

FEB 21 2012



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Mo. curators approve average 3 pct tuition hike

University of Missouri students can expect a more modest tuition increase than anticipated in the next academic year, but the savings will likely put an undetermined number of campus employees out of work.

University curators agreed Monday to raise undergraduate tuition at the system's four campuses this fall by an average of 3 percent for state residents. Including student fees, that works out to annual increases of \$259 to \$268 in Columbia, Kansas City, St. Louis and Rolla for those attending full-time.

The increase is less than half the hike university system leaders proposed in late January. It also means the university can avoid seeking a waiver from the state Department of Higher Education _ as well as angering Gov. Jay Nixon, who has warned the university to keep college costs down. The governor's office issued a statement soon after the curators' vote "commending" the decision.

State law limits annual tuition increases to the federal rate of inflation, which is currently at 3 percent. Higher increases require approval by Missouri's higher education department. The Missouri system received such approval last year _ then watched Nixon impose spending restrictions on higher education, beyond those approved by legislators, once he signed his budget into law.

The reduced revenue will likely result in elimination of 200 to 245 full-time jobs that are either vacant or currently filled. Nikki Krawitz, the system's vice president for finance and administration, estimated one-third of those cuts could involve layoffs of existing campus workers.

New university president Tim Wolfe, who took office last week, declined to discuss specifics, in part out of privacy concerns for employees who could be affected. He expects the university to offer more details when curators receive a preliminary budget at their next meeting in April, with a final budget prepared by the end of the current fiscal year on June 30.

"We are trying to do our best to save every single role that we've got," Wolfe said. "But unfortunately, the budget challenge that's presented to us won't allow that to happen."

University officials are using \$18.2 million from the Missouri system's share of a nationwide settlement with mortgage lenders over foreclosure fraud to avoid a bigger tuition increase. But that still leaves the system with a \$47.1 million budget gap to plug over the next four months.

Along with job cuts, that will likely mean reducing spending on once-lauded strategic initiatives such as Mizzou Advantage, a program begun in 2010 to increase the school's national reputation by building on its strengths in such areas food-related research, new media and sustainable energy. Some academic programs and departments could face consolidation or elimination.

One cut university administrators hope to spare is a long-delayed plan to award 3 percent merit pay raises, though fewer employees are likely to get them.

"It's important that we continue to address this challenge we've got of paying our people at market rates," said Wolfe, who joined the university after a 30-year career in private industry. "We have to do that."

The initial tuition proposal released in late January called for increases ranging from 3 percent at the University of Missouri-Kansas City to 9 percent at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla. Curators responded coolly to that proposal and asked administrators to find more spending cuts.

Out-of-state tuition will increase more, with hikes next year of 7.5 percent at the Columbia campus, 8.5 percent in Rolla, 8.2 percent at UMSL and 3 percent at UMKC.

University of Missouri System's in-state tuition rises about 3 percent

Action affects the Columbia, Rolla, St. Louis and Kansas City campuses.

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

The University of Missouri System will raise tuition no more than an average of 3 percent for state residents, less than half what was proposed earlier this month by most of its four campuses.

Nonresidents, however, will find their bills up about 6.8 percent.

Monday's decision by the Board of Curators means the Rolla, Columbia, St. Louis and Kansas City campuses will see an increase roughly equating to inflation next year — while losing nearly 8 percent of current state funding.

The board action raises Mizzou tuition and fees \$268 to \$9,185. UMKC goes up \$259 to \$8,926. Missouri Science and Technology in Rolla will go up \$266 to \$9,290.

MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said his campus — which had asked for 7.5 percent more in in-state tuition — was left with a \$15 million gap to close.

Systemwide, the shortage is \$47.1 million.

“We are taking some chances and gambling a bit,” Deaton said, adding that finding creative ways to run the university with less is an ongoing process.

MU will forgo some “badly needed” repairs and renovations, postpone enhancement of some academic programs and absorb some position vacancies to meet ends.

Systemwide, 200 to 245 full-time jobs could be eliminated.

“We realize the significant economic pressures many Missouri families face and the financial hardship significant increases in public higher education costs can bring,” curators chairman

David Bradley said. "At the same time, the UM System faces rising operating costs just like all businesses."

Earlier this month, when Gov. Jay Nixon talked of cutting funding by 12.5 percent, only the University of Missouri-Kansas City wanted to keep its tuition hike down to inflation.

Then about two weeks ago, after a \$140 million legal settlement with the nation's five largest mortgage banks, Nixon amended his 2013 budget proposal. Even restoring \$40 million to higher education, however, still meant a cut in school funding of 7.8 percent.

Over the last five years, tuition increases at the UM System averaged 2.7 percent.

Between the fiscal years 2007 and 2012, university spending has been trimmed more than \$220 million—including reductions in personnel, travel and training.

UM President Tim Wolfe said: "We recognize that we can no longer rely on the state to be a primary funding source for higher education. As a result, we continue to work diligently to pursue public-private partnerships, research and patenting opportunities that can add even more licensing income to our bottom line, as well as other sources of outside revenue."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

UM tuition increase settles in at 3 percent

BY TIM BARKER • tbarker@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8350 | Posted: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 12:05 am | (3) Comments

Tuition is going up at the University of Missouri but not as much as it could have.

On Monday, the system's Board of Curators approved a 3 percent hike in tuition and fees — less than half the increase under consideration earlier in the month.

Even with the increase, system officials said job cuts, including layoffs, are likely across the four campuses. They'll also be looking to eliminate some programs and slash funding to others as part of an effort to offset a \$47 million budget gap resulting from a cut in state higher education spending and rising campus costs.

"This will continue a trend of doing more with less," said Tim Wolfe, UM's new president. "We need more help. We need more resources."

For in-state residents, the change will raise the per-credit-hour cost to \$234 at the University of Missouri-Columbia and Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, and to \$231 at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

The average cost, including fees, to attend the schools will rise to \$9,185 at Mizzou, \$9,290 at Missouri S&T, \$9,266 at UMSL and \$8,926 at UMKC. The new rates will take effect this summer.

This tuition increase has been something of a yo-yo since it was first mentioned late last year. Initially it was pegged at 3 percent. But then it soared to 6.5 percent in late January after Gov. Jay Nixon revealed plans to trim 12.5 percent from the state's higher education budget.

That move would have cost the UM system \$48 million, prompting administrators to propose their highest tuition increase in nearly a decade.

Things took another turn last week when Nixon said he would soften the blow to higher education by using \$40 million from a nationwide settlement with mortgage lenders. The boost would reduce the proposed cut in higher education funding to 7.8 percent. That still would leave the UM system with \$30 million less than it received this year.

With curators basing this lower tuition increase on the governor's plan, they expressed some concern about the mortgage settlement funds, which still must make it through the state budgeting process.

"Let's hope and pray the settlement comes through and is appropriated," said Curator Warren Erdman. "That money isn't certain."

In the event that something happens to the cash before it makes it into the higher education coffers, the system may have to make further adjustments, officials said. It is highly unlikely, however, that a second tuition increase would be considered this year. The campuses need to lock in their tuition rates — upon which financial aid packages are based — well before the summer semester arrives.

Administrators said they will have a better idea by April of specific plans for closing the \$47 million budget gap. They expect to trim as many as 245 jobs across the four campuses through a mixture of layoffs and leaving some open positions unfilled. A third of that number may come through layoffs, said Nikki Krawitz, the system's vice president of finance.

By keeping the tuition increase at the rate of inflation, curators have avoided a couple of potential headaches. A higher increase would have forced the system to seek approval, in the form of a waiver, from the commissioner for higher education, to avoid financial penalties.

There also was the potential for conflict with Nixon, who has taken a hard line in recent years over tuition increases, urging schools to cut costs and be more efficient. Last year, UM went beyond the 5 percent hike Nixon had urged. The governor responded by taking away an extra 1.1 percent of state appropriations from the system.

Within an hour of the curators' decision Monday, Nixon's office issued a release applauding the restrained move.

"This decision ensures that more Missouri families will be able to afford a college education that will prepare students for rewarding careers," Nixon said in the release.

Not surprisingly, students on UMSL's campus weren't quite as thrilled.

"I get a little upset, but I understand the university has to make a profit. They have to get their money somewhere," said Stacey Sisley, a St. Louis senior studying criminology.

But for most, the increase is simply one more line item waiting to be added to the rising cost of a college degree.

"At this point, I'm in so deep, the extra 3 percent isn't going to make a lot of difference," said Daniel Ryan, a Crestwood junior studying finance.



MU in-state tuition to increase 3 percent

By Janese Silvey

University of Missouri System administrators heeded Gov. Jay Nixon's warning and capped in-state tuition increases at the inflation level today.

MU students from Missouri will see tuition go up by 3 percent next school year, a smaller increase than expected. That equates to about \$7.80 more per credit hour, or \$268 more a year for most students — bringing a year's tuition from \$8,917 this year to \$9,185 next year. Out-of-state undergraduates at MU, though, will still see the 7.5 percent increase the UM Board of Curators considered earlier this month in Kansas City.

Curators unanimously approved the new rates at a teleconference meeting this morning with little discussion. Board Chairman David Bradley said curators realize economic hardships Missouri families are facing but that the UM System faces rising costs.

"The board's decision to hold tuition increases at all four campuses to the rate of inflation is a result of increased operating efficiencies, the governor's reduction of the proposed cut in state appropriations and our commitment to ensure that a college education is attainable and affordable to all Missourians," Bradley said in a prepared statement.

The increases also included spikes in certain course fees at MU, with Trulaske College of Business students seeing the largest increase. Business students will pay \$70.10 per credit hour, an increase of \$17.30, or 32.8 percent. Journalism, engineering and health professions students also will see course fees increase. Tuition and fee changes take effect when the summer semester starts.

Because in-state tuition does not exceed the consumer price index, the UM System will not need approval from the state. The law governing tuition does not apply to out-of-state or graduate students or to fees that are not charged to all students.

The tuition and fee increases reflect an "accurate and fair depiction of where we are today," UM President Tim Wolfe said.

UM administrators earlier this month pitched tuition increases that equated to an average of a 6.5 percent increase across the four campuses, with all MU students seeing a 7.5 percent increase. Those numbers were based on Nixon's preliminary budget that slashed higher education funding by 12.5 percent.

Earlier this month, though, a national mortgage settlement plugged \$40 million into his higher education budget, lessening the cut to about 8 percent.

Nixon has repeatedly warned universities to keep tuition at or below the consumer price index, roughly 3 percent. In a statement, Nixon praised the board for capping tuition at inflation.

"This decision ensures that more Missouri families will be able to afford a college education that will prepare students for rewarding careers," he said.

Last year, Nixon punished schools, including the UM System, that increased tuition by more than his recommendation.

It would have taken an 8 percent tuition increase to plug the state funding cut now being considered, which amounts to a \$30 million loss for the UM System, Nikki Krawitz, vice president of finance and administration, said. With tuition and enrollment increases and the lesser state cut, the UM System is facing a \$47 million budget gap this coming year. That will likely result in between 200 and 245 full-time positions being kept vacant or eliminated, she said.

Wolfe warned that campuses are continuing to do more with less and that quality will be affected if the trend continues. "We continue to be at a tipping point for quality and once again will have to make difficult budget choices," he said.

Several times during and after the meeting, Wolfe made a public cry for help, saying the university needs new revenue sources. "We need some help to close this gap," he said.

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.

MU tuition will go up 3 percent for in-state undergrads

By Breanna Dumbacher, Celia Ampel

February 20, 2012 | 7:31 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — The president of the Missouri Students Association said he expected tuition increases because of state funding cuts. But, Xavier Billingsley said Monday, MSA's recent campaign to get more state money for higher education was not a lost battle.

The student association led a letter-signing drive that drew more than 6,000 supporters urging Gov. Jay Nixon and legislators to increase state funding.

"We weren't fighting for lower tuition," Billingsley said. "We were fighting for more assistance from the government."

Earlier, the University of Missouri System Board of Curators voted unanimously to raise MU undergraduate tuition by 3 percent for residents and 7.5 percent for nonresidents. Starting this summer:

- **In-state tuition based on 12 credit hours will increase from \$3,139.20 to \$3,232.80.**
- **Out-of-state tuition based on 12 credit hours will increase from \$8,017.20 to \$8,876.40.**

"The tuition increase was lower than expected, and we are happy about that," said Ben Levin, chairman of the student association's academic affairs committee.

Both Levin and Billingsley said they plan to continue encouraging lawmakers to fund higher education.

"We've been getting lots of positive feedback from legislators and people high up in the community," Levin said. "And we're not finished yet."

Levin and Billingsley both said they recognize that tuition is a large source of revenue for the UM System. Tuition revenue makes up about two-thirds of the system's \$1.1 billion operating budget.

"It does start with lawmakers," Levin said. "And ultimately the curators are doing what they have to to make sure the university has sufficient funding."

Junior Allie Helz, who signed an MSA letter, said she feels the growing difference in resident and non-resident tuition is unjust. Helz, who is from The Woodlands, Texas, said her parents pay for her college expenses.

"Whether it's a struggle or not (for me), I feel like it's unfair for them to increase tuition by that much," Helz said. "I don't feel like there's a legitimate reason for it."

How financial aid helps

At Monday's meeting, Nikki Krawitz, the system's vice president for finance administration, said financial aid will help many students afford the higher tuition.

The average MU resident undergraduate student is projected to receive \$3,986 in grant aid for the 2012-13 school year, according to UM System data. Average tuition and fees for that group is projected to be \$9,185 — meaning that net cost amounts to \$5,199.

"The actual cost to students is well below the sticker price," Krawitz said.

For in-state students with family income levels of less than \$40,000, grant aid brings MU tuition down to an average of \$778.

MU sets aside a part of each tuition increase and puts it into financial aid, Nick Prewett, interim director of student financial aid, said.

How state funding affected the vote

The tuition vote comes after Nixon proposed a 15 percent cut in state funding for higher education in January. Nixon later said he would add a one-time allocation of \$40 million from a national mortgage settlement to higher education, bringing the cut in state funding down to 9 percent from last year's budget.

Although curators have the power to vote again on tuition if the settlement money doesn't come through, Krawitz said Monday's vote is likely final.

"This would probably stick, and we would have to look at other options and address that in a subsequent year," Krawitz said at a news conference after the board meeting.

Faculty and staff cuts

With the tuition increases, the system will still have a budget gap of \$47.1 million. The board recognized that tough decisions will have to be made to fund this gap.

Krawitz said at the meeting that between 200 and 245 faculty and staff positions will likely have to be cut. About one-third of these cuts will come from positions that are currently filled, she said.

"We will not talk about the specifics," new system President Tim Wolfe said. "That's a work in process. We are doing our best to save every single role we've got, but unfortunately, the budget process just won't allow that to happen."

Krawitz said that by April, the board will have more information about where the cuts might come from. The budget must be finalized in June.

Wolfe said, however, that tuition increases and cutting positions alone will not bridge the gap.

"This \$47 million gap that we described to you, we need help," Wolfe said at the news conference. "We need more money, and we're looking for more sources of money. In the snapshot in time, that's where it is today. We need help."

The working budget for the UM System still includes a 3 percent merit-based salary increase for faculty. Wolfe said this increase was necessary to maintain what he called academic success. He was referring to one of the system's stated goals in developing the budget: "Maintaining and enhancing the quality of the student academic experience is the highest priority."

"We have to address this challenge that we have in paying our people at market rates," Wolfe said.

Push for donations

Krawitz said Monday that increased donor support for scholarships and faculty positions could help the UM System make up its budget deficit.

The MU Office of Development and Alumni Relations launched a comprehensive campaign in January that focuses on student scholarships, faculty and staff, said Catey Terry, director of development communications.

The campaign, which aims to raise at least \$1 billion during the next eight to 10 years, has been in planning stages since 2008. Terry said the campaign is not a reaction to this round of state funding cuts and tuition increases, but that what happens in Jefferson City has always affected donation campaigns.

"The landscape has been changing over the years, and so scholarships have always been a priority," Terry said.

The campaign is in the "quiet phase," meaning the office has not made a public call for donations. Staffers are working with people who have donated in the past to get early, large gifts to motivate others to donate.

Stats on the state

The new in-state undergraduate tuition increase reflects the rate of inflation, also 3 percent. Curators cannot raise in-state tuition by more than the rate of inflation without receiving a waiver from the state Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

Curators do not need a waiver to raise out-of-state tuition.

Undergraduate tuition is increasing systemwide by at least 2.9 percent. Here is the breakdown at the system's three other campuses:

- University of Missouri-Kansas City: 3 percent, both residents and nonresidents.
- University of Missouri-St. Louis: 3.1 percent, residents; 8.2 percent, nonresidents.
- Missouri University of Science and Technology: 2.9 percent, residents; 8.5 percent, nonresidents.

Fee increases were approved earlier this month.

Increases in MU graduate student tuition are the same, 3 percent, for resident and nonresident students.

theman eater

Curators vote to increase tuition for in-state, out-of-state students

Even with the tuition increases, MU will face a \$47.1 million budget gap.

By Caroline Bauman

In-state students will see a 3 percent increase in tuition next year and out-of-state students will see a 7.5 percent increase, after the UM System Board of Curators approved the respective rises Monday.

The board voted to hold tuition increases for in-state undergraduate students to the rate of inflation, or a \$268 increase per semester, according to a UM System news release. Graduate tuition for in-state and out-of-state residents is also set to increase by 3 percent.

Board of Curators chairman David Bradley said the board realized the financial hardship that significant increases in higher education could bring to Missouri families.

"The UM System faces rising operating costs just like all businesses," Bradley said in the news release. "The board's decision to hold tuition increases at all four campuses to the rate of inflation is a result of increased operating efficiencies, the governor's reduction of the proposed cut in state appropriations and our commitment to ensure that a college education is attainable and affordable to all Missourians."

Corbin Evans, legislative director for the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, said the increases could not only discourage students from applying but also affect students currently enrolled.

"We acknowledge the fact this could decrease the number of Missourians who are able to attend," Evans said. "Students who are looking at graduating without debts could suddenly be looking at student loans. Worse, students could no longer be able to finish their four years."

Given the situation, junior and ASUM intern Sydney Miller said she understands why the board made its decision.

"(ASUM) is very aware the budget outlook for the system is very grim," Miller said. "I agree that it needed to be done, but I am sad to see students footing the bill."

In the original budget proposal, Gov. Jay Nixon proposed a 12.5 percent cut to higher education. He announced earlier this month \$40 million would be added to higher education funding, dropping cuts to 7.8 percent.

Even with the reduction in cuts and the increase in tuition, the UM System still faces a \$47.1 million budget gap, UM System President Tim Wolfe said in the release. The gap will likely result in personnel cuts, program eliminations and diversion of planned investments in strategic priorities.

Miller said though the added \$40 million was a life saver for higher education, it was important to realize the additional funding was not enough.

"My fear is that people think the \$40 million extra will be enough, and that couldn't be further from the truth," Miller said.

Miller also said though students tend to be the focus of funding issues, faculty should be taken into account, as well.

"With higher education funding cuts, people tend to focus on the students, but UM also has a hiring and salary freeze," Miller said. "We need to have competitive wages and the best faculty in order to stay competitive as a university with other states."

For the fiscal year 2012, MU tuition fell below the average tuition of other Southeastern Conference schools by \$1,194, according to a UM System presentation.

According to the news release, between the fiscal years 2007 and 2012, UM System annual tuition increases have averaged 2.7 percent, compared to the average 6.2 percent tuition increases in surrounding states.

"In comparison, Missouri has had lower tuition costs than most surrounding universities," Evans said. "It has been a haven of more affordable education but is now treading the line of becoming more expensive."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Mizzou Advantage names first visiting professional

By Lauren Page

February 20, 2012 | 1:51 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA – Mizzou Advantage, a program meant to make MU more competitive in higher education, will get a boost this month when its first visiting professional arrives.

Glen Nowak, senior adviser to the director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, accepted a part-time, one-year appointment as the inaugural Mizzou Advantage Distinguished Professional.

His appointment began Jan. 1, and his first stint on campus will be Feb. 27-March 2.

At the CDC, Nowak leads efforts in science communication, health communication, risk communication, news media, social marketing and public engagement. He has worked on risk management strategies for areas including vaccine safety and food-borne illness risks.

Before working as senior adviser, Nowak was chief of media relations at the CDC and an associate professor of advertising and public relations at the University of Georgia. There, he shared an office with Glen Cameron, who holds the Maxine Wilson Gregory Chair in Journalism Research at MU.

"He's on a first-name basis with health and science journalists all over the country," Cameron said of Nowak. "It's amazing to see the top journalists in the contact list on his cellphone."

As a visiting professional, Nowak will work on communication strategies regarding science, health, environmental issues and risk management. He will work with campus groups on crisis and risk communications to use in an emergency. In addition, he will give lectures and hold workshops on these topics.

Nowak will work on one of four Mizzou Advantage initiatives: "Media of the Future," which draws on the School of Journalism's leadership in media research and hands-on training and creates new ways to communicate.

"I'll have a chance to learn from some of the best faculty and students in the country," he said.

Once on campus, Nowak will map out a plan for his year with Mizzou Advantage.

"Visibility and impact on funded research are the two things he can really bring," Cameron said.

Mizzou Advantage, a long-term strategic plan to raise the stature and impact of MU, is the brainchild of Provost Brian Foster, said Meg Phillips, director of Mizzou Advantage. She said that starting in 2007, faculty, staff, students and alumni worked to identify some of MU's areas of strength over the course of three years.

The program rolled out in 2010 with five initiatives to capitalize on those strengths.

In addition to Media of the Future, the initiatives are: "Sustainable Energy"; "Food for the Future"; and the convergence of human and animal health, called "One Health, One Medicine."

An announcement from the the provost on Thursday said the fifth initiative, "Managing Innovation," is common to the other initiatives and, rather than standing on its own, will now be emphasized in the context of the other topics.

Nowak said one reason he is looking forward to his work on Mizzou Advantage is its focus on faculty, researchers and students working together across disciplines.

"Projects work better when people from different areas of expertise work together to achieve a common goal," he said. "The project is stronger as a result."

As the first visiting professional, Nowak is helping to achieve one of Mizzou Advantage's goals of utilizing professionals from a variety of backgrounds to create an interdisciplinary learning environment.

"Nowak is a huge figure in public health," said Charles Davis, facilitator for the Media of the Future initiative of Mizzou Advantage.

"I can't imagine how much stuff is going to spin out of it," Davis said. "We couldn't bring in a better professional to help us achieve the Mizzou Advantage goals."

Alden outlines MU's preparations for SEC football in letter

By TEREZ A. PAYLOR

COLUMBIA -- Change is certainly on the horizon for Missouri football, which is a point athletic director Mike Alden hammered home in a letter to fans released by the school Monday afternoon.

With the Tigers' move to the Southeastern Conference approaching in July, Alden provided insight Monday on topics ranging from ticket prices to uniforms and stadium updates as the school attempts to "step up" and improve "in all areas."

Alden said MU will be raising football ticket prices "across the board" with the exception of faculty and students. How much Missouri will do so is unclear, but the letter states the prices will place Missouri in the middle of the pack of the SEC.

He also said the artificial turf surface at Memorial Stadium will be replaced this summer at a cost of \$1.5 million. SEC logos will be added, the Tiger logo at midfield will be larger, and the diamonds in the endzones will read "Mizzou" instead of "Missouri."

The design of the new field hints at another big change. The school's official rebranding will be unveiled during the Tigers' spring football game April 14. Alden said Missouri has been working with Nike for more than 18 months on unifying the gold and letter font in all uniforms to make it consistent across all sports.

Other changes are coming to Memorial Stadium. Alden said the MU band will move from the south end zone to the southeast corner of the student section and the school will increase visiting teams' ticket allotment from 3,800 to 6,000. And because of SEC rules, Missouri fans will not be allowed to exit and re-enter during the game as they have been able to in years past.

Alden also said Mark Alnutt, Missouri's senior associate athletics director, is working to finalize the 2012 football schedule. The Tigers currently have 11 games scheduled, and need one more. Alden has said in the past he hopes to have the schedule done by March 1.