

UM System Board of Curators approves health care facility improvements

By [Dan Burley](#), [Stephanie Ebbs](#)

December 6, 2012 | 8:05 p.m. CST

ST. LOUIS — The UM System Board of Curators approved funding for two major projects and discussed a proposal to raise tuition and fees at its meeting Thursday.

The board voted to approve \$55 million in funding for two projects that will update outdated equipment and renovate facilities.

One project will replace some outdated equipment at University Hospital, the Critical Care Patient Tower and the University Physicians Medical Building in Columbia. The project will expand the East Campus Chilled Water Plant that serves campus to also serve the health care facilities.

The board approved \$20 million in debt financing and the use of \$3 million from campus facilities reserves for the project. The plan is predicted to save the system \$13 million over the next 25 years and would free up space in the hospital, according to [UM System meeting documents](#).

A second project will renovate and build an addition to the Benton Stadler Science Complex at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The labs are 45 years old and have never been renovated, [according to meeting documents](#). The board approved \$30 million in debt financing and \$2 million from UMSL campus reserve funds to begin building an additional five-story building that will include state-of-the-art laboratory space.

During their meeting at UMSL, curators also heard a preliminary report on potential increased tuition and fees for fiscal year 2014.

Nikki Krawitz, UM System vice president of finance and administration, presented a proposal that would raise tuition by at least the inflation rate — projected to be 2 percent — at all four campuses.

In the past few years, the UM System has relied more on tuition and fees as state funding for higher education has declined.

Since 2001, state funding to the UM System has decreased by more than 10 percent, putting Missouri 44th in the nation in overall state higher education funding in 2012, according to system documents.

The documents state that decreases in state support have traditionally been offset with tuition increases.

"Students are contributing more than ever to the cost of their education as the state provides less funding support," according to the document.

Curator Don Downing expressed concern about the impact tuition and fee increases would have on student loan obligations after graduation.

"Increases in the institution's tuition and fees are not driving the growing loan obligations," Krawitz said.

She explained that student lifestyle and living expenses are the biggest contributors to burdensome loan debt.

Here's a look at the proposed tuition and fee increases for MU, University of Missouri-Kansas City and Missouri University of Science and Technology.

The proposal included an entirely restructured tuition rate for UMSL that includes activity, facility and health-services fees. Undergraduate, graduate and students receiving metro tuition would see their rates jump by the projected inflation rate, while the non-resident tuition rate would increase by the inflation rate plus at least 4 percent.

The UM System is also examining how the Affordable Care Act will impact the system as an employer and health care provider. Some changes have already taken place as health care reform is implemented, such as allowing employees to keep dependents on their plans until they are 26, which Krawitz said is costing the system an additional \$1.5 million per year.

The curators also saw preliminary designs for four previously approved projects:

- A plan for a new 330-bed residence hall on Virginia Avenue. The project would cost nearly \$28.5 million and is projected to be complete by April 2015.

- Additional seating and a renovation to the press facilities in Memorial Stadium. A new press box is estimated to cost nearly \$10 million and be completed by the end of summer 2013. The stadium expansion is estimated to cost more than \$45.5 million and be completed by the 2014 football season. Both projects would be financed using revenue bonds from ticket sales.
- A new medical building on South Providence Road to double the size of the Green Meadows clinic. The estimated cost of the project is \$32.5 million and is expected to be completed in December 2014.

On Friday, the curators are scheduled to finalize strategic statements written by all four campuses, listen to a presentation by UM System President Tim Wolfe and a panel discussion by the UM chancellors, and elect a board chairperson and vice chairperson for 2013.

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Coal Free Mizzou pressures curators for clean energy at MU

By Matthew Schacht

December 7, 2012 | 6:00 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA — Several carloads of MU students are traveling to St. Louis on Friday to talk with the UM System Board of Curators.

Clean energy is not listed on the board's Friday agenda. The students, who are members of Coal Free Mizzou, would like to change this.

Coal Free Mizzou is a student organization advocating for wind, solar and renewable energy power at MU. Since 2009, they have staged "die-ins" on campus, where they lie down in protest to symbolize people who are harmed by coal emissions and criticize MU for using coal power. But recently, the group decided to change tactics and work with UM System officials.

Collaborating with MU

On Sept. 13, about 50 activists wearing yellow "Beyond Coal" T-shirts attended a Board of Curators meeting and requested a meeting with President Tim Wolfe.

The university obliged.

In a letter dated Nov. 28, Chancellor Brady Deaton invited students "to begin the collaborative process" and arrange a meeting with campus facility staff next semester.

During a Coal Free Mizzou planning meeting Tuesday, Sami Tellatin, an MU engineering student, discussed the next steps in outlining the organization's relationship with the university. She said preaching clean energy to MU administrators only goes so far.

"What we need the most is specific data about energy use on campus," she said. "That's what campus officials need to go forward."

Next semester, the students plan to meet with Meredith Elbaum, a Boston-based consultant helping MU improve its energy system.

Lindsey Berger, Midwest regional organizer for the Sierra Club, is helping the students plan for the meeting with MU officials.

"These are the people in charge of the entire Missouri system, and these are the people whose attention you have," Berger said during Tuesday's planning meeting.

Berger was helping the students frame the message they planned to present to the curators Friday.

"This is all new," Berger said. "We've been working three years to get where we are.

"If we can bring 15 to 30 people across the state, we will make a powerful message," she said.

The students hope the university will continue to include them as MU plans sustainability efforts.

"I think (the university leaders are) definitely going in the right direction, getting them to bring us in on the conversations, to have an open dialogue with us," said Kelsey Wingo, media coordinator for Coal Free Mizzou.

"What we're always hesitant with is follow-through," from the university, she said. "That's why we have to keep up with this pressure."

MU's clean energy efforts

Karlan Seville, a spokeswoman for MU Campus Facilities, said money is the limiting factor in MU's clean energy efforts.

"We're doing what is reasonable in the economic climate today," she said. "We purchase wind energy off the grid. We also burn natural gas now."

The university installed a \$75 million biomass boiler last year, which is expected to become fully operational in February. The Forestry Department ensures the wood is harvested in a sustainable way, said Steven Burdic, MU's sustainability coordinator.

Burdic said MU has had a concerted energy management program since 1990. He also said MU's energy consumption has declined by 14 percent while the size of its campus has grown by 33 percent.

"I think you'll find for large, public institutions, we're pretty progressive," he said.

Next steps for Coal Free Mizzou

Wingo said the university could do more to secure funds for clean energy programs, but she wasn't able to lay out a precise plan for how the university could get the money.

"As students, we don't have all the answers about what happens in the business world," she said.

Pressure for reform could come from alumni as well, Wingo said.

"We know of some alumni who are willing to stand up for us and this clean energy movement," she said. "We had alumni speak out that they don't want to give money to the school" because of MU's use of coal power.

For now, Coal Free Mizzou members vow they'll continue attending Board of Curators meetings to "keep 'coal free' in their minds," Wingo said.

"We're going to keep giving them projects and ideas until they believe that this is feasible, as we do."

Supervising editor is Scott Swafford.

AP Associated Press

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

The★Star.
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

MU curators consider broader benefits proposal

ST. LOUIS (AP) -- A long-sought proposal to extend University of Missouri worker benefits to same-sex domestic partners has been expanded to include committed couples of the opposite sex, as well as other unrelated dependent couples, such as roommates.

University curators meeting in St. Louis on Thursday were briefed on the proposal but didn't discuss the proposed changes. The four-campus system says such broader benefits would cost an extra \$1.2 million annually.

The proposed plan extends university health insurance coverage to "sponsored adult dependents" who are over 18, not related by birth or marriage and have lived with a campus employee for at least 12 months.

Supporters note that more than 300 colleges and universities already have such perks in place for faculty and staff.

MU police did not issue Clery release for rape report

By Jared Grafman

December 6, 2012 | 8:04 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA – MU police did not issue a Clery release in January 2010 after receiving a report accusing former Missouri basketball player Michael Dixon Jr. of forcible rape.

Should they have?

The MU Police Department based the decision on federal law: The Jeanne Clery Act, passed in 1990, requires universities and colleges to publish timely warnings — locally known as Clery releases — to their communities about crimes that pose a serious or ongoing threat to the safety of their students and employees.

Security officials at U.S. universities and colleges must decide on a case-by-case basis whether a crime represents a continued threat to the campus after an incident has occurred.

The Department of Education published an updated Handbook for Campus Safety and Security Reporting in 2011 with step-by-step procedures and examples for complying with the Clery Act, including a section addressing criteria to determine whether a timely warning should be published.

Timely warnings must be issued when a Clery Act crime is reported to campus security authorities or local police agencies, and the institution determines the crime to be a serious or continuing threat to students and employees, according to the handbook. At MU, these warnings are issued as Clery releases and can be found on the MU police website.

But the act doesn't define "timely," according to the handbook, "because the intent of a warning ... is to enable people to protect themselves."

The handbook specifies that "a warning should be issued as soon as the pertinent information is available."

Neither the Clery Act nor the handbook lists specific crimes that require a timely warning to be issued.

It does list campus crimes that must be included in an annual security report, regardless of whether a Clery release was issued.

The report must include statistics about all Clery Act crimes, which include murder, manslaughter, sex offenses and other serious crimes committed on or near campus, according to the law. MU police most recently published this information in its 2011 Campus Crime & Fire Safety Report.

An institution must also publish its individual policy for considering timely warnings and other security procedure information in the annual report, according to the Clery Act.

The MU police policy includes an outline of its timely warning procedure: "The department shall provide timely warnings about reported crimes to the campus Community (Faculty, Staff, and Students), in a manner that will aid in the prevention of similar crimes if it is determined that a serious or continuing threat exists."

MU Police Capt. Scott Richardson said this normally involves situations where a suspect is a danger to the community or police believe the suspect will commit the crime again.

Richardson said MU police will send out Clery releases about sexual assault crimes if they believe the suspect will commit the same, or at least a similar crime, again.

Releases about sexual assault crimes are issued "when we have information that leads us to believe we know who the person is and that person may reoffend," Richardson said.

"Decisions on whether to send a Clery release is done on a case-by-case basis."

Because there was no Clery release about the January 2010 police report accusing Dixon of rape, the police report was discovered only after media began looking into his suspension from the basketball team for violating team policy.

Dixon was accused of sexual assault again in an Aug. 20 Columbia police report. Boone County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Tracy Gonzalez closed the case Nov. 16 because of insufficient evidence to charge Dixon with a crime.

The timely warning policy seems straightforward and obvious but can become murky in certain situations, said Emily Austin, the director of policy and evaluation with Peace Over Violence, a domestic violence and rape crisis center in Los Angeles.

Sexual assault, rape and other serious incidents between people who know each other can add an element of uncertainty in deciding whether to issue a warning.

"Most rape is not 'stranger danger' in a dark alley," Austin said. "Most sexual assaults are between people that know each other in some way, and those are the norm in the realm of sexual assaults. On sheer numbers and statistics, that's where you're most likely to find the bulk offenses and the repeat offenses."

How does MU compare?

There are similarities between MU police policies and those at other universities.

- The University of Kansas' policy for issuing timely releases outlines: "The issuing of a timely warning is decided on a case-by-case basis by the Office of Public Safety in light of all the facts surrounding a crime, including factors of the nature of the crime, the continuing danger to the campus community and possible risk of compromising law enforcement efforts."
- The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's policy for issuing timely releases outlines: "The decision to issue a Crime Alert will be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on when and where the incident occurred, when it was reported, and the amount of information known by the university police."

The policy at the University of Illinois continues: "For example, if an assault occurs between two students who have a disagreement, there may be no on-going threat to University community members and a Crime Alert would not be distributed. In cases involving sexual assault, they are often reported long after the incident occurred, thus there is no opportunity to distribute a 'timely' warning notice to the community."

Should the Clery Act be re-evaluated?

The subject of interpreting the Clery Act, and warning communities of dangerous crimes on a campus, is an ongoing concern throughout the nation.

Adam Goldstein, an attorney advocate for the Student Press Law Center, recently published a blog post accusing Ohio State University officials of misunderstanding the intention of the Clery Act following a series of sexual assaults that occurred in the same residence hall.

In the post, Goldstein discussed the spirit of the Clery law and determining when incidents justify timely warnings, writing: "I don't know how many rapes it takes for you to start getting nervous, but for me, it's one. One rape is when I start worrying about the risks posed to the campus community."

The Department of Education launched an investigation into whether Penn State University violated the Clery Act after former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky was accused of being involved in a sex abuse scandal.

According to an Associated Press article published on the Missourian website, a report from an investigation into the incident indicated Penn State's "awareness and interest" in Clery Act compliance was "significantly lacking."

An October report from the California State Auditor found that six institutions failed to comply with the Clery Act. It found none of the institutions disclosed all required policies in their annual reports and that they inaccurately reported crime statistics to various degrees.

The Police Benevolent Association of New York State sent a letter in March to the Department of Education accusing State University of New York, Brockport of several Clery Act violations, including failing to publish a timely warning to its campus community.

Clery releases are intended to keep college communities safe, Richardson said. If MU police feel the community is not in danger, then they won't send a Clery release.

"If the (MU Police) department issued a release every time a Clery-related crime was reported, the community would be overwhelmed and disregard them," Richardson said. "We want the community to understand it's an important message when we send them, and we want them to take appropriate action."

Supervising editor is Katherine Reed.

Agency drops investigation of MU clinic

By Janese Silvey

Thursday, December 6, 2012

Deficiencies flagged at a University of Missouri health clinic won't be dealt with by the investigators who found them earlier this year.

That's because the Ear, Nose, Throat and Allergy Clinic is neither subject to hospital regulations nor under the oversight of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which began its investigation in October.

At that time, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS, wrote in a letter to health system administrators that "deficiencies have been determined to be of such serious nature that the University of Missouri Health Care is not in compliance" with federal regulations. CMS was expected to conduct a follow-up site visit.

During the survey, though, the agency realized the clinic is a private-practice physicians' office and is not required to meet hospital-level standards of care for pharmacy management and oversight, MU Health spokeswoman Mary Jenkins said.

"Once we provided documentation to support this to the CMS, the CMS informed us they were deleting the previously cited deficiencies from their records and would not conduct a follow-up survey," Jenkins said in an email.

The clinic is part of the MU School of Medicine but is considered private and not subject to CMS oversight because it is not hospital-based, Jenkins said. Most MU Health clinics are hospital-based and subject to CMS oversight.

A separate complaint has been lodged with the state Board of Registration for the Healing Arts, which does have oversight of the clinic.

Jenkins said the board notified the system of that complaint in early September. Clinic administrators responded later that month, "and we've had no further communications from the board of healing arts," she said.

The board's chief medical officer said in a letter obtained by the Tribune that concerns about the ENT and Allergy Clinic would be evaluated by the board at a future meeting to determine whether a violation has occurred.

The Joint Commission, an external accrediting agency, also reviewed the allergy clinic in September after a string of patient complaints but determined no further action was needed.

Complaints included a package of mixed allergens sent to the wrong patient, another vial with an incorrect expiration date and several cases in which vials of allergy drops had leaked and were not full by the time they reached patients' houses. The clinic responded by explaining each situation and outlining steps taken to prevent incidents in the future.

"We welcome the review of all of these agencies," Jenkins said. "In our opinion, the complaint is without merit. The first priority of our allergy clinic is the safety of our patients. We have a robust quality improvement program and have had it in place for several years."

She noted that U.S. News & World Report named the ENT and Allergy Clinic among the top 50 in the country this year.

"We have every confidence that our clinic provides excellent care," she said, "that goes above and beyond requirements."

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Fewer, larger meals healthier for obese women

IANS | Dec 7, 2012, 02.01 PM IST

Consuming three huge meals instead of six small ones lowered the amount of fat in women's blood and gradually decreased risk of heart disease, says a study.

"Our data suggests that, for obese women, eating fewer bigger meals may be more advantageous metabolically compared to eating smaller, more frequent meals throughout the day," said Tim Heden, doctoral student in Missouri University's department of nutrition and exercise physiology, who led the study.

"Eating larger meals less often lowered blood-fat levels. Over time, consistently eating fewer, larger meals each day could lower the women's blood-fat levels and thereby lower their risk of developing heart disease," added Heden, the journal *Obesity* reported.

Heden and other researchers studied how meal frequency affected blood-sugar and blood-fat levels in eight obese women throughout two 12-hour periods on two separate days.

All of the women consumed 1,500 calories. During the two different testing days, the participants consumed three 500-calorie liquid meals or six 250-calorie liquid meals.

Throughout the 12-hour time frames, researchers tested sugar and fat levels in the women's blood every 30 minutes.

Women who consumed three meals had significantly lower fat in their blood, according to a Missouri statement.

"The mass media and many health care practitioners often advocate eating several small meals throughout the day," Heden said.

"However, when we examined the literature, we didn't find many studies examining or supporting this popular claim. This lack of research led to our study, which is one of the first to examine how meal frequency affects insulin and blood-fat levels in obese women during an entire day of eating," concluded Heden.



University police get public safety award

Thursday, December 6, 2012

The University of Missouri Police Department has received an Accreditation with Excellence award from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc.

Although this is the fifth time the department has received accreditation by the commission, it's the first time it has received the award.

The accreditation process includes a self-assessment, an on-site assessment by the commission and a review by a committee. The award, created last year, further recognizes departments for being a model for delivering public safety.

"This recognition acknowledges the fact that our police officers are among the best in the nation at their jobs," Chancellor Brady Deaton said in a statement. "Chief Jack Waring and his officers demonstrate their concern for our safety every day. We're very proud of their accomplishment."