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## ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

# Legislature agrees to budget compromise, must approve spending plan by week's end

BY REBECCA BERG • [rberg@post-dispatch.com](mailto:rberg@post-dispatch.com) > 573-635-6178 | Posted: Wednesday, May 4, 2011 9:41 pm

JEFFERSON CITY - The House and Senate struck a deal on the \$23 billion state operating budget this evening after days of increasingly acrimonious conference committee negotiations.

The revised draft budget will now require final approval by the General Assembly this week and, ultimately, **Gov. Jay Nixon's** signature.

The proposed compromise would give an additional \$12 million to higher education and \$10 million to school transportation than originally recommended by the governor. Funding for higher education would still be cut by 5.45 percent under the proposal, while school transportation would take about a \$42 million cut from this year.

Those numbers meet about in the middle compared to the original House and Senate proposals. The House voted earlier this year to go with the governor's recommendation, while the Senate wanted to add an additional \$20 million to each above what Nixon suggested.

Though the Senate wasn't able to maintain that level of funding, **Sen. Kurt Schaefer**, R-Columbia, the Senate redistricting chair, was content with the final numbers.

**"We're very happy with the way it came out, and we're very happy with the funding we were able to provide for higher education," said Schaefer, who represents a district that includes the University of Missouri's flagship campus.**

The conference committee proposal would also fully fund Missouri RX, a prescription drug program for seniors, and in-home care that seeks to keep some elderly out of nursing homes. Both were House priorities in the conference committee, and both proved sticking points as negotiations moved forward.

Indeed, House and Senate members of the conference committee entered negotiations with substantial differences of opinion as to how to approach the budget process.

**Rep. Ryan Silvey**, R-Kansas City, the House budget chair, said he aimed to save as much money as possible, even if it meant some programs wouldn't be fully funded, in order to lessen the blow to programs next year if the state's budget hole widens.

Meanwhile, Schaefer said it didn't make sense to base this year's budget off of hypotheticals as to what the state's fiscal landscape could look like in the future.

Even the proceedings themselves were fair game for criticism.

Schaefer balked when House members of the committee presented a proposal earlier today that Silvey called their "final offer." Schaefer called the move "unprecedented," and said more of the negotiations should take place at the public committee meeting.

Once legislators were able to agree upon a deal, Schaefer estimated that the proposal comes in about \$6 million under the governor's recommendations.

Other changes included a reinstatement of some funding for lottery advertising, which the House originally tried to cut by \$8.3 million to \$1 million, while the Senate sought to increase funding. Ultimately, the committee settled on appropriating more than \$7 million to lottery advertising.

The proposal would also cut the chef from the governor's mansion, a mostly symbolic move that has been endorsed by the House for a few years, but has never before been accepted by the Senate.

The House is expected to endorse the conference committee's budget proposal tomorrow. Both chambers must approve the budget and send it to the governor's desk before 6 p.m. Friday.

## COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

# Missouri House, Senate reach budget agreement

## NO MU Mention

By CHRIS BLANK/The Associated Press

May 4, 2011 | 10:38 p.m. CDT

JEFFERSON CITY — Missouri's House and Senate reached an agreement Wednesday night on a proposed budget, wrapping up a sometimes tense negotiation over the roughly \$23 billion state spending plan.

**Among the sticking points between the House and Senate had been funding for colleges and universities,** aid for public school busing, provider reimbursement rates for in-home care services for low-income disabled residents and a prescription drug coverage program. Lawmakers face a Friday constitutional deadline to approve the 2012 budget that starts July 1.

Legislative leaders said they could give the spending plan final approval Thursday.

Many of the budget discussions were handled behind closed doors before a relatively brief public session Wednesday to sign off on the agreement.

The final budget proposals call for giving schools an additional \$10 million in state aid for busing assistance. The agreement was a compromise between senators who had approved even more money for busing, and the House, which had proposed less transportation money in its spending plan.

**Lawmakers also agreed to a compromise for higher education, resolving a disagreement about the size of the spending cut for the state's schools. Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon and the Republican-led House proposed a 7 percent cut while the GOP-led Senate had proposed adding \$20 million and paring the budget cut to 4.8 percent. In exchange, higher education officials**

**had promised to cut costs for their students, such as by bolstering scholarships or lowering course fees.**

**Ultimately, negotiators agreed to add \$12 million for higher education, estimated to amount to a budget cut of 5.45 percent.**

Lawmakers also opted to continue funding for the Missouri Rx program that helps to pay the prescription drug costs of seniors and the disabled covered by the federal Medicare program and reverse proposed cuts to the state's reimbursement rates to in-home care providers for low-income disabled residents covered by the state's Medicaid program.

The prescription drug program would expire later this year if separate legislation is not passed renewing it. Nixon and the House back extending the Missouri Rx program while the Senate had proposed eliminating it.

For in-home care provider rates, negotiators opted to side with the House's spending plan. Nixon and the Senate had proposed a 4 percent cut to what the providers were budgeted to receive this year.

Lawmakers also agreed to cut the budgets of Missouri's statewide elected officials by 2.5 percent. The governor's office would receive \$200,000 to pay for travel, and lawmakers agreed to a budget cut for the operation of the Governor's Mansion aimed at an executive chef position.



San Antonio Express-News

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## MU expert questions elk reintroduction plan

*A version of this story appeared in outlets across the country.*

Published 06:45 a.m., Thursday, May 5, 2011

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — An expert at the University of Missouri is questioning a plan to introduce elk into the southern part of Missouri.

Thirty-four elk are expected to arrive Thursday at Peck Ranch. Anthropologist Lee Lyman told the Columbia Daily Tribune that prehistoric evidence shows the animals originally lived in the northwest part of the state.

Lyman warns that putting elk in a location where they did not previously live could have unintended negative consequences.

Missouri Department of Conservation officials disagree.

The department's Mike Huffman says historic evidence show elk were present in southern Missouri. He says early travelers and settlers in that area commented on the presence of elk.



## Expert questions elk plan

### Animals' release set for tomorrow.

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Thirty-four elk are expected to arrive on a trailer from Kentucky at daybreak tomorrow in the southern Ozarks, capping off the Missouri Department of Conservation's quest to bring the stately animals back to Missouri.

#### **A University of Missouri anthropologist views the Peck Ranch reintroduction plan with curiosity — and skepticism.**

#### **Lee Lyman, chairman of anthropology in MU's College of Arts and Science, has studied the history of mammals, conservation biology and wildlife management for nearly 40 years.**

He said a 2002 MU study completed by a graduate student proved most prehistoric elk remains found in Missouri were in the field plains of the northwestern area of the state, not the southeast reintroduction location at Peck Ranch.

"This is not elk country, in my opinion," Lyman said. He warned the decision to put elk in a location where they did not previously live could have "unintended negative consequences that are difficult to predict."

The historical record wildlife managers relied upon tends to date back to the time when human settlement began to affect wildlife habitat and populations.

"I kind of chuckle and think, 'You've got 200 years; I've got 15,000 years' " of anthropological data, Lyman said.

The Conservation Commission in October gave the final go-ahead for elk to be captured and held for a 90-day quarantine before being transferred from a holding corral in the Appalachian Mountains to a 396-square-mile restoration zone in Carter, Shannon and Reynolds counties.

Lyman, however, questions the research wildlife managers used in their decisions.

“If we are looking for the best place for elk survival, we should consider why elk were not in the southeastern part of the state in prehistoric times,” he said. “If they weren’t there previously, why would they survive there now?”

Lyman’s conclusions have drawn a challenge from Conservation Department officials.

“There is historic evidence to show they were present in southern Missouri,” said Mike Huffman, a Conservation Department division chief for outreach and education. “If you look at many of the writings of early travelers and settlers in that area, they do comment on the presence of elk.”

Huffman said the department’s website should have video of the elk being loaded in Kentucky and unloaded at Peck Ranch by noon tomorrow. “We’re excited that this is moving forward,” he said.

The arrival of the elk was originally scheduled for Saturday, but final health testing had not been completed. Huffman said this morning that all the elk have clean bills off health from the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

Opponents of the elk plan cited the possible spread of disease from elk to domestic livestock as well as damage to fences and crops as reasons to keep elk from being reintroduced to Missouri.

Lyman, a native of Washington state, said it would be naïve to think the elk will stay put at Peck Ranch.

“Elk will be elk. If they don’t want to be there, they’ll leave,” he said. “It wouldn’t surprise me at all if some of them leave. If they don’t put a big fence up, some of them are going to leave.”

He warned of unintended negative consequences. But “I don’t have a dog in the fight,” he said, adding his point of emphasis is that sound, evidence-based science should be used for making decisions.

“I’m not a wildlife biologist. I’m not a wildlife manager. I don’t want the job,” he said. “But let’s do it in the most informed manner possible. The consequences might be dire.”

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# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Graduation events will begin this weekend

BY TIM BARKER [tbarker@post-dispatch.com](mailto:tbarker@post-dispatch.com) 314-340-8350 | Posted: Thursday, May 5, 2011  
12:30 am

This year's round of college and university commencement ceremonies starts this weekend and features a fairly standard crop of speakers.

Among those who will help send graduates off into the world are singer Sheryl Crow, journalist Cokie Roberts, Gov. Jay Nixon and human rights activist Elie Wiesel. Missing, however, is controversial author Greg Mortenson, who was uninvited by Fontbonne University after a "60 Minutes" news report questioned his integrity.

### Among the ceremonies:

- **Southern Illinois University Edwardsville:** The two-day commencement starts Friday, with the nursing, education and graduate schools. The remaining schools will have their ceremonies on Saturday. Clinton R. Van Zandt, author and former FBI profiler, will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters.
- **Maryville University:** Journalist and author Cokie Roberts is the featured speaker at the school's 138th commencement Saturday at 10 a.m.
- **Webster University:** Ceremonies will start at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Muny in Forest Park. Former Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond will speak and receive an honorary doctor of laws.
- **Harris-Stowe State University:** Ceremony will start at 7 p.m. on Tuesday at Powell Symphony Hall.
- **University of Missouri-Columbia:** The university has three days of activities starting on May 13. The school will award more than 5,800 degrees. Among the speakers: Gov. Jay Nixon, Sen. Claire McCaskill and Sheryl Crow.
- **Southern Illinois University Carbondale:** The two-day event starts May 13 at 5 p.m. with the College of Liberal Arts in SIU Arena. The other units follow the next day, in the arena and Shryock Auditorium.
- **Lindenwood University:** Two days of ceremonies, starting May 13, at the Family Arena in St. Charles.
- **University of Missouri-St. Louis:** Two days of ceremonies begin at 10 a.m. on May 14 and wrap up at 6 p.m. on May 15. Receiving an honorary degree is Rita Colwell, the first female head of the National Science Foundation.

- **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign:** The school will hold two campuswide ceremonies on May 15 in Assembly Hall. Giving his commencement speech twice will be William Daley, President Barack Obama's chief of staff.
- **Washington University:** Headlining the May 20 commencement will be Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and human rights activist.
- **St. Louis University:** Commencement will be on May 21 at Chaifetz Arena.
- **Fontbonne University:** There will be a 10 a.m. ceremony for students receiving master's degrees and a 3 p.m. ceremony for those receiving bachelor's degrees on May 21. The school's speaker will be Dr. Mark Manary of the WU School of Medicine.

# The★Star

THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Posted on Wed, May. 04, 2011

## Justice Department asks if BCS is fair to all schools

### NO MU Mention

By BLAIR KERKHOFF  
The Kansas City Star

On a day when college football's regular season never seemed more valuable, the Justice Department is demanding to know why one of America's most popular sports seems to deny many schools a legitimate chance in the lucrative postseason.

The Justice Department has sent a letter to the NCAA demanding answers and saying "serious questions" continue to be raised about whether the Bowl Championship Series complies with federal antitrust laws. The next step could be a full-blown investigation by the federal government.

News of the letter came hours after the Pac-12 Conference announced it had reached a deal with ESPN and Fox for the league's media rights. Financial terms weren't disclosed but several reports have the 12-year contract valued at \$3 billion.

Two weeks ago, the Big 12 announced a deal with Fox primarily for football games on cable television worth more than \$1.1 billion and joined the Big Ten, Southeastern Conference and ACC in college sports' high rent district with college football broadcasts as the most coveted property.

To BCS executive director Bill Hancock, who lives in Prairie Village, the new deals signal a confirmation of the college football model.

"The recent television deals demonstrate the value and importance of the regular season in college football," Hancock said. "To me, they validate we're doing it right by keeping the focus on the regular season."

But finances get to the heart of the criticism, at least when it comes to the postseason: The rich get richer, and schools that aren't members of one of the six major conferences, which also includes the Big East, don't have fair access to football's most lucrative bowl games, which are not part of the recently announced media rights deals.

Champions of the six major-conference schools automatically qualify for BCS bowls. The qualification requirement is greater for those outside that circle, and Justice Department antitrust chief Christine Varney asked NCAA executive director Mark Emmert why a playoff doesn't exist and what steps the NCAA has taken to implement one.

"Your views would be relevant in helping us to determine the best course of action with regard to the BCS," she wrote.

The NCAA didn't respond, but two months ago, Emmert said he was willing to help create a playoff format, saying, "The NCAA knows how to run championships, and we'd be happy to help."

But commissioners of the major conferences, the power brokers in the BCS, have stiff-armed the playoff idea.

"The conferences that are members of the NCAA haven't provided the power to the NCAA to run anything in the postseason, and I don't think we're going to," said Big 12 commissioner Dan Beebe. "Presidents at our level control what we're doing with the postseason, and while some have expressed interest in a playoff, it's not a majority."

But the attorney general of Utah, Mark Shurtleff, said he plans to file an antitrust lawsuit against the BCS, claiming restraint of trade.

Shurtleff is among the critics, including President Barack Obama, who claim the BCS is stacked against schools that aren't part of the six major conferences.

Just after his election in 2008, Obama suggested during a "60 Minutes" interview that he would use his influence to create an eight-team playoff because, "I don't know any serious fan of college football who has disagreed with me on this."

Shurtleff met with Justice Department officials last fall to discuss a possible federal probe and said then that such an investigation was critical to the effort to install a playoff system.

"You get the DOJ behind one and the BCS will finally say, 'OK, we'll go to a playoff,'" Shurtleff said.

In the 13-year history of the BCS — 57 games — seven berths to the high-paying bowl games have gone to schools outside of those conferences, although a team from a lower-tier conference has played in a BCS bowl in each of the last five years.

But no team from outside of the top six conferences has finished first or second in the final BCS standing and qualified for the BCS National Championship Game.

The BCS has countered that it has created opportunities for more schools, not restrained them. An additional BCS game was added in 2007, bringing the total to five high-paying games.

Programs like Boise State or Texas Christian University might not have been invited to major bowl games in the old system, Hancock has argued.

In the BCS, any program can qualify for a high-paying game, provided that team records enough victories to reach the upper echelons of the national rankings.

The BCS didn't do itself any favors last month when one of its bowl-game partners, the Fiesta Bowl, became embroiled in scandal. The game's status as a BCS bowl is in jeopardy in the wake of an investigation that revealed lavish spending and illegally orchestrated political contributions.

A decision on that bowl game could come later this month.

As for a playoff, Beebe believes it won't happen.

"I have a hard time understanding how a legislative body can determine how many games a student-athlete has to put himself through so that institutions that might be struggling financially can get money from it," Beebe said.

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# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Missouri universities consider combining their purchasing power

BY TIM BARKER • [tbarker@post-dispatch.com](mailto:tbarker@post-dispatch.com) > 314-340-8350 | Posted: Wednesday, May 4, 2011 11:45 am

Many of Missouri's largest public universities are considering working together to save money on campus procurements.

**Ten of the state's schools have launched an eight-week feasibility study, led by the University of Missouri System, to explore the benefits of combining purchasing power.**

The effort will look at areas that include office technology, administrative supplies, travel, food and power.

"All of us are keenly interested in finding ways our universities can be more productive and efficient, including trimming costs wherever we can," said Gary Allen, vice president of Information Technology for the UM System.

The four UM schools are being joined by Truman State University, Northwest Missouri State University, Missouri State University, Harris-Stowe State University, Southeast Missouri State University and Missouri Western State University.



## Senate committee OKs Cupps

By Rudi Keller

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

**JEFFERSON CITY — Only one of two nominees to the University of Missouri Board of Curators received a hearing today during the last planned meeting of the Senate Gubernatorial Appointments Committee.**

**Attorney Donald Cupps of Cassville won easy approval for the board,** setting up a confirmation vote tomorrow on the Senate floor. But Craig Van Matre of Columbia, also an attorney, was left in limbo with just 10 days to go before lawmakers adjourn for the year.

Van Matre isn't the only nominee from Gov. Jay Nixon who has not received a hearing. Nixon now has the choice of withdrawing Van Matre's name from consideration or finding an agreement with Senate President Pro Tem Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, on other issues.

Mayer did not rule out having another hearing.

Van Matre's nomination is one of three Nixon made in late January to the nine-member board. Van Matre would assume the only vacant seat on the board, representing Columbia and the Ninth Congressional District. The curators are in the middle of a search for a new system president.

Nixon would not agree to make an appointment Mayer wanted. And Mayer said this morning he has other matters as well that needed to be settled, but he would not elaborate or name the person or the job he wanted filled.

"We just had a few things we weren't able to iron out," Mayer said.