

04 2012

APR 04 2012



MU budget includes increase for salary pool

By Janese Silvey

Some employees on the University of Missouri's Columbia campus could see a pay raise next year, but layoffs, consolidation of programs and cuts to research funding also are possible, according to a budget heading to the UM Board of Curators this week.

The board meets Thursday and Friday at Missouri University of Science & Technology in Rolla. It's the last time curators are expected to review the 2013 spending plan before being asked to sign off on it in June.

The budget calls for a 2 percent increase in the salary budget at MU, though that doesn't mean every MU professor and staff member will see a 2 percent raise, said Nikki Krawitz, UM vice president of finance and administration.

"The budgeted increase will be used in a variety of different ways depending on what the salary and wage needs are on campus," she said.

Raises could be given to workers whose salary falls below market average, assistant or associate professors who are promoted or to reward employees based on merit, Krawitz said.

MU is budgeting the largest percentage increase for salaries. The UM System budget shows a 1.5 percent increase for salaries at Missouri S&T and a 1 percent hike on the Kansas City and St. Louis campuses. Salary pools, like tuition, are being decoupled among the four campuses based on their individual market needs, Krawitz said.

Budget documents warn of workforce reductions to offset what would be a \$35.3 million funding gap. In the worst-case scenario, 245 jobs are at risk across the system, UM System President Tim Wolfe told MU Faculty Council members last month.

When staff is reduced, faculty members feel it, said Harry Tyrer, chairman of the council. "If you were to take a poll, I think most faculty would be willing to forgo a raise if it meant that somebody was not going to be laid off," he said.

Other cost-saving ideas include decreases in the amount of general revenue funding research and consolidation and elimination of academic programs and departments, according to board documents.

It's unclear, though, whether cuts will be necessary. Administrators are budgeting based on Gov. Jay Nixon's proposed state budget, which called for a \$30 million cut to the UM System.

The House has since restored the money, but the university will use Nixon's numbers until he finalizes the state budget in June, UM spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said.

Last year, even after lawmakers restored money to higher education in a budget they sent to Nixon, the governor cut it again in the form of a withholding.

The university's total budget is \$2.7 billion, 25 percent of which is generated and spent on health care services, and another 21 percent is generated by and spent on services such as dorms, bookstores and athletics.

The operating budget, which pays for salaries and everyday expenses, is roughly \$1 billion and is made up of taxpayer and tuition dollars. Tuition at MU is going up 3 percent for Missouri undergraduates and 7.5 percent for out-of-state students. With expected enrollment increases, tuition is expected to bring in \$752 million next year, \$41 million more than last year.

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



National journalism institute to move to MU

Published April 3, 2012 at 8:30 p.m.

The American Society of News Editors plans to move its headquarters from Reston, Va., to the Reynolds Journalism Institute on the University of Missouri campus.

The relocation will allow MU journalism faculty and students to collaborate on research and projects. Already, ASNE and RJI administrators are planning joint research, experimentation and training programs aimed at creating new methods of creating and delivering journalism.

“The future of the news industry will be fueled by innovation and engagement, and this pivotal partnership will help drive both,” said Ken Paulson, president of ASNE and chief executive of the First Amendment Center.

ASNE began searching for a new home last year as part of a strategic plan to ensure the organization remains at the forefront of innovation in the news industry.

ASNE Treasurer David Boardman, executive editor of The Seattle Times, led the search process. In a statement, he cited three elements that made Missouri the top choice: the school’s commitment to serving the profession, its history of successful partnerships, and its leadership in innovation, particularly through RJI.

“Imagine the power and promise of bringing the day-to-day experience of ASNE’s members together with the innovation and insight of the innovative journalists, researchers and bright students working at the Reynolds Institute,” Boardman said. “I have no doubt this collaboration will be a force for meaningful innovation in the news industry.”

The university will provide a variety of support services to ASNE in Columbia, as well as additional space in its National Press Building offices in Washington, D.C.

The ASNE partnership starts immediately, and its move to RJI will occur over the next few months.