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Veterans memorial proposed under Memorial Union archway

The Alumni Association Student Board and the Missouri Students Association Secretary of Auxiliaries, Lauren Damico, have begun a joint initiative to install a physical memorial to be placed beneath the Memorial Union archway.

"Memorial Union was built to honor those students who died in service to our country in World War I," AASB Traditions Committee member Paige Tenkhoff said in an email. "The north and south wings were later dedicated to students who had lost their lives in WWII and later conflicts. Building Memorial Union was seen as a promise to those students, to always keep them in our memories and honor their sacrifice."

The physical memorial would serve as a reminder to students to speak in hushed tones and to tip their hats while under the arch. It would also serve as a stand for the wreath that is laid each year on Veterans Day.

"The intention behind the silence under the arch and the tipping of hats is not being observed anymore," Damico said. "It was a promise that the university gave at its installation in honor of our veterans, and it is a tradition I feel needs to be revived."

This initiative has MSA support through Bill 52-20, which states that MSA will "catalyze action among the student body to remedy this issue."

AASB Traditions Committee member Bobby Hofman said the goal is to have a student-run and funded movement. He said the leaders in this project have been in contact with university officials but they plan to officially approach the university with a list of student signatures backing the project.

He said the committee plans to collect these signatures by sending an official proposal to the many of the major student organizations on campus.

"It's the students now who are forgetting about it," Hofman said. "If they take ownership, then it won't just be a week-long advertising scheme. People will adopt it. We want people to take ownership of the fact that this is all of our tradition. It's not just for the people who built the tower in 1923."

He said because this is a coveted tradition, he is not worried about gaining student support and funding.

Damico also said she does not believe funding for the memorial will be a concern. She said she expects support from the various student organizations on campus.

The actual design and cost of the memorial have not been decided upon yet, but Tenkhoff said the goal is to finish installation of the memorial by the end of the year.

"I think this is one of the best traditions we have," Hofman said. "This is something that has been around for so long and it is so much bigger than any single one of us. For people to recognize that by being

reverent to the soldiers who were part of Mizzou and reverent to the people that have gone before and have given us the freedom to go to Mizzou, I think, is a good reminder.”

MISSOURIAN

WHAT OTHERS SAY: Vote 'yes' on Proposition B

MU MENTION P. 2

By Springfield News-Leader
October 15, 2012 | 4:42 p.m. CDT

For the third time in 10 years, Missourians are being asked to increase the tax on tobacco products. This time may be the charm.

We believe it will be.

Missouri has the lowest tobacco tax in the nation, 17 cents a pack, a surprising fact in a state that has no direct tobacco interest — no tobacco farms, no tobacco factories — just tobacco lobby money.

But a coalition of about 50 mostly health and education organizations is working hard to change that. Show-Me A Brighter Future has given voice to these organizations, as well as individuals, who believe that the cost to the state from the effects of tobacco far outweigh the additional 73-cents-per-pack tax increase Proposition B would impose.

We agree. The News-Leader Editorial Board has supported other tobacco-related causes, including Springfield's recent smoking ban.

We hold that position because we believe that the health of our readers and our citizens is important, and we know that tobacco hurts people's health.

We want children to grow up with healthy lungs and hearts, and we know that if they take up smoking or live with smokers, their healthy chances are diminished.

We want adults to be productive, and we know that tobacco use cuts into productivity because of tobacco-related health problems, from the common cold to cancer.

We want Missouri to be a healthy and productive state where we put the health and well-being of our citizens above our pocketbooks.

So, we say, vote yes on Prop B.

Yes, we understand the objections — lost revenue for tobacco retailers, especially in border communities where they lure smokers from neighboring states to purchase their tobacco products at a lower rate; and the impact on the poor who smoke in disproportionately higher numbers.

The Missouri Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, which opposes Prop B, paid for a study by a University of Missouri economist that found Prop B could translate into a loss of at least \$67 million in local tax revenues from people who are addicted to tobacco products.

In 2002 and 2006, Missouri voters rejected a more modest and a more expensive tax increase on tobacco, but the measures lost by narrow margins — 2 percent in 2002 and 3 percent in 2006, when R.J. Reynolds and other big tobacco companies funded the dubiously named Missourians Against Tax Abuse.

In a 2011 **Gallup-Healthways Well-Being index**, Missouri ranked second in the number of smokers, at 26 percent, ahead of every bordering state except Kentucky, which has a higher rate of 60 cents per pack but is the lowest among states that border ours. The national average is 20 percent.

Show-Me A Brighter Future has estimated that the tax increase could cause 33,300 adult smokers to quit and 40,100 kids never to start. Those numbers are based on experience in neighboring states. Consider Kansas, with a 79-cent-per-pack tax and a 19 percent smoking rate. Illinois, with a \$1.98-per-pack tax, has a 21 percent rate. And Iowa, with a \$1.36 tax, has a 22 percent rate.

If higher taxes can make that kind of impact, including on those who can ill afford to buy tobacco products as they are struggling to buy food, medicine and housing, then we believe it is a good idea.

To make it a win-win, the higher tax could bring in at least \$283 million in new tax revenue for education and smoking cessation programs.

Springfield public schools stand to gain \$3.7 million in new funding, according to the Missouri School Boards' Association.

And those numbers shrink when you compare them to the \$2.5 billion a year the American Lung Association estimates Missouri businesses lose each year from lost productivity because of smoking.

And all of the talk of money is minimized by the 22,200 smoking-related premature deaths proponents believe will be avoided if the tax can dissuade those smokers.

Missourians are becoming more aware of the health and economic impact tobacco is having on their state and their families. The Show Me State has seen it.

A Missouri State University political science professor, who said he was skeptical of the chances that Prop B will pass, was quoted in a **Sept. 2 report** in the News-Leader, “Missouri is still a low-tax, low-services state, and that’s what people want.”

We believe the people of Missouri want healthy families and neighbors. And we believe those people will pass Prop B.

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MISSOURIAN

Dictation software for MU Health Care to cut costs, human error

BY Keith Reid-Cleveland

COLUMBIA — New dictation software that will be used at MU Health Care is expected to work this way:

After patients leave the examining room, doctors look at their notes and start to talk into their computers. Seconds later, their words appear on the screen. That information is available almost immediately to the next health care provider in the system.

Last month, the UM System Board of Curators approved a deal for the dictation software between MU Health Care and Cerner Corp, which specializes in information technology for health care.

The software is expected to be deployed at the start of 2013 after the contract is signed at the end of this year. The cost is still being negotiated but is not expected to exceed \$1.6 million, said Joanne Burns, who is responsible for the strategic use of technology in MU Health Care.

When it's finalized, the new contract will be a savings for MU Health Care. Burns said the current contract for dictation costs \$2.25 million.

At the core of the new tool is Dragon dictation software developed by Nuance, which specializes in providing speech and imaging technology. Dragon allows physicians and other clinicians to use voice recognition software to instantly transcribe their notes.

The instant access is seen as a major plus.

"While using Dragon, since it's integrated right into the system, I already have the patient's chart open," said Thomas Selva, medical director for ambulatory care for MU Health Care.

Under the current system, physicians can choose to type out their notes, record them and have them manually transcribed by an outside transcription agency or use some combination of the two.

If they use transcriptionists the notes go back and forth between physicians and the agency for an accuracy review process and, sometimes, aren't entered into the electronic medical record for 12 to 48 hours, Burns said.

This new dictation software could help remove some of the potential for human error in the note-documentation process.

"Accuracy is absolutely a big concern," Burns said. "What this is and why it's so special for us is if you think of medical language and medical jargon, it's full of diagnoses: Instead of a cold, you have pneumonia."

Selva said, to his knowledge, the idea of having medical students use the dictation software hasn't been brought up. MU Health Care currently doesn't have medical students dictate notes through the dictation and transcription service, partly because of the cost associated with it, but mainly for educational reasons.

"From an education perspective, I'll tell you it's better to learn how to write a note first before you dictate a note," Selva said.

Exposure of medical records could become a concern for patients of MU Health Care, considering that so many people will have access to their information. Burns said that is being addressed.

"We have security protocols in place to ensure patients' information is secure while being available to care providers," Burns said. She said that in the interest of security, she could not go into detail about those protocols.

MU Health Care and Cerner Corp. have worked together on health services for more than a decade.

Cerner, which has its headquarters in Kansas City offers health solutions to more than 9,000 facilities worldwide, according to its website.

Cerner and MU are involved in a strategic 10-year partnership that included the 2010 launch of the Tiger Institute for Health Innovation. The partnership is designed to take the best from both organizations to innovate health care delivery and engagement with Missourians.

The institute received a \$13.3 million federal grant in 2009 to create a program called LIGHT²: Leveraging Information Technology to Guide High Tech, High Touch Care.

LIGHT² is expected to improve the health of Americans through the use of advanced health information technology, according to an article on the [MU School of Medicine's website](#).

This partnership is scheduled to be in place until at least 2020.

MISSOURIAN

Homecoming Blood Drive hopes to collect 5,000 units of blood



John Davis, a sophomore at MU studying agricultural business management, donates red blood cells with the help of an Alyx machine at the 27th annual Homecoming blood drive Saturday afternoon at the Hearnes Center. "(Giving blood) is the right thing to do since we have the ability to do it," Davis said. | [Naveen Mahadevan](#)

BY [Catherine Rolwes](#)

COLUMBIA — The 27th annual Homecoming Blood Drive began Monday at the Hearnes Center. MU and the American Red Cross teamed up with a goal of collecting 5,000 pints of blood.

If they succeed, up to 15,000 lives could be saved because of the donations, according to statistics from the Red Cross. Last fall, the drive collected 5,264 units of blood, according to a news release for the event..

All blood types are needed, and donations will go to local hospitals to help accident victims, surgery patients and cancer patients.

To donate blood, a person must be in good health, be at least 17 years old and meet height and weight requirements. Donors should bring a valid driver's license with a photo or two other forms of official identification. The drive will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily through Thursday at the Hearnes Center.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767) or go to redcrossblood.org.