

UM curators review proposed budget

By Janese Silvey

Friday, April 6, 2012

ROLLA — If state lawmakers are able to restore a proposed cut to higher education, the University of Missouri's four campuses will take another look at salary raises and building needs in the coming year.

But don't expect chancellors to restore cuts they've identified in areas not considered top priority.

"We won't be going back to doing the same old, same old," UM President Tim Wolfe told the Board of Curators yesterday.

Curators reviewed a spending plan that shows a \$35 million deficit because of a \$30 million cut in state funds proposed earlier this year. It also accounts for salary increases. MU administrators are budgeting for a 2 percent raise in the salary pool, with the money being doled out for promotion, tenure and merit.

That doesn't mean everyone's getting a raise, and some on the MU campus who are "grossly underpaid or high-performing faculty" could see higher percentages, Provost Brian Foster said.

During a break, Foster told the Tribune it's tough to talk about the 2013 budget right now because state lawmakers haven't finalized how much money will be coming to the university. Plus, revenue depends on enrollment, which also is in flux.

Gov. Jay Nixon's budget called for a \$30 million cut to the UM System, but the House restored the funding, in part by cutting money from a program that provides medical coverage to blind people. The Senate is expected to discuss the blind program next week. Both Wolfe and UM Vice President of Governmental Relations Steve Knorr have said the university isn't commenting on where state funds are coming from.

Other UM chancellors are asking for smaller increases to their salary pools based on market needs. UM-Kansas City and UM-St. Louis are looking at 1 percent increases. At the Missouri University of Science & Technology, 1.5 percent is the "maximum we can accommodate without cutting to the bone," new Chancellor Cheryl Schrader said. All three chancellors agreed they would take another look at salaries if the state funding comes in.

It's unlikely at this point that the General Assembly's budget will include Nixon's cut, Knorr told the board. If the \$30 million cut were to become reality, Wolfe has warned, as many as 200 jobs across the system would be at risk.

Curators yesterday also took another look at the system's investments and assets. Administrators are coming up with ways to tweak their investment portfolio to offset rising costs in benefits. The board is expected to see a recommendation at the June meeting in Columbia.



Wolfe wants to stop the 'blame game'

By JANESE SILVEY

Published April 6, 2012 at 1:24 p.m.

Updated April 7, 2012 at 2 a.m.

ROLLA — University of Missouri System administrators will stop complaining about how the state isn't giving the growing campuses enough money, by the direct order of UM System President Tim Wolfe.

During public comments at yesterday's Board of Curators meeting, Wolfe said the university needs to "stop playing the blame game."

The attitude is a significant shift in university mind-set. For years, before administrators would start public budget presentations, they would set the stage by showing graphs of sliding state support offset by tuition spikes over the past decade or two. Those historical funding trends are ingrained in university discourse.

"I don't see much value in that," Wolfe said. "It's water under the bridge."

He pointed out that during those same periods, the four UM campuses thrived in spite of state cuts. Enrollment continues to reach historic highs, and students, armed with increasing ACT scores, are staying and graduating at higher rates than their predecessors.

"There are lots of things to brag about," Wolfe said. "We should focus on the positive efforts and the future instead of complaining about the past. To use another analogy, we should be looking out the window, not in the rear-view mirror."

Coming into view in that window is a new strategic plan. Wolfe hopes to start drafting the document in the next 90 days.

He envisions using someone with planning expertise to bring together core groups of people from the four campuses to set five- to 10-year goals. As the plan is drafted, Wolfe expects to vet it with curators, alumni, faculty and lawmakers.

The blueprint will, among other things, likely call for the colleges to be affordable while still offering high-quality education, Wolfe said.

Creating a strategic plan was one of the ideas in a six-point plan Wolfe outlined during the board meeting yesterday.

Also on the president's agenda is a focus on attracting and retaining the best possible faculty, staff and students.

"People are our greatest asset," Wolfe said. "We're going to focus on investing in people."

Wolfe called for more efficiency as well, pointing to "opportunities to drive out waste in the administrative process."

Later, he said that likely will include more centralization to do away with costly, outdated processes.

The Board of Curators is taking the lead. Starting later this summer, some board materials will be available only online to cut down on paper use and staff time, said Cindy Harmon, board secretary. Over time, all board documents will migrate from paper to an electronic format using a software system UM already owns.

Harmon estimates the changes will save the university \$10,000 a year on paper, print cartridges and staff resources.

Wolfe's way of thinking seems to have support from curators. Chairman David Bradley reiterated focusing on the four campuses' successes and said curators are interested in seeing how they can operate more efficiently.

"We're pleased with the energetic start of our new president," he said of Wolfe, who began his duties in February.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

UM System President Tim Wolfe outlines strategic priorities

By [Zach Murdock](#)

April 6, 2012 | 12:22 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Tim Wolfe made his first official presentation as University of Missouri System president to the Board of Curators on Friday morning.

In it, Wolfe outlined six priorities for the system, including retaining the best faculty and staff, expanding e-Learning opportunities, eliminating wasteful administrative processes and building a stronger communication plan to convey the system's value to Missouri residents and legislators.

"We must chart our own course instead of having someone chart it for us," he said.

Wolfe said the 90-day game plan needs to be building a strategic plan that focuses on these priorities and watching carefully the development of a final state budget, which could include stable funding for public colleges and universities for next year.

No major votes took place Friday at the curators meeting.

Typically, the board would hold votes on any action items discussed at its Thursday meetings following presentations by the board chairman, system president and campus chancellors on Friday morning.

But a change in procedure approved before the meetings began Thursday afternoon placed full-board votes directly after each committee meeting.

Coupled with a change in scenery — there were no ropes separating the curators from the public seating — the board is trying to make the meetings more accessible and comfortable, Wolfe said Friday.

In addition, there were no chancellor's reports Friday as curators welcomed [Cheryl Schrader](#) to her first board meeting as the new chancellor of Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Board chairman David Bradley also spoke Friday and introduced an Advancing Missouri video, highlighting the ways the UM System has an effect on southeast Missouri.

On Thursday, the board discussed several issues, including faculty salary increases, the system's preliminary budget and an investment structure for UM System employees' retirement fund.

At a press conference following the meetings Friday, Wolfe recapped his strategic priorities and spoke to the differences he's seen between the education and business environments and how implementing priorities in each environment has its own challenges.

"The major difference that I see and have experienced since being in this role," Wolfe said, "is that you have much more creativity, innovation, expertise and counsel available to you than what you have in the business environment."

"That's a heck of a lot of mental horsepower if you can tap into it appropriately."

The presentations Friday concluded the curator's April meetings, the last regularly scheduled meetings before the final state budget is due in May. When the board meets in full again in June, curators will see a version of the system budget that takes into account whatever final state appropriation will be provided to public colleges and universities.



MU's NSEI to stay put for a while

By Janese Silvey

Sunday, April 8, 2012

The University of Missouri will keep the Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute intact — at least until the institute's last student earns a degree.

That's one of few certainties about the future of NSEI, though. Administrators and NSEI professors are still discussing where the institute should be housed and how it should better involve faculty from across campus.

"We're on a very good track," Provost Brian Foster said. "There's still a lot of discussion to take place about the details about how this is going to play out."

Last month, NSEI faculty and students learned that Graduate Dean George Justice planned to do away with the institute as part of a Graduate School restructuring. The announcement was made on a Monday, NSEI's website was taken down by Thursday, and the four core professors were told to find new academic homes within two years.

Students, faculty from across campus, parents and alumni expressed immediate concerns about the impact on future employment and research grants.

In hindsight, the process could have been handled better, Foster said.

"The way the announcement was made caught people by surprise in a way that wasn't helpful," he said.

Since then, though, "we've come back with a whole lot of input," he said. "We listened, and it's going to lead to a very good, positive outcome."

Foster stressed the intent was never to do away with nuclear engineering degrees; rather, the question was whether NSEI's structure was appropriate under the helm of the Graduate School, which doesn't typically manage faculty members.

NSEI as an institute still likely will move to another college or school, Foster said, but those discussions are ongoing. There are several scenarios, including one that would keep NSEI intact as part of a larger campus consortium that revolves around research and academics related to nuclear technologies.

Even if it someday transforms into a different program, the NSEI website and brand will be around for several years, at least. Students who have been admitted for next fall will be guaranteed the institute stays in existence until they earn doctorates, which could take years.

Sudarshan Loyalka, curators professor of nuclear engineering, called the meetings so far "productive and constructive." He said NSEI faculty are pleased the institute will remain fully operational, and he is hoping that after additional meetings, "more good news would follow."

Graduate student Jenny Schutte said she was happy to hear about the university's decision to change its timetable.

"I think this is a much more measured approach that is going to give all parties a positive outcome," she said. "The initial way they tried to do it was just too fast with no interim planning. This sounds much better."

Schutte said students have been keeping each other informed of any changes as the situation progresses.

"There has been an air of cautious optimism this whole past week," she said. "We knew they were in discussion, but also we knew nobody could talk about the final details."

NSEI began a decade ago, after nuclear engineering faculty members were moved out of the College of Engineering and into the Graduate School. The idea was to bring together nuclear resources on campus.

"NSEI had some big successes; they've done some really good things," Foster said. "What they didn't do was bring together all campus assets."

That's the goal of any future changes, he said. "The good news agenda is to create a campuswide interdisciplinary nuclear science and engineering program with international visibility."



MU medical school eyes Springfield expansion

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

Saturday, April 7, 2012

Expanding the University of Missouri School of Medicine to include a clinical campus in southwest Missouri would require an estimated \$30 million building project in Columbia.

A proposed new medical school teaching facility would provide education for an additional 32 medical students, increasing by one-third the number admitted each year to the MU School of Medicine. The first two years of the program would be spent in Columbia; the third and fourth would be spent training with physicians in the Springfield area. Officials outlined the plan yesterday at a Springfield news conference.

An economic impact study suggested construction alone would add 475 jobs and \$56.5 million to the state's economy, with significantly higher impact once trained doctors are in place.

MU School of Medicine officials and representatives of Springfield hospitals Sisters of Mercy Health and CoxHealth began discussing the plan more than two years ago. The Springfield hospitals initiated the talks with an eye on aging baby boomers, demand for rural doctors and the steady flow of retiring family physicians.

"There's just not enough physicians to take care of the current population, let alone the increasing population over the next 20 years," said Weldon Webb, associate dean for rural health at the MU School of Medicine.

David Barbe, regional division president of Mercy Clinic, said building a new free-standing medical school in Springfield would cost \$500 million to \$800 million, so this plan could increase the number of medical school students "at the least possible cost."

"Any other model would cost more," he said, adding that new buildings, labs and faculty would be needed in Columbia to accommodate a larger crop of students.

"Right now in Columbia, they're on top of each other," Barbe said. "We couldn't shoehorn another in if we had to."

Webb said he has spent the past year and a half making the case for the clinical campus and medical school expansion, citing positive outcomes such as better access to health care, expansion of medical higher education and economic development.

"I've yet to find a person who thinks it's a bad idea," he said.

There's no indication yet that the General Assembly or Gov. Jay Nixon will embrace the plan, though. A Nixon spokesman declined comment to the Associated Press yesterday.

"I think they know what's going on," Webb said. "There's no resources at this time to do that."

Webb said the project, which would require a combination of private donations and state funding, could welcome its first 128-student class about 24 months after construction begins. Two years after that, 30 to 35 of those students would complete clinical training in Springfield.

"I'm pretty certain it's going to happen," Webb said. "I just don't know how long it's going to take to get the funding in place."

Webb said the medical school now admits 96 new students each year from among 1,500 applicants. An expansion would help stem the flow of students going to other states. Data indicate nearly half of doctors trained in Columbia stay in Missouri.

Barbe, a family physician for nearly 30 years in Mountain Grove, said he is optimistic the plan would happen, but he thinks it won't happen quickly.

"We have to be planning now if we hope to address the physician shortage that we know will be present over the next 10 to 20 years," he said. "We simply do not have the number of physicians in the pipeline now to care for the population of the future."

MU medical school seeks Springfield campus

Associated Press | Posted: Friday, April 6, 2012 2:52 pm | (0) comments.

Faced with a national shortage of rural physicians, heavy but unmet demand from would-be doctors and limited classroom space, the University of Missouri wants to expand its medical school with a second campus in Springfield.

The Columbia-based School of Medicine joined health care providers CoxHealth and Sisters of Mercy Health to support a clinical campus in southwest Missouri. The program would provide third- and fourth-year medical students who started their training in Columbia with hands-on experience treating patients at two Springfield hospitals, under the supervision of doctors at CoxHealth and St. John's Hospital, which is owned by the Mercy Health system. The plan was outlined Friday afternoon at a news conference at the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

"You literally require more patients to build up a medical school," said Steve Edwards, president and chief executive officer for CoxHealth. "And Springfield is one of the largest cities in the country without a medical school."

Most of the medical school's physical expansion would occur in Columbia, which now admits just 96 new students each year from 1,500 applicants.

That makes the medical school at the state's largest university roughly half the size of peer institutions at St. Louis University, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences and even the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine at A.T. Still University, in terms of student enrollment. Under the proposed expansion, Missouri would boost its first-year class by 32 students, a one-third increase.

And doctors trained in Columbia_ nearly 45 percent _ are more likely to remain in the state after they graduate, said Weldon Webb, associate dean for rural health at the University of Missouri School of Medicine.

"We're the No. 1 provider of practicing physicians in the state, even though we are one of the smaller programs in Missouri," he said.

Edwards and other boosters of the Springfield program note that the region is growing faster than the rest of the state, particularly in the resort town of Branson and communities near Table Rock Lake. A recent Missouri Hospital Association report shows the state's rural areas have fewer primary care physicians per person than urban ones, with a disproportionate share of rural doctors approaching retirement age.

"We forecast future needs that will outstrip our ability to serve the region," Edwards said.

An economic impact study commissioned by the Springfield-Green County Regional Health Commission suggests that construction alone would add 475 jobs and \$56.5 million to the state's economy, with the full impact once trained doctors are in place considerably higher.

The flip side of that good news? A new medical education building in Columbia would cost \$30 million, with another \$10 million in additional operating costs each year. That could be a tough sell in Jefferson City, where earlier this year Gov. Jay Nixon proposed a \$106 million cut to higher education in the next fiscal year. A \$40 million contribution from the national mortgage fraud settlement reduced that planned cut, and state lawmakers have largely agreed on a budget that would spare public colleges and universities from any reductions.

Campus building projects have floundered in recent years, with failed efforts to tap into federal stimulus funds and money from Missouri's student loan agency, including a long-sought replacement for the aging Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, a part of the University of Missouri's flagship campus in Columbia.

"The big issue is funding," said Webb, who added that the project could benefit from federal grants and a hoped-for robust private fundraising effort in southwest Missouri.

A Nixon spokesman declined an interview request Friday afternoon.

The doctors-in-training would be evenly split among the two Springfield hospitals, Edwards said, expanding the medical school's footprint in southwest Missouri, where MU students have helped staff rural clinics in towns such as Monett, Aurora and Mt. Vernon since 2005.

Webb said the university was initially contacted by the Springfield hospitals, with the parties signing an agreement in 2010. Edwards said the hospitals had been approached by four potential medical school partners "of varying stature," but the decision to work with MU was an easy one.

He added that the project has received favorable reviews in informal discussions in the Capitol, though no specific funding request has been made. He summarized the pitch to lawmakers: "It's about expanding access to healthcare, it's about education and it's about economic opportunity."

MU eyes city for clinical campus

Springfield leaders and University of Missouri officials said Friday they would like to create a “clinical campus” for medical school students in Springfield.

The campus would allow 32 students from each class to spend their final two years of medical school in Springfield observing doctors from CoxHealth and Mercy Hospital Springfield and helping to treat patients.

“This is truly a Good Friday,” said Jim Anderson, the president of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce at a news conference to tout the idea.

The new campus would require the University of Missouri to build a \$30 million medical education building at its Columbia campus and an additional \$10 million in funding each year.

MU officials said they hope to raise much of the money for the building from private foundations.

Medical School Dean Bob Churchill acknowledged that it could be difficult to get funding for the campus from the state legislature.

“It’s hard to find extra money to do these things when they’re cutting other programs,” Churchill said.

A study that MU and local hospitals commissioned said that the economic impact of the campus statewide could be \$390 million. This figure would be after 27 years and is mostly from the impact of new doctors. The campus would also allow MU to admit 32 more medical school students a year.

Missouri and other states face growing demands on doctors because of health care reform. More than 90 percent of Missouri counties lack adequate access to health care professionals.

The heads of Mercy Hospital Springfield and CoxHealth were enthusiastic about the possible project.

Jon Swope, the president and CEO of Mercy Springfield Communities, said each family practice physician at Mercy currently sees about 2,500 patients. He said that ratio will increase to one doctor seeing 10,000 patients with health care reform.

“Without being able to provide more practitioners, we won’t be able to meet the need,” Swope said.

Steve Edwards, the president and CEO of CoxHealth, said the campus would help MU produce more doctors who could stay in the Springfield area. He said doctors traditionally tend to practice where they grow up, where they went to school or where their spouses are from.

“Either we need to get more spouses of medical students or we need to create a medical school here,” Edwards said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU Health Care looks to expand to Springfield campus

By ALAN SCHER ZAGIER/The Associated Press

April 6, 2012 | 4:19 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Faced with a national shortage of rural physicians, heavy but unmet demand from would-be doctors and limited classroom space, MU wants to expand its medical school with a second campus in Springfield.

The Columbia-based School of Medicine joined health care providers CoxHealth and Sisters of Mercy Health to support a clinical campus in southwest Missouri. The program would provide third- and fourth-year medical students who started their training in Columbia with hands-on experience treating patients at two Springfield hospitals, under the supervision of doctors at CoxHealth and St. John's Hospital, which is owned by the Mercy Health system. The plan was outlined Friday afternoon at a news conference at the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

"You literally require more patients to build up a medical school," said Steve Edwards, president and chief executive officer for CoxHealth. "And Springfield is one of the largest cities in the country without a medical school."

Most of the medical school's physical expansion would occur in Columbia, which now admits just 96 new students each year from 1,500 applicants.

That makes the medical school at the state's largest university roughly half the size of peer institutions at St. Louis University, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences and even the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine at A.T. Still University, in terms of student enrollment. Under the proposed expansion, Missouri would boost its first-year class by 32 students, a one-third increase. And doctors trained in Columbia— nearly 45 percent — are more likely to remain in the state after they graduate, said Weldon Webb, associate dean for rural health at the University of Missouri School of Medicine.

"We're the No. 1 provider of practicing physicians in the state, even though we are one of the smaller programs in Missouri," he said.

Edwards and other boosters of the Springfield program note that the region is growing faster than the rest of the state, particularly in the resort town of Branson and communities near Table Rock Lake. A recent Missouri Hospital Association report shows the state's rural areas have fewer primary care physicians per person than urban ones, with a disproportionate share of rural doctors approaching retirement age.

"We forecast future needs that will outstrip our ability to serve the region," Edwards said. An economic impact study commissioned by the Springfield-Green County Regional Health Commission suggests that construction alone would add 475 jobs and \$56.5 million to the state's economy, with the full impact once trained doctors are in place considerably higher.

The flip side of that good news? A new medical education building in Columbia would cost \$30 million, with another \$10 million in additional operating costs each year. That could be a tough sell in Jefferson City, where earlier this year Gov. Jay Nixon proposed a \$106 million cut to higher education in the next fiscal year. A \$40 million contribution from the national mortgage fraud settlement reduced that planned cut, and state lawmakers have largely agreed on a budget that would spare public colleges and universities from any reductions.

Campus building projects have floundered in recent years, with failed efforts to tap into federal stimulus funds and money from Missouri's student loan agency, including a long-sought replacement for the aging Ellis Fischel Cancer Center.

"The big issue is funding," said Webb, who added that the project could benefit from federal grants and a hoped-for robust private fundraising effort in southwest Missouri. A Nixon spokesman declined an interview request Friday afternoon.

The doctors-in-training would be evenly split among the two Springfield hospitals, Edwards said, expanding the medical school's footprint in southwest Missouri, where MU students have helped staff rural clinics in towns such as Monett, Aurora and Mt. Vernon since 2005.

Webb said the university was initially contacted by the Springfield hospitals, with the parties signing an agreement in 2010. Edwards said the hospitals had been approached by four potential medical school partners "of varying stature," but the decision to work with MU was an easy one.

He added that the project has received favorable reviews in informal discussions in the Capitol, though no specific funding request has been made. He summarized the pitch to lawmakers: "It's about expanding access to healthcare, it's about education and it's about economic opportunity."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

University faculties are getting grayer

MU MENTION P. 2

KANSAS CITY • When Jim Sajovic started teaching at the Kansas City Art Institute 42 years ago, a wave of baby boomers caught up in post-1960s radicalism swarmed the campus.

The school experimented with coed dorm rooms, and students slept in class after all-night parties that included group showers, he recalled with a laugh.

Since then, the school has evolved, becoming 'saner, more structured, more conservative," he said.

What hasn't changed is his love of teaching. That's the main reason the "60-something" Sajovic hasn't retired — and hasn't even given the subject much thought.

He belongs to a growing group of university faculty members who have passed the traditional retirement age but have opted to stay in the classroom — or the campus art studio.

Nationally, the number of faculty members 65 and older more than doubled from 2000 to 2011. The Chronicle of Higher Education reported recently that at some institutions, such as Cornell University, more than one in three tenured or tenure-track professors are now 60 or older.

Why are more faculty members "graying and staying"?

For some, like Sajovic, it's because they find fulfillment in the interaction with students and other faculty members.

And teaching isn't digging ditches. Because the work is more cerebral than physical, older professors are in no rush to retire while their minds are sharp.

Faculty members haven't faced a mandatory retirement age since 1994's federal Age Discrimination in Employment Act. If they can postpone tapping into Social Security until they're 70, they'll get a bigger check each month to go along with whatever pension they might draw.

And many older faculty members are looking at retirement accounts that are nowhere near the amount they had expected to amass.

That's another reason Sajovic hasn't exchanged his 16 hour-a-week teaching job for more time painting in his private studio. The economic downturns in the last decade, one right after 9/11, another in 2008, took a chunk out of his retirement fund.

"That will take years to correct, so there is no big incentive for me to leave right now," he said.

For schools, it's a challenging trend.

They know that the dam of older faculty members eventually will break — perhaps when the economy improves — and instead of a steady trickle of annual retirements, they'll face a flood.

In Columbia, 336 of the University of Missouri's 1,842 faculty members are 60 or older, including 95 who are over 65. Seventy faculty members at the University of Missouri-Kansas City are older than 65, out of a total of 657.

At UMKC, a program that allows retired faculty to return to campus to teach one or two courses for 25 percent of their final full-time salary "has allowed people to ease into retirement," said Gary Ebersole, chairman of the University of Missouri's Intercampus Faculty Council.

"I have used this program three times since I've been a department head and gotten people to accept retirement who I don't think would have otherwise," Ebersole said.

Getting aging faculty to retire makes room for young faculty to move up and for institutions to hire new faculty a few at a time.

Another less-talked-about problem that comes with faculty graying and staying is 'sometimes we have faculty members who are not productive but refuse to retire,' Ebersole said. "You can't force people to retire. We have had some cases on our campuses of people really derelict in their duty — not performing in the classroom, not doing research, just sticking around."

When a faculty member has tenure, Ebersole said, it takes five years of documenting complaints to prove the professor is no longer effective.

MU diversity survey launches, expectations of responses mixed

By [Jessica Clark](#)

April 6, 2012 | 3:22 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA – MU faculty, staff and students will get a chance to weigh in on the issue of diversity in the latest campus climate survey.

The 2012 survey has been made available via email and was distributed this week as a part of the [Chancellor's Diversity Initiative](#). The email provides a link to the survey and participants may only respond once.

The survey will touch on issues of harassment and the atmosphere on campus, as well as the satisfaction level with the university's efforts to enhance the quality of diversity on campus, said Roger L. Worthington, director of the MU Campus Climate Research Program.

"The design of the research is to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses," Worthington said. The university may then use the information to create new policy and practices.

Research shows that frequency and quality of interaction among those with different backgrounds enhances the quality of the educational environment, he said.

A survey in 2001 prompted the university to re-include sexual orientation in a nondiscrimination clause, Worthington said.

Extensive MU surveys taken from 2001 to 2005 showed that majority and minority groups perceived the campus climate differently. Minority populations indicated a less positive experience due to not feeling accepted and issues of harassment.

"Extensive agreement among participants from different groups that visible racial-ethnic groups, non-native English speakers and LGBT individuals were the least accepted groups on campus," according to a [summary of the survey](#).

Ana Gutierrez-Gamez, president of the Hispanic American Leadership Organization at MU, said that such surveys are good to a certain extent, but she doesn't believe many students will respond.

"I don't think the average student thinks these issues apply to them. Or they don't think that the issues are necessarily problems anymore," Gutierrez-Gamez said.

Struby Struble, LGBTQ Resource Center coordinator, emphasized the need for a diversity requirement as part of the academic course load. She said the survey will help explain why it's an important and necessary step to take as an institution.

"Diversity is a part of our experience. The survey will show how diversity is woven into all aspects of our lives at Mizzou," Struble said.



Maneater apologizes for 'derogatory' parody

By Andrew Denney

Saturday, April 7, 2012

The managing editor of the Maneater, a student newspaper at the University of Missouri, has apologized for an April Fools' issue this week that upset students, MU administrators and advertisers.

The April Fools' edition, published Tuesday, featured a wraparound section called "The Carpeteater," a parody that lampooned MU students, groups and administrators, as well as Columbia city officials and programs. The Maneater has run April Fools' editions for decades with varying fake mastheads that play off the paper's name, but some say this year's went too far.

In addition to the title — which is considered a derogatory reference to lesbians — the parody also included expletives usually used to demean women. Yesterday, the Maneater published a letter to the editor from MU student Kathy Rudd, who called the parody edition "highly offensive" and a "poorly constructed attempt at satire."

"Derogatory profanity toward women isn't funny," Rudd wrote. "It isn't satirical. It certainly isn't journalism. It is rude and offensive and propagates stereotypes that already degrade women in our society."

The letter was signed by more than 200 MU staffers, alumni and students, some of whom are previous Maneater staffers and contributors.

The April Fools' edition featured a full-page ad purchased by Garry Lewis Properties on the back page. In yesterday's Maneater, the property management company ran a full-page letter in same spot criticizing the April Fools' issue, calling it an "atrocious and offensive publication."

Yesterday's edition also included a letter of apology from Abby Spudich, the paper's managing editor. She said in an interview yesterday that she was "the last set of eyes" to read over the parody edition before it was published.

"I knew a lot of it might be risky," Spudich said. "The extent — I don't think I foresaw that."

In her letter, Spudich said she takes responsibility for the content and that next year's editors, who have already been elected, have said they will not run an April Fools' issue in 2013. She wrote that she "truly

did not know" that the title was considered a slur against lesbians and that the paper is seeking training offered by the LGBTQ Resource Center at MU.

Becky Diehl, the Maneater's publication coordinator, said the April Fools' issue is usually intended to "poke fun" at topics the student reporters cover.

"This year, I felt it was more degrading than poking fun," said. She said she hopes this year's parody can serve as a "teaching moment" for future staffers.

The Maneater is funded through advertising revenue and is independent of the Missouri School of Journalism.

The Tribune has published April Fools' editions in the past, but Managing Editor Jim Robertson said the practice was discontinued in the mid-1980s.

INSIDE HIGHER ED

insidehighered.com

Missouri Student Editor Apologizes for April Fool's Edition

April 9, 2012 - 3:00am

Student journalists might not be as funny as they think. The latest mea culpa, from the University of Missouri at Columbia's campus newspaper editor, centers around the retitling of *The Maneater's* April Fool's edition as *The Carpeteater*.

In a lengthy statement released Friday, Editor Abby Spudich explains that she "truly did not know that 'carpet eater' is a derogatory term used for a lesbian." She also apologized for other April Fool's jokes that fell on deaf ears, including a series of vulgar references to women. The paper won't publish an April Fool's edition next year, Spudich wrote. "Our April Fool's issue serves as a cautionary warning about the consequences of ignorance," she writes, "but I hope the actions we will take in the near future will serve as an example of how to take steps forward to promote an inclusive campus for all."

If only there had been a cautionary tale available a couple weeks ago. It's been a tough month for America's student press, as an April Fool's edition at Boston University that made light of rape led to an editor's resignation.



Curators meetings have friendlier feel

By JANESE SILVEY

Published April 6, 2012 at 1:24 p.m.

Updated April 7, 2012 at 2 a.m.

ROLLA — Those attending the University of Missouri Board of Curators meeting on the Missouri University of Science and Technology campus this week might have noticed a few changes.

Gone were the multiple armed police officers guarding the doors. The rope that typically separates the curators' and administrators' tables from the public and media also was absent. And the board sat closer to the audience, too.

UM System President Tim Wolfe called it a "cozier" feel, and it is one way he hopes the university can seem friendlier to the public.

Curators decided to take extra security measures in 2008 after back-to-back incidents put them on alert.

In February of that year, Charles "Cookie" Thornton opened fire at a city council meeting in Kirkwood. A week later, a gunman killed five students and himself after bursting into a lecture hall at Northern Illinois University.

The UM Board of Curators that summer changed its meeting rooms so curators and executive staff would be close together but partitioned off from reporters and visitors.

That has been the case since, with armed guards normally stationed on either side of the rope to ensure people stayed out.

Visitors also have had to sign in for a badge to get into the meeting room, although UM Police Chief Jack Watring said he lightened up on that requirement during the past year.

A couple of police officers walked in and out of the curator meetings this week, but they weren't stationed near the board. The security changes "are intended because we are an institute by the public for the public," Wolfe said.

He said he wants the board to make decisions in an environment that is open and comfortable for the public.

Wolfe credited board chairman David Bradley for encouraging the changes. Bradley is president of the St. Joseph News-Press & Gazette.



Grad school retention rates for minorities to be studied

By Janese Silvey

Saturday, April 7, 2012

The University of Missouri has joined a national consortium of universities to study retention rates of minority students pursuing graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering and math-related fields.

Graduate school can be tough for anybody, and many leave after a few months because it's not the right fit for them, said Mannie Liscum, associate dean of MU's Graduate School. But minority students are more likely to leave after three to five years for reasons non-minorities might not face, he said.

"Financial stresses and social stigmas in their own families and communities are some of the most frequent challenges facing our minority students," Liscum said in a statement.

With a \$30,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, MU administrators will collect and report data on retention and graduation rates for minorities enrolled in STEM fields from the fall of 1992 through the current semester.

Researchers also will interview student groups. The data will be sent to the Council of Graduate Schools to analyze, and results are expected by June 2014.

"We don't believe for a second that there is a single, silver-bullet fix," Liscum said.

"We're anticipating that this study will allow us to reflect on our own strengths and weaknesses to determine how we can best help our students. Retention is only part of the story; we also need to address how we ultimately facilitate students' successes while in their programs and how to best prepare them to enter the work environment."

MU is one of 21 universities involved in the project and is the only Missouri school participating.