

FEB 04 2011

University president search updates to be available on new website

By Janese Silvey

Thursday, February 3, 2011

The University of Missouri has launched a new Web page aimed to keep the public updated about the search for a new president.

The system created the site — available at www.umssystem.edu — last week after the Board of Curators convened its first search committee meeting in Columbia.

“The site will serve as a one-stop shop for the latest information,” including meeting dates and information about a search firm, UM spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said. It will be a “work in progress” as the process evolves, she said.

The system is searching for a president after Gary Forsee resigned from the position Jan. 7. Steve Owens, previously general counsel for the university, is serving on an interim basis and says he has no interest in the permanent position. Last week, curators agreed to hire a search firm, and a preliminary timeline calls for that firm to be hired by the end of this month.

In early March, curators plan to begin a series of public forums around the state to get a feel for what types of qualifications Missourians want to see in the next university leader.

“We will do our best to find yet another outstanding leader for our university,” board Chairman Warren Erdman wrote in a letter posted on the presidential search site. “No preconceived notions or expectations will artificially limit our search process. Instead, we will let the process — which will be broad and inclusive, and include input from our many stakeholders and the public — lead us to our ultimate choice.”

Curators apparently have already thrown out names, though. Minutes from the board’s closed session Thursday show there was discussion among curators about potential candidates.

The public likely won’t hear candidate names for months. UM presidential searches are historically secretive, with curators fearing a more public process would spook would-be candidates. Curators this time have expressed that concern but seem a little more open to the idea of letting the public vet finalists later.

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Circ. 3.14 million

Coffee, energy drinks loaded with extra sugar

ANI, Feb 4, 2011

Many mega-sized coffee and energy drinks are loaded with extra calories and sugar, health experts have warned.

Ellen Schuster, a University of Missouri nutrition expert, said that people should be wary of extra calories and sugar in the quest for bigger, bolder drinks.

"The sheer size of new coffee and energy drinks increases consumers' potential for unhealthy calorie and sugar consumption," said Schuster.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, people who consume drinks with added sugars consume more total calories, and studies have found that drinking sweetened beverages is related to weight gain.

Health experts at the Mayo Clinic noted that moderate consumption of coffee and other caffeinated beverages is unlikely to cause harm, but large quantities in excess of 500 mg, or more than four cups of coffee, can cause difficulty sleeping, irritability, restlessness, stomach problems and irregular heartbeat.

Especially of concern is caffeine consumption among children and adolescents.

"Energy and coffee beverages are subject to the same nutrition rules as other foods and drinks; it's all about moderation. Ideally, it's best to avoid drinking calories, because drinks leave you less full than solid foods.

"By eating calories in the form of high-calorie, high-sugar drinks, people crowd out other nutritious foods," he said.

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Why are reporters being attacked?

MU mention page 2

(CNN) -- Attacks against journalists send a message.

"It clearly conveys that the government is not in favor of democratic reforms because journalists represent free speech, and free speech is crucial to democracy," said Kelly McBride, a media ethics teacher at the Poynter Institute, a U.S.-based professional journalism training center and think tank.

"The point of silencing a journalist is to pull the curtain over what's happening," she said. "The other reason is to create fear, to intimidate other reporters."

Journalists from Egypt, Great Britain, the United States, India, Australia, Greece and other countries have reported being jumped, beaten, detained and interrogated this week while reporting on the uprising against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

At least one Swedish journalist was reportedly stabbed. One was marched back to her hotel at gunpoint. Many said their cameras and other equipment were smashed. A few are reportedly unaccounted for. First-hand accounts of the crackdown are lighting up Twitter. One of two correspondents from Canada's Globe and Mail newspaper [tweeted a chilling timeline](#) leading up to their apparent detainment.

In a one-day span, attacks on reporters included 30 detentions, 26 assaults and eight instances of equipment seized, and plainclothes and uniformed agents reportedly entered at least two hotels where international journalists were staying to confiscate media equipment, said the Committee to Protect Journalists, a New York-based organization, on Thursday.

"Mubarak forces have attacked the very breadth of global journalism: Their targets have included Egyptians and other Arab journalists, Russian and U.S. reporters, Europeans and South Americans," CPJ said in a news release.

The Egyptian government has publicly criticized the violence and denied involvement, but on Thursday, Vice President Omar Suleiman said international TV reporters are part of the problem.

"I actually blame certain friendly nations who have television channels, they're not friendly at all, who have intensified the youth against the nation and the state," Sulciman said in a TV address.

"They have filled in the minds of the youth with wrongdoings, with allegations and this is unacceptable. ... They should have never done that. They should have never sent this enemy spirit."

The attacks and harassment of journalists seem to be part of an organized effort, said State Department spokesman Philip J. Crowley. In a tweet early Thursday, he said: "There is a concerted campaign to intimidate international journalists in Cairo and interfere with their reporting. We condemn such actions."

State Department officials told CNN they have information that Egypt's Interior Ministry was behind the journalist detentions, citing reports from the U.S. Embassy in Egypt.

But in an interview with CNN, Crowley stopped short of naming the people behind the violence and harassment. "I can't tell you who is directing it but with the increasing number of instances of people roughing up journalist(s), cars attacked, offices broken into, journalists detained, these do not seem to be random events," he said.

Crowley suggested the attackers' endgame is intimidation, to make reporters afraid to file stories about an anticipated increase in anti-Mubarak protesters likely to take to the streets this weekend.

The violence toward journalists in Egypt seems more brazen and systematic than in any recent conflict, said Mohamed Abdel Dayem of the CPJ. Since 1981, it has tracked attacks and deaths of reporters targeted for doing their jobs. The only conflict in recent times that compares to the current situation, Dayem said, is the Algerian civil war in the 1990s.

The high number of attacks in Egypt might be, in part, because there were already a large number of reporters working in Cairo bureaus before the protests against Mubarak began, McBride said. News organizations, at least until recently, considered Cairo a convenient and friendly base from which to travel to more hostile areas in Africa and the Middle East.

Of course, that doesn't lessen outrage right now about the way reporters are being treated. But will it matter a week from now, a month from now? Will it affect the outcome of the movement to democratize Egypt?

"It's such a fast-moving story, it's impossible to know the answer now," said Barbara Cochran, a journalism professor at the University of Missouri School of Journalism. She was a vice president for news for National Public Radio and an executive producer of NBC's "Meet the Press."

She's covered several violent uprisings throughout her career, including China's Tiananmen Square protests in 1989.

"This is not like any other face-off between a regime that refuses to leave power and a people refusing to back down," she said.

"How it's covered, whether journalists will feel secure enough to cover it, will matter."

Newer technology -- the Web, Twitter, Facebook, smaller and cheaper recording devices such as Flip Cams -- has liberated reporting in many ways, Cochran said. But it also made journalists easier targets.

"When I was working, you could get into a country, do the reporting and get out without anyone sending a tweet out about your presence," she said. "And there wasn't a huge rush to report immediately, as there is now with news agencies competing to be the first to report online what's happening."

The story in Egypt is also unique because the Egyptian government managed to shut off access to the internet, blocking information that bloggers might have provided.

Consider that without Twitter or other social media tools, 2009's popular protests against Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad over contested election results would have been largely underreported, McBride and Cochran said.

Foreign journalists were blocked from entering the country. Ultimately, Ahmadinejad remained in power.

"I thought Iran would (be the country) in my mind that hit rock bottom (in how it treated reporters), but what Mubarak is doing is unspeakable," said Dayem.

In denying that the Egyptian government is behind the violence, Mubarak told ABC News on Thursday that the Muslim Brotherhood is to blame.

But there are other regions where sustained violence toward journalists has been raging for years, and little change has come of it. In Mexico, for instance, cartel violence continues despite the disappearance or death of more than 30 reporters since 2006, CPJ reported.

Egypt, perhaps, seems different to Western audiences, said McBride.

"Cairo resonates with us. It's an ally, tourism is big there. Most people considered it safe. I think part of why this story has captivated an audience is because they are saying, 'This is not the Egypt I thought I knew.' "



Mizzou hosts budding entrepreneurs at idea summit

Updated: Feb 04, 2011 6:16 AM CST

COLUMBIA, MO (AP) - New business owners and those with innovative ideas for start-up companies will gather at the University of Missouri in Columbia Friday for the city's first Entrepreneurial Summit.

The daylong event at the Reynolds Alumni Center is sponsored by the city's regional economic development agency, known as REDI. Speakers include successful local business owners as well as local experts on venture capital and other topics.

The summit concludes with a Boone County "idea bounce" competition that includes cash prizes for those who present the best business plans.



Emergency declaration signed for Missouri

MU mention page 2

Jefferson City -- President Barack Obama has signed an emergency declaration for Missouri after the severe winter storm that buried much of the state in snow.

The declaration applies to all 114 counties and the city of St. Louis. It allows the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate disaster relief.

Gov. Jay Nixon had requested the declaration Wednesday to help the state and local governments recover some costs of responding to the storm. The president signed it Thursday.

The storm started Monday with freezing rain, which gave way Tuesday to heavy snow and blizzard conditions for nearly all of the state.

The National Weather Service put the highest amounts at 25 inches in the north-central Missouri town of Brunswick, and 23 inches each at Brookfield and Warrensburg -- breaking a Warrensburg record for a single snow event of 20 inches, set in February 1938.

Kansas City got about 9 inches of snow, but few significant problems were reported.

On the other side of the state, St. Louis was on the outer edge of the storm. Areas an hour north of the city were buried under more than a foot of snow; areas an hour south got virtually nothing. The city itself officially had 3 inches of precipitation -- most of it sleet.

Weather deaths

An 81-year-old St. Louis County man has died after falling into an icy ravine.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported Thursday that the victim was Robert Cohen of Creve Coeur.

Authorities say Cohen fell about 12 feet when he slipped down an icy embankment while walking his dog Wednesday night. His wife called police after the dog returned home without him.

Cohen was found but died later at a hospital.

It was the second death in Missouri believed to be connected to the winter storm that struck this week. Karen Chambers, 55, of Licking, died in a crash near Rolla early Tuesday.

Campus to reopen

The extended winter snow break on the University of Missouri's Columbia campus is over.

The school announced Thursday that classes will be held today after three straight days of cancellations. Individual faculty members can still choose to cancel their own classes for adverse weather.



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Missouri to reopen Columbia campus after snowstorm

COLUMBIA, Mo. -- The extended winter snow break on the University of Missouri's Columbia campus is over.

The school announced Thursday that classes will be held Friday after three straight days of cancellations. Individual faculty members can still choose to cancel their own classes for adverse weather.

The university is warning students and other campus users that snow removal remains ongoing, with the roofs of parking garages not scheduled to be completely cleared until next week.

THE MANEATER

Deaton says MU will make up for snow days

Posted to [On Campus](#) by [Jimmy Hibschi](#) at 2:32 p.m., Feb. 3, 2011

Chancellor Brady Deaton announced at about 2:30 p.m. Thursday that classes will resume Friday.

MU will decide how to proceed with makeup classes, missed exams and appropriate adjustments to the academic calendar soon. At the least, the university is expected to push the final exam schedule back, holding reading day on Friday, May 6 and beginning exams the following Monday.

A news release acknowledged that weather conditions might prevent some individual faculty members from resuming class. If faculty members must cancel class, the release encourages the instructor to inform students via Blackboard of MyZou as soon as the decision is made.

"While Campus Facilities crews have worked 24/7 to clear snow and make the campus as safe as possible, students and employees should take care when walking, because it has not been possible to completely remove snow and ice from various walkways and areas," the release stated.

City buses will travel via snow routes, and the release encourages students to utilize them.

"Thanks to everyone for your dedication, patience and hard work to handle this historic weather emergency in true Mizzou spirit!" the release stated.

THE MANEATER

For 'situationally critical' staff, campus never comes to complete stop

More than 250 faculty and staff members have worked to restore campus operations.

By Megan Hager

Published Feb. 4, 2011

Although students have had a break from the normal stresses of attending class, faculty and staff members considered "situationally critical" continued their work at MU over the past few days despite treacherous driving conditions.

These employees include MU Police Department officers and staff, Campus Facilities staff, Department of Residential Life employees, Campus Dining Services staff and several MU Health Care employees.

"More than 250 people have been working on campus since the storm began, making sure those on campus are safe, have enough food and appropriate shelter, and working to make the campus ready for normal operations," MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

The weather conditions on campus over the past few days mirror the 20 inches of snow MU received in 2006, which resulted in a single day of canceled classes. During this time, the \$25,000 in funds allocated to clearing snow from garages fell short of what was actually needed.

In 2006, Campus Facilities used between 80 and 100 tons of sand, 120 tons of de-icing salt for the roads and 20 tons of bagged ice melt by early December.

Then Campus Facilities spokesman Phil Shocklee said a committee meets and reviews the campus snow and ice policy each year.

In 2006, Parking and Transportation Director Jim Joy said he assigns \$25,000 in his budget each year for snow removal from the garages. He said that amount is barely used some years, but in 2006 it was not going to be enough to cover costs.

"You can't plan on having it every year," Joy said in 2006.

Joy was unable to comment on the possibility of MU going over its budget for cleanup efforts this year.

Many students also faced challenges commuting to jobs. KOMU/Channel 8 News Director Stacey Woelfel stressed to his student staff and regular employees that missed shifts due to the snow storm or anything else would result in a zero for students working at KOMU for a class or firing for employees.

Woelfel also said the news station would help employees and students get to the station by providing four wheel drive transportation, and have sleeping bags available to those who needed to stay the night because of the adverse conditions.

“All of you have chosen to explore a career in the news profession, and that means you have to work at times when most others will just opt to stay at home,” Woelfel said in an e-mail to KOMU employees. “If you have a shift, you must show up to work it.”

Most university employees and staff return to work Friday, but, with most of the snow dumped by this week's storm still on the ground, Campus Facilities and Parking and Transportation's efforts to clean up campus will continue at least over the next week.

THE MANEATER

Curators approve 5.8% hike for tuition, fees

The Board of Curators voted 5-3 in favor of the raise on Friday.

By Jimmy Hibschi

Published Jan. 28, 2011

The ongoing discussion regarding tuition increases was put to rest Friday, as the UM System Board of Curators voted to accept the system's recommendation and raise tuition and required fees at MU by 5.8 percent.

Effective with the summer 2011 session, the board voted 5-3 in favor of raising tuition at its meeting at MU. Curators Don Downing, David Wasinger and David Bradley voted against the proposal. Across the four-campus system, tuition and required fees will raise an average of 5.5 percent.

These rate hikes come on the heels of Gov. Jay Nixon's proposal to cut system funding by 7 percent, or \$29.9 million. Even with the tuition increase that will generate \$24.1 million, Vice President of Finance and Administration Nikki Krawitz said the system will still see a \$42.4 million shortfall. And that's after an additional \$11.3 million in efficiencies were cut in next year's budget planning process.

"As we said at the meeting before, we could not bring any recommended increases that would completely close the funding gap," Krawitz said.

Specifically at MU, the cost for resident undergraduate students will rise about \$488 yearly, to a total of \$8,917. Non-resident tuition will increase by 6.5 percent, or \$42 per credit hour. This percentage, however, does not reflect the additional required fees the in-state cost includes. These numbers, if included, would lower the total percent.

For the first time, tuition is being decoupled across the system. At UM — St. Louis, the raise is 4.7 percent, and a 6.6 percent raise will be seen at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. UM — Kansas City is increasing tuition by 4.8 percent. This is to better reflect the four institution's individual markets, Board Chairman Warren Erdman said in a previous Maneater report.

"Each of those campuses offers a little different product and is in a different marketplace," Erdman said. "Each campus is different and has a different cost structure."

More controversial among the board was the decision to increase specific course fees, notably the College of Business' suggested rise from \$35.50 to \$70 per credit hour, a 97 percent increase.

After a few amendments, the board agreed in a 6-2 vote to pass a recommendation that increases fees half of the suggested increase this year. The other half will be raised next year.

This means the College of Business will increase course fees by \$17.30 per credit hour, or 48.7 percent; the School of Journalism will increase course fees \$9.30, or 22.5 percent; the School of Health Professions will increase course fees \$10.20, or 18.6 percent; and the College of Engineering will increase course fees \$7, or 11.7 percent. All remaining course fees at MU will rise 6.5 percent.

"No one's going to leave this room happy," Curator John Carnahan said.

Now that the system has increased tuition, it will have to appeal to a provision in Senate Bill 389. The bill restricts Missouri four-year institutions from raising their tuition by more than the Consumer Price Index, which is 1.5 percent this year. Although the bill has never been appealed since its enactment in 2007, Krawitz is confident it shouldn't pose a problem to the system.

The deadline for applying for this provision is Tuesday.

THE MANEATER

Tuition increase sends students in search of financial aid

The number of students applying for financial aid has increased yearly.

By Caitlin Swieca

Published Feb. 4, 2011

With the 5.8 percent tuition increase soon to take effect in the 2011-12 academic year, more MU students have started the process of applying for financial aid earlier.

Jim Brooks, Office of Student Financial Aid director, said the office has noticed an increase in student inquiries leading up to the extended Feb. 3 deadline to apply for non-automatic scholarships.

“We’ve already gotten lots of questions via e-mail or phone calls,” Brooks said. “Usually we’re getting those on the last day, and we were getting them two to three weeks ago.”

Although the office has seen an increased number of inquiries, FAFSA forms are not due until March 1. Brooks said MU distributes between \$37.5 and \$38 million in aid to students from its general funds account, which includes both scholarships and need-based aid. In addition to this figure, MU awards funds from departmental, endowed and private accounts.

Despite tuition having been frozen since 2008, the number of students applying for financial aid has increased yearly.

“Applications have increased for the past two years, which is probably more due to the effects of the economy, with families being out of work and parents losing income and jobs and looking for other ways to help pay for college,” Brooks said.

The Office for Financial Success also offers resources to students looking for additional advice.

“If somebody contacts us, we’ll sit down with them and go through a budget,” Director Ryan Law said. “We look at their options to be able to pay tuition, including available federal student loans. We try to steer away from private loans if possible.”

Officials believe it will be difficult to predict whether the tuition hike will lead to a drop in enrollment.

“We know for a fact there are fewer Missouri high school graduates this year, so we are expecting a smaller freshman class than we had last year,” MU spokesman Christian Basi said. “Is that due to less students in Missouri, or is that due to the economy? We’re not going to be able to pinpoint it.”

As a state school, MU is still less expensive than many private institutions.

“Enrollment tends to go up during tough economic times,” Law said. “I’d be surprised if we saw a lower number of students enrolling.”

In addition to resources at MU, in-state students can seek financial assistance through the Missouri Department of Higher Education. MDHE spokeswoman Kathy Love said students could seek funding from Access Missouri, the largest need-based student financial aid program in the state. The state also runs the Bright Flight Program, which provides students in the top five percent of state ACT scores with scholarship money.

At this point, the Office of Financial Aid has not changed its approach in the face of a potential influx of applications.

“We will use whatever resources we have the best we can to help students attend MU,” Brooks said. “We’ll do what we always do, which is put together the best financial aid package for students.”

THE MANEATER

Curators support barring voting student curator

Gov. Jay Nixon appointed three new curators in the past week.

By Sally French

Published Jan. 28, 2011

nominations to fill three of the four soon-to-be-vacant spots on the UM System Board of Curators this week, but the board supported an amendment Thursday that would eliminate the possibility of a voting student curator filling the fourth spot.

Mike Thomson, R-Maryville, filed House Bill 174 in light of Missouri's lost congressional district. Thomson's bill would permit "at least one but not more than two" curators from "each congressional district." Previously, the bill allowed one person from each congressional district to be appointed by Nixon to serve on the board.

"It seems to me that this is very consistent with the position the board has taken previously," UM System Board of Curators Chairman Warren Erdman said.

The board also said it believes its composition should remain the same, with each curator representing the public. This means that no curator should reflect any specific constituency group, such as students, faculty, staff, alumni or retirees. Consequently, the debate over whether the ninth curator spot will be filled by a student is put to rest.

The three new members nominated to the Board of Curators, the university's executive board, thanked Nixon for their selections this week but said they had no specific agendas yet for their time as curators.

On Tuesday, Nixon nominated St. Louis businessman David Steward to replace outgoing Curator David Wasinger.

Steward's term would end Jan. 1, 2017, and the nomination is subject to confirmation by the Missouri State Senate.

"David Steward is one of this country's leading entrepreneurs and will bring a background of tremendous business experience and success to the Board of Curators," Nixon said in a news release. "I am pleased to nominate him to serve on the board of one of the nation's pre-eminent

university systems, as it continues to meet the challenge of providing an affordable, first-class higher education to its students."

Steward, a republican, is CEO of World Wide Technology, a company that provides technology products, services and supply chain solutions to customers around the world. WWT, founded in 1990, was ranked no. 201 in Forbes' list of America's largest private companies.

On Wednesday, Nixon announced his nomination to replace outgoing Curator John Carnahan, Cassville attorney David Cupps. "I have a great love for the University," Cupps said. "I think being a part of the University of Missouri community gives you a sense of how important it is to the State of Missouri."

Cupps said he has no plans for once he assumes his new position.

"I really don't have an agenda," he said. "I just hope to do what I can."

Cupps works at the law firm of Ellis, Cupps and Cole. If confirmed by the Missouri Senate, Cupps will represent the Seventh Congressional District. His term would end Jan. 1, 2017.

"I'm just a little overwhelmed right now," Cupps said. "I'm very grateful for the confidence the governor has in appointing me to this position. I hope to live up to that confidence."

Later Wednesday, Nixon announced the nomination of Columbia attorney Craig Van Matre to serve out the remainder of retired Curator Bo Fraser's term.

Van Matre, who has resided in Columbia since 1975, will represent the 9th Congressional District, and will remain on the board until Jan. 1, 2013. He is the president of the law firm of Van Matre, Harrison, Hollis, Pitzer and Taylor.

So far, Van Matre said he has only made one goal for once he's on board – to not make any mistakes.

"When the governor says he wants to appoint you to this position, you just can't turn him down," Van Matre said.

One of the major jobs the Board of Curators will have is finding a president.

"Finding someone to do his job is obviously very important," Van Matre said. "The university is the most important enterprise here. It's important not only from a statewide standpoint but to the city of Columbia."

Once he assumes his position on the Board of Curators, Van Matre will step down from his role as a member of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, which he has held since 2010.

Van Matre said he does not plan on making any major changes to the UM system once he assumes the new role.

“The University of Missouri is an enormous undertaking,” he said. “There’s a lot of complexity to it and there’s a lot to learn before I try to make any changes.”

He said he wants to spend the first few months learning how the system works, instead.

“There are people here who have much more experience. It’d be totally presumptuous to say I have the right to make changes at this point in time. I guess that’s why they call it the ‘Show Me’ state.”

THE MANEATER

MU student studying abroad in Egypt safely out of country

MU spokesman Christian Basi isn't sure where she is now.

By Jimmy Hibs

Published Feb. 4, 2011

An MU student studying abroad in Egypt is safely out of the country as of Wednesday evening.

“Currently, she is safe,” MU spokesman Christian Basi said in an e-mail. “We have been monitoring the situation very closely, and when the State Department issued the travel warning, we immediately recommended that she leave the country.”

Basi refused to disclose the student’s name and said he hadn’t received permission to share it.

“All I know is that she is safe and out of Egypt,” Basi said.

He said MU was able to make contact with her this past weekend.

“The safety of our students, faculty and staff is our number one priority,” Basi said. “Any time the U.S. State Department issues a travel warning, we recommend to students that they leave the country immediately and provide any assistance to do so.”

Basi said possible ways MU could assist the student in getting back to the United States include making phone calls and talking with U.S. Embassy officials.

The student was caught in the middle of millions of Egyptian citizens’ protests for the removal of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and for the instatement of a democracy.

Like the student, Department Chairman of Geography Joseph Hobbs was entangled in Egyptian protests when he was studying there in 1977. Unlike the current protests, the 1977 protests stopped once the government responded with brute force, killing some protestors.

“I have always thought that Egypt was a time bomb,” Hobbs said in a news release. “It was a populous and mostly poor country, and so many Egyptians have not seen their lives improve. Egyptians are famous for their patience, faith and good humor. But their patience has finally run out.”

He said he was not optimistic the protests will end as abruptly as they did in 1977, as the 2011 protests trump the danger levels he experienced.

“I don’t expect today’s protests to evaporate as they did in January of 1977,” Hobbs said.

Because of this, Basi said the International Center is reluctant to suggest Egypt as a study abroad option in the near future.

“Until the State Department lifts the Travel Warning, we will not support students traveling to Egypt,” Basi said. “After the Travel Warning is lifted, we will evaluate the situation and make a decision.”

Other countries with Travel Warnings include Pakistan, Haiti, Saudi Arabia and the Philippines. The U.S. Department of State issues Travel Warnings when it deems a country unsafe for Americans to visit.

“In an effort to ensure the health, safety and security of its students and constituents, the University of Missouri adheres to these recommendations,” the International Center’s policy on Travel Warnings states.

If the student chooses to ignore the travel warning and pursue his or her education in these countries, MU will unregister him or her as a student, cutting off access to university support, resources or facilities.

Nonetheless, Basi said a situation like this does not arise very often.

“This situation is rare,” Basi said. “We are constantly monitoring situations, and when we have concerns before a student leaves, we make a recommendation based on those concerns.”

THE MANEATER

MU's fall semester GPA averages to 3.05

The School of Nursing recorded the highest GPA at MU.

By Kristian Mundahl

Published Jan. 28, 2011

MU turned out an undergraduate grade point average of 3.05 for the Fall 2010 semester, a continuation of an upward trend over the past few years.

According to the annual Fall Semester Enrollment Summary conducted by the University Registrar, the undergraduate population of 24,901 students, one of the highest ever, produced the highest cumulative GPA in at least five years.

Leading the academic charge was the Sinclair School of Nursing with a 3.43 GPA, and the Non-Divisional Department brought up the rear with a 2.63 average. The average male GPA was 2.95, and the average female GPA ended up at 3.18.

It was the second consecutive year MU had more than half of its major departments score above a 3.0, with seven out of 12 this year.

This fall semester was also the first time any department edged out the School of Journalism as the top ranked department in regards to grade point average.

School of Nursing Dean Judith Miller said she was not surprised at the success of her department.

“(Nursing) students are very industrious,” Miller said. “They know they have to have good grades. I think all of that attributes to them being high achievers, and them having the highest GPA of all the majors.”

Since the fall 2007 semester, the undergraduate GPA at MU has increased in small but regular increments. At 3.01 in 2007, MU’s GPA climbed to 3.03 in 2008, 3.04 in 2009 and 3.05 in 2010.

Sophomore Eric Brewster said he didn’t know the reason for the upward trend but attributed it to a stronger commitment to school work by incoming students.

“It could be that the public school system is better or that students are more committed,” Brewster said.

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Students Jim Spain said MU's consistently strong GPA could be attributed to a few factors.

"We continue to increase the programs designed to help students be academically more successful," Spain said.

Two developments Spain mentioned were increasing the availability of tutors and creating the Freshmen Interest Groups program.

"All of those things are designed to help students be more successful, and if they are indeed effective then you would expect student GPAs to increase over time," Spain said.

In the past few years, seniors have had the highest GPA at MU, speaking to the survival-of-the-fittest aspect of many universities. Grade order also lines up with GPA, with juniors and then sophomores following the seniors in terms of GPA.

As for the usurped School of Journalism, Dean Miller said there is no need for worry.

"They have a national reputation, and nursing does, too," she said. "We attract the best and brightest students as well as the best and brightest faculty."

THE MANEATER

Student Center incorporates sustainable practices, materials

A student center spokeswoman said the center's infrastructure consists of environmentally-conscious material.

By Garrett Richie

Published Jan. 28, 2011

The MU Student Center, which expanded to include Mort's Grill, The Shack and the Mizzou Traditions Lounge this semester, is the largest undergoing construction project on campus. With increasing pressures to keep buildings and facilities eco-friendly, the university adopted a number of strategies in an effort to keep the new student center, sustainable.

Student Sustainability adviser Ben Datema said this involved using some of the standards included in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification program.

"I know for this building they looked into getting LEED certification," Datema said. "They didn't decide to go with that, but they still incorporated a lot of the ideas and sustainable practices."

Student Auxiliary Services spokeswoman Michelle Froese said the university incorporated environmentally conscious materials into the basic infrastructure of the student center.

"In terms of actual features, we used a structural steel with a high level of recycled content and concrete that's made with fly ash, which is also a reuse of material," Froese said.

Along with energy-saving sensors on lights and plumbing throughout the MU Student Center, Froese said the facility implemented other interior designs to increase the sustainability of the building.

"We try to maximize indoor air quality and reduce emissions through the selection of different finishes and furnishes," Froese said. "Our carpeting meets requirements for the Carpet and Rug Institute's Green Label Plus program. We've also got furniture that is SCS (Scientific Certification Systems) certified, meaning it doesn't emit a lot of chemical emissions."

Froese said the student center's efficient HVAC system has also contributed to the building's sustainability.

“We've doubled the size of the old Brady Commons, but with the entire building open we've only seen about an increase of 30 percent in our utilities, so we think that's going well,” Froese said.

The model of sustainability present in the MU Student Center is being adopted across campus through various initiatives promoted by the Sustainability Office, Sustain Mizzou and Student Life.

Campus Facilities spokeswoman Karlan Seville said the university will participate in the annual RecycleMania competition to promote environmental responsibility among students.

“It's a national competition to see which campus can recycle the most per person during a 10-week time period,” Seville said. “We'll be advertising that in MU Info. We've placed pretty high in the past, and we just want to improve our record with that.”

Campus Facilities is focused on encouraging students, faculty and staff to take part in making MU more sustainable, Seville said.

“We want to start really working with students, staff and faculty on behavior modification and the fact that all of us contribute to the university's carbon footprint,” Seville said. “Even little things like turning off your computer or turning out your lights can make a difference.”