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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Mo. spending plan eases state cuts to education

By REBECCA BERG | rberg@post-dispatch.com > 573-635-61787 | Posted: Friday, May 6, 2011 12:05 am

MU MENTION ON PAGE 2

JEFFERSON CITY • The Legislature approved on Thursday a \$23.2 billion spending plan that would lessen some of the cuts to education proposed by the governor earlier this year.

Having received solid support from both chambers after days of tense negotiations, the spending plan will be sent to Gov. Jay Nixon's desk for final approval.

The plan adds \$12 million to higher education and \$10 million to school transportation over what the governor originally recommended. The budgets for public colleges and universities would still be reduced by 5.45 percent under the proposal, while K-12 busing would take about a \$42 million cut from this year.

That's about halfway between what the House and Senate each wanted. The House initially endorsed the governor's plan to cut university budgets by 7 percent; meanwhile, the Senate would have added \$20 million.

Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, the Senate budget chairman, said Wednesday he was content with the compromise, which he said made education a priority.

"The budget process is always some give and take, and I'm just glad we were able to fund both K-12 and higher education above the governor's recommendations," he said Wednesday.

The House similarly touted its accomplishments on education funding, especially for elementary and secondary education.

"While other states around this country are being forced to cut funding to education, we have been able to keep ours level," said Rep. Ryan Silvey, R-Kansas City, the House budget chairman. "I think that has been a huge victory for this House."

Though K-12 funding will remain at last year's level, it will fall more than \$250 million short of the amount recommended by the state's 2005 school funding formula, which was set up to ensure that students receive the minimum amount deemed necessary for an adequate education. That amount is set by the formula at \$6,116 per student per year.

In addition to funding for education, the House was able to fully fund two other priority programs: Missouri RX, a prescription drug program for seniors, and in-home care. Originally, the Senate put both budget lines on the chopping block, but the House insisted on funding them.

In return, Senate members received funding for some smaller items, including a number of specific higher education programs. Schaefer's district includes the University of Missouri's flagship campus.

Lottery advertising will take a cut of \$2 million next year, about 20 percent of the lottery's current budget for advertising. The House wanted to cut much more, around \$8.3 million total. Meanwhile, the Senate wanted to increase funding, arguing that more advertising would enable the lottery to return more money to state schools.

Arts programs won't be able to count on public money next year. Though the governor recommended \$1.2 million for the Missouri Arts Council, the Legislature rejected that recommendation, along with funding for public television and the humanities.

"We just didn't have the money for it," Silvey explained.

The Legislature didn't have the money to keep the governor's chef, either, though eliminating that position was mostly symbolic.

Indeed, the governor is specifically targeted under the Legislature's budget, which takes on not only the governor's chef, but also his travel.

Though the spending plan allots \$200,000 to the governor's office for travel, the governor will no longer be allowed to use money from departments for that purpose, with a few exceptions.

Earlier this year, the House criticized Nixon for billing nearly \$400,000 in air travel expenses to state departments since taking office. Some legislators called the practice deceptive, though it is legal.

Missouri lawmakers finish their budget

By JASON NOBLE

NO MU MENTION

JEFFERSON CITY | Missouri will spend \$23.2 billion on programs, projects and services next year.

The new budget, passed Thursday by lawmakers, includes cuts to higher education totaling approximately \$50 million — about 5.4 percent — but holds state aid for K-12 schools steady from the current year.

“While other states around this country are being forced by the economic situation to cut the direct funding to their public schools, we have been able to keep ours level,” said House Budget Chairman Ryan Silvey, a Kansas City Republican. “I think that’s a huge victory for this House, for this body and for the state as a whole.”

In all, the operating budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1 adds \$224 million in spending compared with the current year, although most of that is absorbed by rising costs in Medicaid.

Although lawmakers thought the budget adequately balanced spending against revenues, Gov. Jay Nixon suggested Thursday evening that further cuts may be necessary. In a statement, the Democratic governor lauded lawmakers’ work but said he projected a budget gap of “at least \$30 million.”

The budget keeps K-12 classroom funding steady at just over \$3 billion, a feat lawmakers and Nixon accomplished by drawing down extra federal funds in the current year and holding them in reserve until the new year begins.

The higher-education cut will be spread among all the state’s colleges and universities, and officials have suggested it could prompt tuition increases in the coming school year.

Lawmakers acknowledged the reduction in university spending was necessary given the state’s current financial outlook, but some argued it was not sustainable over the long term.

“This budget is the best we can do under the circumstances, but it is not good enough if we’re going to remain academically competitive,” said Rep. Mary Still, a Columbia Democrat whose district includes the University of Missouri’s flagship campus.

Lawmakers achieved modest increases in a few key programs. State subsidies for school bus transportation, for example, are funded at \$107.7 million, a \$10 million increase from the current-year subsidy but still \$48 million short of what districts received in 2010.

The months-long budget process unfolded unusually smoothly until this week, when House and Senate budget leaders clashed over a few million dollars contained in a handful of budget line items.

The chambers compromised by funding the Missouri Rx prescription program for seniors, maintaining Medicaid reimbursement rates for in-home providers, boosting higher-ed funding by \$12 million and boosting the K-12 transportation subsidy by \$10 million.



State budget negotiations pass hurdle

By Rudi Keller

JEFFERSON CITY — The final act of what House Budget Chairman Ryan Silvey called the “dog-and-pony show” of legislative budget negotiations had a happy ending for everybody, with the House leaving the stage just a little bit happier.

In each previous act, Silvey, R-Kansas City, or Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, played antagonist. During each intermission, they retired backstage, several times to Schaefer’s office, and emerged to conclude the drama as allies.

The deal they struck there mitigates Gov. Jay Nixon’s cut in higher education funding, as Schaefer wanted, but only by \$12 million, the amount the House had given colleges and universities for a rural health education program. The University of Missouri would receive \$403.8 million in the budget deal, or \$5.8 million more than Nixon recommended.

School districts will get only \$10 million more than Nixon proposed for transportation costs, instead of the \$20 million Schaefer and the Senate added. Both of the House’s top spending priorities, meanwhile, were funded fully. Silvey secured \$13.8 million for the MoRx program to buy prescriptions for senior citizens and \$8.9 million to boost payments for in-home care.

Backstage negotiations were key to making a deal, Silvey said. “Every year, you have a conference committee, and it is a dog-and-pony show, but every year the decisions are always made behind closed doors,” he said.

The \$23.2 million spending package will be debated in the House today. As each bill is passed, the Senate will follow. Work will then proceed to the final set of spending bills to pay for repair and maintenance and new construction.

Lawmakers face a 6 p.m. deadline tomorrow for completing work on the budget for the year that begins July 1. The Senate got the best deal it could, Schaefer said. The amount added to Nixon’s education items is the same as the cost of the two items the House wanted, he said.

“Everybody counts every dollar, and that came out relatively even,” Schaefer said.

Instead of a 7 percent cut, colleges and universities will see a 5.45 percent reduction in allocations.

Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, and a member of the negotiating committee on most budget bills, said the outcome is a victory for the University of Missouri. "I am delighted," he said.

Highlights of the budget package include:

- Another year of flat funding for public education programs, with \$3 billion set aside for aid to school districts. The extra \$10 million will put spending on transportation at \$107.7 million, or \$45 million less than lawmakers allocated last year before it was cut by Nixon.
- Extra funding for several University of Missouri-related programs, such as \$120,000 for veterinary medicine scholarships, a boost in the Missouri Kidney Program funding to \$1.5 million and \$2 million in new funding for the pharmacy program partnership between UMKC and Missouri State University in Springfield.
- A \$30,000 item to support the Boone County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for work done relating to mental health patients.
- A ban on Nixon and other statewide officials from charging other agencies for their travel or staff time. The budget also eliminates the chef at the Governor's Mansion.

The public meetings of the committee seemed to show an impasse. During the first meeting yesterday, Silvey showed up with a full set of proposed budget bills, declaring he did so to force the Senate's hand.

Later, Schaefer said although he didn't like it, the Senate accepted many of those proposals and brought back a counteroffer on the major items.

"We did receive the House bills signed by the House committee as an ultimatum, which is just absolutely an unprecedented maneuver. It is not the way it is supposed to be," Schaefer said.

At that point, Silvey offered a review of the performance. "That was inspiring, Senator," he said. "That was an amazing piece of theater, and I applaud you for it."

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Operating budget heads to Nixon

By Rudi Keller

JEFFERSON CITY — The state operating budget for next year is headed to Gov. Jay Nixon for action after the House and Senate on Thursday passed the compromise spending plan after a week of negotiations.

The \$23.2 billion spending plan maintained most of the spending proposals offered by Nixon in January but added to that plan in the areas of education and social services. It also cut each department's budget by the amount that top administrators earn beyond the amount paid to Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder and barred Nixon from using department budgets for travel.

For education, the budget package gives school districts an extra \$10 million for transportation costs and gives colleges and universities an extra \$12 million beyond what Nixon sought. School transportation still will be funded well below the level given to districts two years ago; for colleges and universities, the extra money means the cuts to be imposed will be less than Nixon recommended.

The University of Missouri will receive \$5.8 million more than Nixon recommended, for a total of \$403.8 million. Several other items related to the university also received boosts, including a pharmacy training program at UMKC and the Missouri Kidney Program at MU.

When it was over, Sen. Kurt Schaefer said the problems the state is facing that require continued cutbacks are caused both by federal mandates that increase the state's costs and the recession, which reduces revenue. And while he reiterated his personal support for a tobacco tax increase to help close the gap, he said political reality means lawmakers won't touch it.

"It would have to start outside of this building," he said. "It is not going to happen here."

During Senate debate, some lawmakers raised worries that the state is overspending this year and saving nothing for next year, when federal budget help will not be available. Sen. Jim Lembke, R-St. Louis, said the state might need as much as \$700 million next year to make up the difference.

"The right thing to do by the taxpayers of this state would be for us to be able to look at those shortfalls and see if we want to deal with it in this fiscal year," he said.

But Schaefer said the state is weaning itself off of federal funds and noted that Nixon held back \$155 million from the current year's budget that is being spent next year. He said it was too early for lawmakers to begin setting aside funds for a budget more than a year off.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

UPDATE: Missouri lawmakers send \$23 billion budget to governor

NO MU Mention

By DAVID A. LIEB/The Associated Press

May 5, 2011 | 6:12 p.m. CDT

JEFFERSON CITY — Basic state aid for Missouri colleges will decline while funding for public K-12 schools will remain flat under a budget approved Thursday that lawmakers described as inadequate but the best they could do given the state's finances.

The \$23.2 billion operating budget for next year now goes to Gov. Jay Nixon, who can veto or reduce expenditures but cannot add to them. Overall, the 2012 budget plan is about the same size as the 2011 budget approved last year, though slumping tax revenues led Nixon to cut about \$300 million from the current year's budget.

Nixon's budget director has said the 2012 budget plan appears to be balanced, meaning sizable gubernatorial cuts are unlikely. The plan contains no new tax increases.

Even so, growth in mandatory programs such as the \$8.4 billion Medicaid health care plan for the poor meant that lawmakers had to forgo increases or make reductions to other government programs and services for the budget year that begins July 1.

Missouri's public schools will get \$3 billion in basic aid. That's the same amount as the current year but about \$180 million short of what is called for under the state's school funding formula.

"When states around this country are cutting money that goes directly to elementary and secondary education, the state of Missouri was able to keep it flat, and I think that's the first and foremost thing we've done in this budget," said House Budget Committee Chairman Ryan Silvey, R-Kansas City.

"We did the best we can do," added Rep. Mike Thomson, R-Maryville. "I wish I could say we are adequately funding our education. I can't say that."

The school transportation allotment of \$108 million, which provides funding for busing, is about \$45 million less than what schools were supposed to get this year, but about \$10 million more than what they actually got after Nixon's budget cuts.

For the second straight year, public colleges and universities will see a decline in basic state aid, though it will not be as large as originally proposed. The budget plan outlined in January by Nixon would have reduced their core budgets by 7 percent. The budget approved Thursday includes a roughly 5.5 percent cut.

"Would we like to put more money into higher education? Absolutely," said Rep. Sara Lampe of Springfield, the ranking Democrat on the House Budget Committee. "But this state is going to have to make some decisions about how to bring money into the state before we do that."

Republican legislative leaders and the Democratic governor ruled out any tax increases. But the budget counts on some nontraditional revenue sources. For example, Missouri's main college scholarship program depends for the second straight year on the transfer of \$30 million from the proceeds of the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority, which services college loans from students across the country.

Some lawmakers also bemoaned that the budget still relies on hundreds of millions of federal stimulus dollars, which will either have to be replaced with state dollars or counteracted with cuts in the 2013 budget.

"We're not addressing the structural hole in our budget, we are kicking the can down the road in the hope that our economy is going to rebound," said Sen. Jim Lembke, R-St. Louis.

The final budget proposal backs away from some cuts that had been proposed by the Senate. For example, it continues to fund the Missouri Rx Plan, which covers half the deductible and prescription co-payments for 226,000 low-income seniors and disabled residents enrolled in the federal Medicare program. But lawmakers will have to also pass a separate bill reauthorizing the program to continue after Aug. 28.

Budget negotiators also opted against restructuring the state's child-care subsidies for low-income parents. The plan would have reduced payments for several thousand children in exchange for expanding eligibility to a few hundred children whose parents are transitioning to better-paying jobs.

Among the cuts in the budget is a \$1.6 million reduction in state aid to conduct property assessments, which help set a property tax base for local schools. The cut lowers the per parcel reimbursement that county assessors receive to \$3.41 — slightly above the \$3 minimum set forth in state law.

The budget also axes the salary of the chef at the Governor's Mansion. Silvey suggested the governor could order catered meals when entertaining guests. And the budget attempts to stop Nixon from billing other state agencies for the costs of his airplane flights and staff — giving him a \$200,000 travel budget and allowing him to allocate costs only to the Department of Public Safety, which Silvey said would accommodate urgent travel such as responding to natural disasters.

The budget includes a \$1.1 million increase for the state's oversight of dog-breeding businesses, which have been a focal-point of controversy in Missouri. Voters last fall approved stringent new requirements for dog breeders, but the legislature and governor this year repealed some of the key provisions and rewrote other parts of the law. They linked the increased funding for state inspectors and enforcement efforts to the separate legislation overhauling the voter-approved law.

Nixon pulls Craig Van Matre's UM curator nomination

By Rudi Keller

JEFFERSON CITY — Gov. Jay Nixon today withdrew Columbia attorney Craig Van Matre's nomination to the University of Missouri Board of Curators, preserving Van Matre's ability to serve on the board in the future.



Van Matre

Van Matre was nominated in January to fill the open Ninth District curator seat. His appointment has been held up by Senate President Pro Tem Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, who had used it as a bargaining chip with Nixon. Two other curator nominations made around the same time, David Steward of St. Louis and Donald Cupps of Cassville, have not been blocked. Cupps is up for a final Senate confirmation vote today.

The process has been puzzling, Van Matre said. "It is like stumbling into a calculus class for the first time. It is a new principle I just don't understand."

If Nixon had not withdrawn the nomination, Van Matre would have been barred from serving on the board in the future. By making the move, Nixon could appoint Van Matre to the board after lawmakers adjourn.

Van Matre said he had not been told whether Nixon would do so.

Nixon's office made no direct comment on the reasons for withdrawing Van Matre's name, Mayer's refusal to grant a hearing or whether Van Matre would be appointed on an interim basis.

If Van Matre is chosen as an interim appointee, he would be able to serve until lawmakers return next year, when they would have to consider the nomination within 30 days.

Nixon also withdrew the nominations of Tom Strong of Springfield as a member of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, John Hickey of Columbia as a member of the Labor and Industrial Relations Commission and Michael Bernth of St. Peters as a member of the Air Conservation Commission. Hickey's nomination was blocked by St. Louis Democratic Sen. Tim Green. Strong was opposed by Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, and others because he was appointed as an independent despite his ties to Nixon.

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

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

Nixon withdraws Columbia representative's curator nomination

On the other hand, Donald Cupps was approved by the Senate Gubernatorial Appointments Committee.

By Caitlin Swieca

Published May 6, 2011

Gov. Jay Nixon withdrew his nomination for Columbia's seat on the UM System Board of Curators today after the appointment was held up by Senate President Pro Term Rob Meyer (R-Dexter).

By withdrawing the name of Craig Van Matre, a Columbia lawyer and MU alumnus, for the ninth district curator seat, Nixon preserved his ability to serve on the board in the future.

Nixon has the option of appointing him to the board on an interim basis when lawmakers adjourn later this month. Van Matre could then serve until January, when Senate would have to approve him. If he were not approved at this time, he would be barred from serving on the board in the future.

The Associated Press reported that approval might have been held up because of debate concerning another appointment to the state Board of Probation and Parole.

Van Matre said he did not know why his appointment was barred.

"I really don't know how the game is played in Jefferson City," he said. "I'm a spectator on this."

Nixon has not informed Van Matre whether he will appoint him on an interim basis, but he said he would be open to the idea, despite the risk of serving only a six-month term.

"I don't know how it's going to play out," Van Matre said. "I'm assuming that all will be well in the long run, and that I'll have some ability to serve the needs of higher education. However that works out, I'm willing to consider it."

Meanwhile, the Senate Gubernatorial Appointments Committee approved the nomination of Donald Cupps, a lawyer from Cassville, as the board's seventh district representative. A Senate confirmation vote is scheduled for Friday.

In a news release at the time of the appointment, Nixon said he was confident that Cupps would be a good representative of southwest Missouri.

“Don Cupps has long-standing, strong ties to the University of Missouri and to rural Missouri,” Nixon said in the release. “His experience in the business and agricultural communities and his dedication to public education and community service will serve the people of Missouri well on the Board of Curators.”



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Mo. Gov. Nixon withdraws education appointees after Senate concerns

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First Posted: May 05, 2011 - 2:04 pm

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon has withdrawn two higher education appointments.

Nixon on Thursday withdrew the appointment of Columbia lawyer Craig Van Matre to the Board of Curators for the University of Missouri system. The appointment of Springfield lawyer Thomas Strong to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education also was withdrawn.

Strong had identified his political party affiliation as an "independent." Some Republican senators have questioned whether that's true. Strong has donated to Nixon, and his law firm won a contract when Nixon was attorney general to handle Missouri's portion of the national tobacco settlement.

Senate President Pro Tem Rob Mayer says Van Matre's appointment was held up because of attempts to reach a deal on another possible appointment to the state Probation and Parole Board.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Gov. Jay Nixon withdraws two higher education appointments

By The Associated Press

May 5, 2011 | 3:39 p.m. CDT

JEFFERSON CITY — Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon has withdrawn two higher education appointments.

On Thursday, Nixon withdrew the appointment of Columbia lawyer Craig Van Matre to theUM System Board of Curators. The appointment of Springfield lawyer Thomas Strong to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education was also withdrawn.

"I don't understand how things work in Jefferson City, but I hope that at some point I will be able to assist our state on higher education issues," Van Matre said.

Nixon's withdrawal of Van Matre's nomination still leaves open the possibility that the governor could appoint him on an interim basis when the legislature adjourns for the year.

"I'm interested in helping in any way the governor thinks I can be of value," he said.

Strong had identified his political party affiliation as an "independent." Some Republican senators have questioned whether that's true. Strong has donated to Nixon, and his law firm won a contract when Nixon was attorney general to handle Missouri's portion of the national tobacco settlement.

Senate President Pro Tem Rob Mayer said Van Matre's appointment was held up because of attempts to reach a deal on another possible appointment to the state Probation and Parole Board.

Missourian reporter Michael Davis contributed to this report.

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

Deaton pulls double duty with university and federal leadership

Last month President Barack Obama announced his intention to make Deaton the new chairman.

By Megan Hager

Published May 3, 2011

Late last week the United States Senate confirmed the appointment of Chancellor Brady Deaton as the new chairman of the Board for International Food and Agriculture Development.

As the new chairman of BIFAD, Deaton will coordinate the thoughts and best efforts of a seven-member board working toward agricultural and technological innovation that will allow countries to feed themselves. He will use their collective knowledge to advise the U.S. Agency for International Development administrator.

“I’m very excited about it,” Deaton said. “It draws on my background quite nicely because of my professional interest in international agricultural development and economic development generally and so this enables me to blend that background with my more recent work in university administration.”

In the past he worked in the Peace Corps to teach vocational agriculture in Thailand. In 1978, Deaton was involved in studies examining the international food assistance programs of America’s Food Aid program. He worked with the Secretary of Agriculture in Washington D.C. at the time.

Deaton then worked to establish major technical support programs in Zambia and Haiti while working as the associate director of the Office of International Development for Virginia Tech. He has also worked with Grenada, Kenya and other low-income countries.

Deaton said working in various programs similar to these gives him adequate institutional knowledge to perform as the chairman for BIFAD. He added his background is probably what led to his appointment.

“I’ve had a lot of experience in organizing and building a framework for conducting research, conducting education and stimulating private sector development,” Deaton said. “This job brings all that together.”

More recently Deaton chaired the Commission on International Programs. His work there is to identify key issues in various universities seeking to provide more study abroad opportunities for students and more faculty research and technical work in other countries.

Deaton said working relationships between universities, especially international universities, is important since their faculty learns from MU's faculty and MU from them.

"We've been very involved in supporting other educational institutions in various other parts of the world: Thailand, China, Korea especially and also in African countries," Deaton said.

His principle goal is to ensure the best scientific and educational thinking from universities is brought together to determine how the development of knowledge is essential to food production and distribution around the world so people can feed themselves.

"All of this work has to be guided by a knowledge base and our role in BIFAD to ensure that higher education is doing everything possible to bring the best knowledge forward so that we can do a better job internationally," Deaton said.

Deaton's initial appointment will last through July 2012, but he will continue the job until a new chairman is appointed by the president.

"These are critical issues and that's why it's exciting because these are very critical issues for people around the world," he said.

U.S. mammogram rules may risk minorities, younger women: studies

NEW YORK | Thu May 5, 2011 11:13pm EDT

(Reuters Life!) - Recent U.S. changes to guidelines for mammography breast cancer screening may prevent women in their 40s, and specifically minority women, from receiving early breast cancer diagnoses, two U.S. studies suggest.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force no longer advises women in their 40s to get routine screening mammograms.

But one of the two studies, a 10-year retrospective analysis from the University of Missouri at Columbia, showed that mammograms detected smaller tumors, with less spreading to nearby lymph nodes, in women in their forties than manual breast exams could.

Minority women were also more likely to develop cancers in their forties than white women, according to data reviewed by researchers at Loma Linda University in California.

"For some Asian women and other minorities, the peak incidence (of breast cancer) is a decade earlier. The guidelines are not ethnicity-specific," said Sheldon Feldman, chief of breast surgery at Columbia University Medical Center in New York and chairman of the American Society of Breast Surgeons publication committee.

"That's an important point. Whether or not you agree with the general recommendations for average groups, then certainly for minorities and certain subgroups, those recommendations need to be altered."

The two studies were presented at the annual meeting of the society last week. Feldman was not involved in either study.

Researchers at the University of Missouri reviewed data on 1,581 breast cancer patients and identified 311 who were aged 40-49, with 47 percent diagnosed with a mammogram.

The median tumor diameter was 20 mm in the mammogram group, compared to 30 mm in the non-mammogram group. Women in the mammogram group also had a lower rate of spread to the lymph nodes, 25 percent against 56 percent.

And, five years after diagnosis, women in the mammogram group were more likely to be free of the disease, 94 percent to 71 percent, and have a better overall survival rate.

A separate study showed that minorities seem to make up a disproportionate number of the younger women who might benefit from mammograms.

Sharon Lum and her team at Loma Linda University used the California Cancer Registry to identify 46,691 patients aged 40 to 74 who were diagnosed with certain kinds of breast cancer from 2004 to 2008.

Among the women in their forties, Hispanics were most likely to receive the cancer diagnoses, followed by Asians and Pacific Islanders. Non-Hispanic black women had more diagnoses of one form of the cancer and fewer of the other.

"The implementation of the... guidelines would disproportionately impact non-white women and potentially lead to more advanced presentation at diagnosis," Lum and her team wrote.

Breast cancer kills around 500,000 people globally each year and is diagnosed in close to 1.3 million people annually.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU receives bump in freshman enrollment from out-of-state students

By Alex Keckeisen

May 5, 2011 | 6:41 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA – The size of the 2011 MU freshman class is expected to receive a slight bump thanks to out-of-state applicants.

As of the May 1 enrollment fee deadline, 6,287 students had reserved their spot in the 2011 freshman class, according to Ann Korschgen, vice provost of enrollment management. By this time last year, 6,204 students had paid their enrollment deposits. These enrollment numbers do not include transfer students.

Enrollment from out-of-state residents accounts for the slight jump in enrollment deposits, up 182 from last year.

In contrast, in-state enrollment deposits dropped by 96. Korschgen said the drop is because the state is expected to produce about 2,500 fewer high school graduates in 2010. She said the number of high school graduates will continue to fall in the coming years and will affect enrollment numbers in the future.

“We have put a tremendous effort into recruiting out-of-state students, especially given that we knew that the number of Missouri high school graduates would begin dropping,” Korschgen said.

Minority enrollment numbers are also on the rise, with MU receiving 25 more deposits from African-American applicants and 27 more from Hispanic applicants.

MU’s last three freshman classes have broken enrollment records, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

NEWS-LEADER

Analysis fails to back 'fair tax' claims

11:00 PM, May. 5, 2011 |

Written by Jeff Milyo, David Mandy, Peter Mueser and Saku Aura

Should Missouri adopt a "fair tax" reform that will eliminate the state income tax and replace it with an expanded and increased state sales tax? The primary argument made by proponents is that such a reform will generate a boon in state economic growth. But this claim is based more on wishful thinking than sound economic analysis.

Fair tax supporters point out that income taxes punish saving, while a sales tax only hits consumption.

By eliminating the income tax, so the story goes, saving will increase, as will investment and total economic activity in the state. But is it really received economic wisdom that a revenue neutral switch from an income tax to a sales tax will yield a "Missouri Miracle"? In a word: "no."

Economic theory indeed teaches that increased saving translates into higher investment, but not necessarily investment in Missouri. In general, money placed in a savings account or used to purchase a bond or shares of stock will be invested in the most attractive opportunity available, whether that opportunity is in Missouri, Michigan or Mongolia. To assume, as proponents do, that all or even most of the increased savings are invested in Missouri is nonsense.

The fact that borders are easily crossed also invites Missouri residents to avoid paying sales taxes by shopping in other states. And if an expanded sales tax covers services that are untaxed in other states, the incentive to avoid taxes by shifting purchases out of Missouri is even greater. Yet another drawback of sales taxes is that in practice it is difficult to exempt all business-to-business transactions; this adds to the costs of doing business in the state.

Given these and other concerns, there is no strong theoretical support for the proposition that a revenue-neutral shift from an income tax to a sales tax will generate increased state economic growth.

But doesn't the experience of states that do not have an income tax demonstrate that a Missouri Miracle is possible? Again, the answer is: "No."

Some point to Tennessee, that has no income tax. But not only is cherry-picking one example of an unscientific approach to policy evaluation, Tennessee actually taxes income from dividends and interest (and therefore punishes investment), making it a poor comparison to boot. Of the nine states that do not levy a broad income tax, some have experienced above average growth

and some below average growth, but there is no strong evidence that states without an income tax realize greater economic growth.

At best, the growth effects of such a reform are speculative. This uncertainty complicates the ability of policymakers to compensate for lost revenue through an increase in state sales tax rates. Worse, policymakers will be disappointed if they expect that a greater reliance on the sales tax will capture additional revenue from illegal activities; again, there is no sound economic argument or scientific evidence to support such a claim.

There should be no mistake: academic research does not support the claims made by fair tax proponents.

Contributors are with the Department of Economics, University of Missouri: Jeff Milyo, professor and Middlebush professor of social science; David Mandy, professor of economics and department chairman; Peter Mueser, professor of economics, Saku Aura, associate professor of economics.



Honors College leader leaves

Palonsky praised for his leadership.

By Janese Silvey

The longtime director of the University of Missouri's Honors College is stepping down at the end of this year, leaving behind what some consider a legacy of nurturing the best and brightest students on campus. Stuart Palonsky has led the honors program for 20 years, during which he has continued to teach while recruiting prospective students and expanding the program to include more opportunities.

The 52-year-old Honors College is for first- and second-year students looking to be challenged beyond traditional college coursework. Students can take honors sections of regular courses, which typically are smaller and more in-depth, and enroll in one of three Honors College sequences — humanities, science, or social and behavioral science. The latter two were added to the program on Palonsky's watch.

Also during his tenure, Palonsky created the Discovery Fellows Program, which gives freshmen and sophomores the opportunity to work for pay on a research project or other scholarly endeavor during a school year.

Palonsky is perhaps best known, though, for believing in and advocating for the students who come into his program. Honors College enrollees represent the top 12 percent of an incoming freshman class and are the brightest students at MU, earning on average an ACT score of 30. Although the honors status won't guarantee them better jobs after graduation or higher starting salaries, Palonsky is adamant that students will benefit intrinsically by willing to be challenged.

His optimism about today's generation of top college students is contagious. Today's young adults outperform their counterparts from a decade or so ago, he insists, and those at MU are "delightfully unpretentious."

Missouri students, said Palonsky, who previously taught in New York, are every bit as good as their East Coast peers, "but the only thing they lack is the arrogance and entitlement those students often feel."

As director, Palonsky has been a role model for his staff, said Julie Melnyk, an associate director in the college.

“He models the attitude that he wants everyone to have toward the students, which is engagement in their learning and their lives,” she said. “He has a real interest in their well-being.”

Palonsky said he decided to step down because he wants to spend some time traveling and working on other ventures. After taking a year off, he’ll return to MU, although he’s not sure what his role will be. Before leading the Honors College, Palonsky was a professor in the College of Education.

MU administrators are using the transition as a time to re-evaluate the program to see where improvements could be made, said Jim Spain, vice provost of undergraduate studies. He also is looking for an interim director while the university proceeds with a national search for a new director.

Palonsky will be missed, Spain said. “Stu has done an incredible job for the time he’s provided leadership for the MU Honors College,” he said. “We will all miss how he interacts with prospective students and their families and miss how he nurtures the students that are here.”

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MU to honor two for their contributions

By Janese Silvey

The University of Missouri will honor Stuart Palonsky, outgoing director of the Honors College, and Bill Bondeson, a retiring curators' professor of philosophy and family and community medicine, during a private luncheon Saturday.

After the luncheon, Bondeson will give a public "Last Lecture" at 2 p.m. in Bush Auditorium at Cornell Hall with an introductory "roast" by Palonsky.

Bondeson has spent 40 years at MU and has served in a number of roles, including chairman of the philosophy department. He also is one of the founders of the Wakonse Foundation for College Teaching and Learning, which promotes best practices at an annual Wakonse Conference on College Teaching.

"Bill's imprint at MU is twofold,"

said Jim Spain, vice provost of undergraduate studies. "He's phenomenal at teaching, and his course in medical ethics is one that is incredibly sought after by our students. ... The other imprint that Bill is leaving on campus is the imprint as a champion of teaching excellence."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Celebrated MU Honors professors share friendship, loyalty to students

By Michael Davis

May 5, 2011 | 7:58 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA – Two MU professors will be celebrated Saturday afternoon for their contributions to the university's Honors College.

Professor Stuart Palonsky will be stepping down from his role as Honors College director after 20 years in the position, and he will be joined by friend and philosophy professor Bill Bondeson, who is retiring after working at MU since 1964.

The event will consist of a luncheon, which will be held at noon at the Reynolds Alumni Center, followed by a special event, a "Last Lecture," by Bondeson at 2 p.m. in Bush Auditorium.

"I am flattered that they wanted to honor me in this way," Palonsky said. "When you've enjoyed a job as much as I have enjoyed this one, that really is sufficient. I take with me lots of pleasant memories and good experiences with faculty and students."

Bondeson echoed Palonsky's appreciation for the honor, saying in his time at Missouri he's had a wide variety of things to do that have made it a great experience. "It's been a very enjoyable career, I must say," Bondeson said.

The two men formed a special bond over the years as professors in the Honors College's humanities sequence, a four-semester collection of courses on philosophy, literature, art and music, all taught by professors of various disciplines.

"We've been teaching in the humanities sequence together for a zillion years, so it's a nice way to go out," Bondeson said.

The sequence offers the professors the chance to interact with each other and harness a positive teaching environment.

"Most of the time as faculty members, you don't have this collegial atmosphere," Palonsky said. "We sit in on one another's lectures, we talk about the best ways to go over certain texts, pieces of music and works of art."

Palonsky also sees this as another chance to give Bondeson another dose of their friendly banter when he introduces him for the lecture.

"I get to have my last dibs and take a shot at him and know that he can't get me back," Palonsky said, smiling.

Beyond the camaraderie the men share, they have enjoyed the interactions with the university's honors students.

"Honors students are fun to teach. They are bright and talented, and usually respond well to challenges," Bondeson said.

"I am really interested in what students have to say," Palonsky said. "I enjoy classes where I learn what students think about the text, more than the classes where I tell them what to write down about the texts."

Julie Melnyk, the associate director of the Honors College, created the event because she wanted to "honor these men who have contributed so much to the Honors College."

Melnyk spoke in glowing terms about the character of both men.

"Dr. Palonsky is utterly committed to undergraduate education," Melnyk said. "The students come first with him always."

Melnyk also praised Palonsky's administrative skills.

"Not only is he a fantastic teacher, but he has set up systems and processes in the Honors College that make it possible for other people to do fantastic teaching," she said.

Melnyk called Bondeson "charismatic" and "engaging."

"He works to make philosophy accessible and he is very good at motivating students to be interested in philosophy and ask their own questions," she said.

Not only will the academic community be out in force to wish these two men well, but various state dignitaries will be in attendance. Missouri's first lady Georgeanne Nixon will be attending to celebrate Bondeson's retirement as a former student of the professor.

Missouri state representatives Mary Still, Chris Kelly and Stephen Webber will also be in attendance to present the two men with a legislative resolution honoring their accomplishments at MU.

Palonsky expects to take a year off after he officially steps down from his position, then returning to the humanities sequence, while Bondeson expects to do some traveling with his wife.

The lecture is free and open to the public, while the luncheon is \$25 and requires registration to attend.

THE MANEATER

— THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955 —

Peace Studies director John Galliher to leave MU

A retirement ceremony was held Thursday in the Reynolds Alumni Center.

By Brandon Grammer

Published May 6, 2011

After 16 years of teaching, Peace Studies program director John Galliher has decided to move on.

“Sixteen years later, it just seemed right,” Galliher said.

Along with his director position, Galliher was a sociology professor. The Peace Studies Program is dedicated to getting students to think about non-violent solutions to critical issues involving the future of humanity.

“It revolves around the simple idea that you should kill your enemies,” Galliher said. “I think this is one of the most important things the Peace Studies Program is trying to get across. You may have enemies, and most people do, but you don’t kill them.”

This idea resonated strongly throughout all who were in attendance at his reception Thursday evening.

“I love the fact that there are groups of people who want to get a program like this going,” Vietnam War veteran John Betz said. “They teach young people that there are ways that don’t involve killing thousands of people to solve problems.”

As the night’s guest speaker, Betz went on to describe what he called the innovative and thought-provoking teaching style that Galliher brought to the program.

“He invites people to come talk to his classes, which represent every point of view,” Betz said. “He’s had hawkish, pro-war generals and politicians. He’s trying to get people to learn how to think (by giving them) an opportunity to hear points of view that they wouldn’t have had the opportunity to (hear) otherwise.”

Under the administration of Galliher, fellow professor John Kultgen said the Peace Studies Program has grown significantly in popularity at MU.

“Peace Studies has flourished under his leadership,” Kultgen said. “The classes are all well attended, and the number of majors and minors have increased to impressive levels. Most importantly, (he’s helped) send in to the world a sequence of generations of students who are well-informed and ardent in the cause of peace.”

In times of war, peace advocates strive to have their opinions voiced. Galliher is often one of the people active in voicing their opinions to the public.

“John is an activist,” Kultgen said. “He reaches the public through social action. He has spent his life in the advocacy of an unpopular but, I think, noble cause in the elimination of capital punishment. He doesn’t hesitate to speak, even if it arouses opposition.”

Galliher tolerates the opposition he finds, and even welcomes it in his classrooms, Kultgen said. His acceptance of different viewpoints makes his classrooms unique. This is something that has inspired many, Betz in particular.

“I have moments where I find myself thinking nothing’s ever going to change,” Betz said. “Then I come into contact with people like John Galliher and my battery is completely recharged. I’m not going to throw in the towel.”

It was clear that, though the program will be left in capable hands, Galliher’s departure was bittersweet for everyone in attendance.

“I can’t say enough great things about him,” Betz said. “I respect him immensely. I’m just glad he was here. It’s been great for the University of Missouri and all those young people under his tutelage.”

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1935

Faculty asks students to support domestic partner benefits

The UM System said they aren't considering any changes to these benefits.

By Dani Kass

Published May 6, 2011

A petition on Change.org addressing same-sex domestic partner benefits for employees on MU campuses recently emerged.

The petition is part of a movement made by students and Faculty Council supporting the cause. According to the petition, the Council has already passed a resolution supporting this, but it hasn't been able to get the UM System Board of Curators to approve the measure.

Faculty Council is working in conjunction with the Missouri Students Association to gain support for the resolution.

"Faculty Council Chairwoman Leona Rubin approached me about our support for domestic partner benefits for faculty and staff," MSA President Eric Woods said. "That's something they had been working on pretty actively. It has come up several times over the last 10 years or so, and she was looking for student support."

Woods said though this issue doesn't directly affect students, they can be hurt by it nonetheless.

"We know that some faculty who are presently employed by the university may not be coming back because they can't get these benefits, and it also deters potentially talented faculty from coming to the university because they won't have those benefits," Woods said. "It really is detrimental in that it has a possibility to deprive us of quality faculty and staff to continue better education."

MSA is writing a resolution in favor of domestic partner benefits. Woods said though students do not have a direct say in this, their opinions are taken into account.

"As the university's primary stakeholders, a lot of people in those positions tend to take the opinions of the students very seriously, and they hold that in reverence, and they consider them," he said.

MSA Student Affairs Chairman Tyler Ricketts said the resolution could make a significant statement to MU students.

“If we can pass a resolution, it sends a message saying that nearly 25,000 undergraduates, via their MSA senators, support domestic partnership,” he said.

Ricketts said he will make it a priority to get this resolution passed in MSA.

“Because we are the student voice on campus, I think its our responsibility to stand up with our faculty and show them that students believe in them, respect inclusion (and) respect the core values of diversity,” Ricketts said. “I want to make it a priority and send a message to administrators at the system level that we want fairness.”

MU alumnus Mike Lipsitz is one of 612 who have signed the petition on Change.org. He said he finds it wrong that MU only allows benefits to married couples.

“You can’t use marriage as a barrier to these benefits because same-sex couples aren’t allowed to marry,” he said.

Lipsitz said there had to be negative sentiments about the bill from within the university.

“There obviously must be resistance coming from somewhere in the university to do it or they would have just avoided all this negative publicity and done it,” he said. “I mean, what is (the school's) justification for not doing it?”

UM System spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead explained that the system is not currently considering any changes to domestic partner benefits, but said she didn’t want to elaborate.

Woods said in order to get the curators to permit these benefits, students from all UM system campuses will have to unite.

“If we can join together, us and students on the other campuses to really just speak out against this, it will definitely influence the decision and hopefully that pressure tips the scale,” he said.

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

Editorial: Same-sex partner benefits are more than optional

Published May 6, 2011

Debate about the need for domestic partnership benefits for UM System employees is nothing new. The matter has been discussed for years here at MU, both at the student level and among faculty, and the implementation of such benefits at other universities has been on the rise.

A petition in support of these benefits, created by an MU alumnus, has garnered hundreds of signatures. Faculty Council has voted in approval of the matter, and Wednesday the Missouri Students Association passed a resolution in support of offering domestic partner benefits.

And we feel the same. As a university that lauds itself as a diverse employer, MU has a responsibility to provide equal benefits to its employees. It sets a positive standard for its recruitment of employees for whom benefits might be a selling point over other potential employers and shows that talk of diversity is more than just lip service.

However, the UM System doesn't feel the same sense of urgency as its students and employees. UM System spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead expressed to The Maneater that the system had no plans to change its benefits standards.

In an interview with the Columbia Daily Tribune, Betsy Rodriguez, UM System vice president for Human Resources, said it was an issue of money, that the system doesn't have the funds to add to their benefits budget. The addition of same-sex benefits would add between \$1 and 3 million to the system's benefits costs, she said.

Financial priorities are a common theme in our discussion of the system's conduct, but this conversation is different. Equal benefits for all employees should not be optional based solely on available funds. They should be a priority, an expectation for a university that finds itself as one of the few remaining without same-sex partner benefits.

By being dismissive and complacent about domestic partner benefits, the UM System sends negative messages both to its employees and to its students. To its employees, it shows a sentiment of apathy and disrespectful priorities, placing basic employee rights on the backburner.

And to students, the UM System shows that respect of minorities is easiest done without a dollar sign in front of it.

Inclusion for all is not just a social movement in this case. Inclusion is something that is automatically denied when an administration says it's not a financial priority.

Until the system shows even basic interest in the matter, it must accept that its employees and students will find better options elsewhere. It must realize that apathy and inaction are both contrary to its intention to provide a diverse, open public image.

To see, or not to see, that is the question on Osama photos

News organizations debate showing graphic images, should they be leaked

Bartholomew Sullivan, Scripps Howard News Service

Thursday, May 5, 2011

MU mention page 2

WASHINGTON - Newsrooms across the country are deliberating whether to run a picture of Osama bin Laden's corpse, should it become available, and, if so, in what manner, ethicists and journalists said Thursday.

The White House has made the decision that such an image won't be released, so the issue may be moot. But CIA Director Leon Panetta, speaking frankly before that decision became final, said he assumed such a picture will surface.

Most news organizations tend to have general guidelines against using pictures of dead people, but they also make exceptions. Think of the iconic pictures of the U.S. servicemen being dragged through the streets of Mogadishu, Somalia, or the Blackwater contractors' bodies hanging from the bridge over the Euphrates in Fallujah, Iraq.

"When this conversation goes well in a newsroom, the very first question an editor asks is, 'What journalistic purpose are we trying to accomplish here?'" said Kelly McBride, a journalism-ethics expert at the Poynter Institute.

In this case, McBride said, there are two legitimate reasons to run the picture: to provide proof for doubters, and to provide accountability to the military and Obama administration that photographic evidence supports their version of events, or does not.

Newsrooms have a lot of options about how to use the image, she said. Broadcasters can limit the amount of time the picture is onscreen, crop it to eliminate the more gruesome details or run it in black-and-white instead of color, she said.

In print, it can be run small, on inside pages, cropped or black-and-white. Or they can opt to keep it out of the paper.

"All news organizations these days have the option to only use the photo online and to put it behind sufficient barriers so people can't accidentally stumble upon it -- so that the only people looking at the photo are the intended audience: the people who either have questions about

whether this is true or people who would like to make sure the American government is telling the truth about what happened," she said.

The Kansas City Star's reader representative, Derek Donovan, has been blogging about the issue and said there has been a lively discussion among photo editors, but "nothing definitive" has been decided about running a picture.

"The Star certainly has a history of having published a lot of pictures of blood and carnage," Donovan said, mentioning the Mogadishu images and, more locally, a decision to show pictures of the aftermath of the Hyatt Regency skyway collapse that killed 114 people in Kansas City, Mo., in 1981.

"That had a couple of bloody -- not necessarily graphic, not individuals who were mangled -- but there was one photo that people still remember well that showed blood on the floor," he said. That history will help to inform any decision on a bin Laden picture.

New Orleans Times-Picayune Managing Editor Peter Kovacs said deliberations in his newsroom will revolve around understanding "what the readers want us to do, what others are doing and the degree to which it was already widely distributed anyhow, as we do with lots of sensitive pictures ... we're pretty cautious."

Others said they would be especially careful about any photo's authenticity in the wake of some fake corpse pictures in circulation, including one composite that used a frame from the 2001 movie "Black Hawk Down" and a superimposed image of the al-Qaida leader.

Bill Densmore, a professor at the Reynolds School of Journalism at the University of Missouri, said it was "absolutely right" for the Associated Press to request the photo through the Freedom of Information Act. But he was also "sort of impressed" with President Barack Obama's rationale for not releasing it and "his comment that, hey, we don't need to spike the football, that there's no reason to gloat."

Densmore said a prospective bin Laden image is a challenging but isolated case, not one to build a policy around.

"The printing of that photo, or not, is less critical a judgment than the question of 'Do we shoot a lot of caskets returning or funerals or battlefield injuries,' because those contribute to a policy formulation that's thoughtful and deliberative and over time and not just the shock value of one photograph," he said.

E.W. Scripps editors across the country are wrestling with the issue as they evaluate its likely impact on their readership. At the Knoxville News Sentinel, Editor Jack McElroy convened meetings to talk about both a corpse picture and possible images of the burial at sea. He said they had "tentatively decided" that such images would run on inside pages with a warning to readers.

Densmore said he would not print the pictures in a newspaper of general circulation but might make images available with a link online. That link would bear the warning, "Beware -- Children

under 13 should not look at this. We really don't think this is something you need to look at but if somehow it's important to see the photograph, click here, here's a link."

McBride said most of the editors she's talked to have told her they "would use it in some form." She said it's hard to decide exactly how without seeing it, however.

"I don't think many people are asking: 'Should we run it if it becomes available?' " she said. "They're asking, 'How should we run it?' "