hikes won't be significant," said Linda Luebbering, Nixon's budget director.

Nixon contended that he was preserving this year's level of funding - about \$3 billion - in aid to elementary and secondary schools, but that promise is contingent on an accounting maneuver.

The governor wants schools to hold onto \$112 million in extra federal stimulus funding they are slated to receive this spring. Then schools would get that much less in the 2011-12 school year.

Still, the budget would fall short of fully funding the school distribution formula as legislators envisioned when they approved it in 2005.

Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder, who will likely challenge Nixon for the governorship in 2012, gave the Republican response to Nixon's speech. Kinder sharply criticized the governor for everything from Nixon's staff's salaries to his travel expenses to his hesitance to speak with the press.

But he agreed with Nixon's stance to balance the budget without raising taxes.

"When Missourians are struggling, we shouldn't be asking for more of your hard-earned money," Kinder said.

Nixon and legislative budget leaders have projected that state general revenue will grow by 4 percent in the next fiscal year. General revenue comes mainly from state income and sales taxes and is the main pot of money the Legislature controls. The rest of the budget comes from federal and earmarked funds.

But even with the uptick, the state expects to take in less next year than it did four years earlier - \$7.3 billion in 2012 compared to \$8 billion in 2008.

Overall, Nixon, a Democrat who plans to seek re-election next year, said that since he took office in January 2009, he has reduced spending by more than \$1.8 billion and cut more than 3,300 government jobs.

"These decisions are never easy, but they are necessary," he said.

Next year's budget would lop off an additional \$63 state jobs, including 432 in the department of mental health, 381 in social services and 105 in corrections.

Luebbering, Nixon's budget director, said some of the savings would stem from downsizing mental health facilities and consolidating offices that determine eligibility for food stamps and Medicaid. Many of the cuts can be achieved through attrition, she said.

"We're hoping as much as possible to avoid layoffs," Luebbering said.

She said the governor's budget preserves or increases funding for his top priorities such as job training, college scholarships and school buses.

For example, school districts would receive \$97.8 million for school transportation, a \$7.5 million increase over what they got this year.

And Nixon continued his push to broaden a college scholarship program known as A-plus, which provides two years of tuition to qualified high school students.

Currently, only high schools that revamped their curriculum to meet certain criteria are in the program. Under Nixon's proposal, the scholarships would be available to students at all high schools.

However, to keep the price tag down to \$1 billion, the new schools could give the grants only to students from low- to moderate-income families - those with under \$55,000 in household income.

A few of Nixon's budget recommendations involve raising revenue and are contingent on the passage of legislation.

For example, he is counting on \$20 million from a tax amnesty program. Luebbering said the state would let people with delinquent taxes pay half of the interest owed in exchange for coming forward and settling their tax debts.

Nixon also wants the Legislature to give serious consideration to a plan to scale back tax credits. His budget relies on \$4.5 million in savings from eliminating five tax credits, including one for film producers, and lowering the cap on historic preservation tax credits to \$75 million a year.

Legislators have balked at those changes, and Nixon's speech avoided much discussion of it. Instead, he focused on common values, such as creating jobs.

Senate President Pro Tem Rob Mayer and other Republicans said they wish Nixon would have included more specifics in his speech about how he planned to balance the budget.

"I thought he was short on specifics," Mayer said. The Senate leader said he'll need to check the governor's specific budget proposals to see if the budget is truly balanced, but he questioned some of Nixon's proposed savings.

"A lot of this is a shell game," Mayer said, noting that some of the increased revenue Nixon proposes would need legislative changes that are unpopular, including changes to some tax credit programs and a debt collection proposal.

State Rep. John Diehl, R-Town and Country, offered similar criticism.

"We have to make sure these are real cuts, not just paper cuts," he said.

Still, Mayer "applauded" the governor for planning an increase to college scholarships and seeking to keep K-12 education funding level.

House minority leader Mike Talbot, D-Kansas City, said Nixon gave a "good speech."

"In a year like this you have to go back to basics and that's what he did in his speech," Talbot said.

Nixon called for one change that the GOP majority has shot down in the past: limits on campaign contributions. "Right now, anyone can write a check for any amount of money, and tip the balance of an election," Nixon said. "That is corrosive to our democracy."

The most robust bipartisan applause from the Republican-dominated chamber came near the end of the speech when Nixon pointed to the state's status as a home to a couple of manufacturing icons.

"We want a vibrant and prosperous economy, where 'Made in America' is still the gold standard - whether it's stamped on an F-150 or an F-15. And we make them both, right here in the Show-Me State."

Nixon also pointed to the news this week of Ford keeping 3,750 jobs at its Claycomo plant and he highlighted his support for a new nuclear reactor in Callaway County, a proposal that could lead to thousands of construction jobs in the next decade.

"Cynics don't build things," Nixon said. "Optimists do."

"Building a second nuclear plant will create thousands of good-paying jobs for all our construction trades," he continued. "They built Callaway One. And they will build Callaway Two."

In his speech, Nixon said the state was in good shape because of past fiscal management, and he pointed to the huge deficits facing other states to highlight the relative lack of difficulty he suggested the Legislature should face this year in finding around \$300 million in spending cuts.

Nixon even suggested lawmakers will be able to add money to some areas of the budget, including his Caring for Missourians program that helps increase health care training in colleges and universities.

The governor continued his pledge to not raise taxes and gave a salute to military veterans.

He started on a somber note, mentioning the tragic shooting at an Arizona congresswoman's community gathering that killed six people, but Nixon mostly stuck to upbeat themes, saying more than once that he would fight every day for jobs in the state.

"Every job we add matters," Nixon said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Departments test communication in case of campus emergency

By Kelsey McCleary

January 19, 2011 | 6:13 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — Various university and city departments conducted a tabletop exercise Wednesday morning to test different elements of the campus emergency plan.

The tabletop exercise is a specific type of emergency drill practiced by MU police, said MU Police Capt. Brian Weimer. The exercise focuses on communication during an emergency, he said.

"It was something we hadn't tested in a while, and communication was the focus this time," Weimer said.

Departments involved in the drill included the MU Police Department, the Columbia Fire Department, the Joint Communications Center and the Office of Emergency Management, according to a news release.

The MU News Bureau, Campus Facilities and University Hospital were also involved, Weimer said. The tabletop exercise was conducted at the MU Police Department and took place from 8:30 a.m. to noon, according to the release.

It is important to properly utilize technology during emergencies, Weimer said.

"It's critical that the community and the media are aware of MU Alert, in order to eliminate phone calls," he said.

Weimer said it is important for students to let family and friends know they are OK during an emergency to avoid panic.

According to the release, the university would like to remind faculty, staff and students to update their emergency contact information to make sure they are contacted in the event of a campus emergency.



News-Leader.com
Springfield, MO

Univ. of Missouri sets carbon reduction goal

By Associated Press

4:03 AM CST, January 20, 2011

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri's flagship campus wants to reduce its carbon emissions 20 percent by the year 2015 as part of a national initiative.

Columbia campus chancellor Brady Deaton was one of more than 650 college and university leaders to sign the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment two years ago.

School officials report an 8 percent reduction in carbon emissions from 2008 to 2010.

The university's plan calls for reducing campus coal use while increasing woody biomass use; designing more energy efficient buildings; and upgrading mechanical ventilation systems.