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Revenue estimate shows slow growth in coming year

By Rudi Keller

State government will have an additional \$229 million to spend in the year beginning July 1 but a reduced outlook for the current budget year means there is little room for new initiatives without cuts elsewhere.

The consensus revenue estimate, which accounts for the impact of federal tax changes and a state tax cut that took effect Jan. 1, shows general revenue receipts are expected to grow by 2.5 percent in the year beginning July 1. That represents a \$229 million increase over the reduced projection for the current fiscal year of \$9.19 billion.

A year ago, the revenue forecast pegged growth in the current year at 3.8 percent. With half the year over, the estimate now projects growth in the current year will total 1.9 percent. Because revenue has not matched expectations, Gov. Eric Greitens ordered spending restrictions that cut higher education by 9 percent below fiscal 2017 levels, reduced rates paid to Medicaid providers and eliminated in-home care for thousands of Medicaid recipients.

The University of Missouri is seeking a stand-pat appropriation of \$419.1 million for the coming year. If UM gets that amount, it would be the first year of stable funding after two years of cuts.

Projecting revenue for 18 months sometimes is more guesswork than science. In the recent past, estimates have been off by as much as 5 percent, or about \$400 million to \$450 million over the course of a fiscal year.

Revenue growth is expected to be slow because the new federal tax law will double the standard deduction, used for both the federal and Missouri income tax, and eliminate the personal exemption, allowed in Missouri only if a federal exemption is allowed. The two changes, along with other new provisions, will cut state revenue by an estimated \$58 million annually.

The state tax cut reduced the top income tax rate to 5.9 percent, exempts 5 percent of business “pass-through” income from taxation and indexes tax brackets for inflation. If revenue makes

estimates for the current fiscal year, a second step in the state tax cut will be effective Jan. 1, 2019, halfway through the coming fiscal year.

Greitens and lawmakers will use the revenue estimate as they craft a budget for the coming fiscal year. In a news release, Greitens thanked House Budget Committee Chairman Scott Fitzpatrick, R-Shell Knob, and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Dan Brown, R-Rolla, for their work to develop the estimate.

“I remain committed to maintaining a balanced budget while continuing to find ways to make a smaller government that works better for Missouri citizens,” Greitens said.

In the release, Brown called the estimate a realistic look at future revenue and said growth will increase as the economy improves.

“However, there is always a bit of a lag in revenue growth. Missouri is open for business and growth will be on the horizon,” Brown said.



Columbia CBS affiliate Mizzou students spend winter break rebuilding home

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Regional weekly news publication in Dodge City, Kansas

University of Missouri receives \$300,000 USDA grant to develop national center for bovine reproduction and genomics

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The Division of Animal Sciences at the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources boasts many strengths, including its vast research and work with beef cattle reproduction and genetics. The faculty, who have responsibilities not only in research, but also in teaching, extension and economic development, are experts in taking their findings and sharing them with farmers, ranchers and the Missouri community as a whole.

With the help of a \$300,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, the division will be able to expand on those leadership opportunities.

The grant, through USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, will be used to develop The National Center for Applied Reproduction and Genomics in beef cattle. The goal of NCARG will be to promote the economic impact of the technologies Mizzou animal sciences faculty have developed and are using every day. The focus is on giving farmers and ranchers the answer to the question—"What is the return on investment if I invest in reproductive or genomic technologies?"

"We're not just trying to fill people's heads with new knowledge—it's more about lighting a fire," said Jared Decker, an Extension beef geneticist at Mizzou. "We're focused on helping

farmers and ranchers understand the technology, but, more than that, to trust the technology and identify ways they can use it. We want to educate producers and help them take that next leap.”

The multi-disciplinary grant is in partnership with the MU College of Veterinary Medicine. NCARG will have a big focus on continuing education for veterinarians, including educational and training opportunities for veterinary students, graduate students, farmers, ranchers and allied industry professionals.

“This center again underscores the collaborative environment between schools and programs that exist at Mizzou to advance training for veterinary and animal science students, and research that benefits Missouri stakeholders,” said College of Veterinary Medicine Interim Dean Carolyn Henry, DVM, MS, DACVIM (Oncology).

The idea for a center of this type has been discussed amongst faculty in the Division of Animal Sciences for the past few years. David Patterson and Mike Smith, both professors of reproductive physiology, have taught numerous full-day sessions at American Veterinary Medical Association meetings. With all of the programs in place at MU, Patterson and Smith had many discussions on ways to share that research with not only Missouri, but on a national level.

“Our reproductive and genomic research is so closely tied—and both are great strengths within our division,” Patterson said. “A center of this nature is the logical next step for our division. With beef cattle, there is so much technology that could help operations. We want to help transfer that technology to industry participants at all levels.”

Patterson has led the reproductive extension work in the Division of Animal Sciences, with Decker leading the genetic extension efforts.

There will be a big focus on the economic impact of using these technologies as well. Scott Brown, an assistant extension professor in the Division of Applied Social Sciences, will lend his expertise in agricultural and applied economics to the center. “show the increase in profitability that can result from integrating reproductive and genetic technologies in commercial herds,” Brown said.

NCARG already has received numerous letters of support from veterinary medical professionals, U.S. beef breed associations, pharmaceutical houses, genomic testing companies, industry consultants, the artificial insemination industry, branded beef and feeder calf programs, and state agencies, organizations and companies.

“I think it really reflects how people value research in reproduction and genetics at Mizzou,” Decker said. “I think they value the extension and educational expertise at Mizzou as well. The Division of Animal Sciences has worked extremely hard to build relationships with each of these organizations and groups, and it’s exciting to see them offer their full support.”

NCARG is still in the beginning stages of development. The group is seeking a location to house NCARG and is continuing to search for partnerships.

“We’re taking the model we’ve developed in Missouri over the past 20 years and making it a national center,” Decker said. “We’re hoping to spread the model of integrating research and extension in genetics, reproduction and economics – and putting that together. That’s worked really well in Missouri. Now, let’s spread it nationally.”

Along with Patterson, Decker, Smith and Brown, Bill Lamberson, Scott Poock, Thomas Spencer and Jeremy Taylor were part of the development of the grant.



University of Missouri receives \$300,000 grant to develop animal sciences center

Generated from News Bureau direct pitch.

COLUMBIA, MO (KFVS) -

The Division of Animal Sciences at the University of Missouri [College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources \(CAFNR\)](#) recently received a \$300,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The grant will help develop The National Center for Applied Reproduction and Genomics (NCARG) in Beef Cattle.

“We’re not just trying to fill people’s heads with new knowledge – it’s more about lighting a fire,” said Jared Decker, an Extension beef geneticist at Mizzou. “We’re focused on helping farmers and ranchers understand the technology, but, more than that, to trust the technology and identify ways they can use it. We want to educate producers and help them take that next leap.”

Promoting the economic impact of Mizzou's technologies in animal science is the goal of NCARG.

The grant is in partnership with the MU College of Veterinary Medicine. NCARG will focus on continuing education for veterinarians, including educational and training opportunities for veterinary students, graduate students, farmers, ranchers and allied industry professionals.

NCARG is still in the beginning stages of development. The group is seeking a location to house NCARG and is continuing to search for partnerships.

Along with Patterson, Jared Decker, an Extension beef geneticist at Mizzou., David Patterson and Mike Smith, both professors of reproductive physiology, Bill Lamberson, Scott Poock, Thomas Spencer and Jeremy Taylor were part of the development of the grant.



University of Missouri officials continue push for diversity

COLUMBIA (AP) — **University of Missouri officials say the Columbia campus still has a ways to go in hiring diverse faculty despite recent improvement.**

The Columbia Missourian reported that System President Mun Choi and University of Missouri Chancellor Alexander Cartwright spoke Monday at a hearing of the Missouri House Special Committee on Urban Issues. Choi and Cartwright said the university had its best year in recent history of hiring diverse faculty, but still hasn't reached its goal of having 10 percent of faculty come from underrepresented minority groups.

Choi said the school's faculty is currently 3.7 percent African-American and 4.5 percent Hispanic, so there's still work to be done.

He said the university hired 17 African-American and Hispanic faculty members last year, which made up about a third of the total hiring pool.



MU officials report slow progress on diverse hiring

Watch story at: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=aebccfbb-c2a7-45de-b86f-3e4d29f29426>



Remember MLK the hero and the man

By BOB WATSON

Nearly 50 years after his assassination, there are pitfalls in remembering the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. more as a hero than the man he really was, several speakers said at Tuesday's 90-minute MLK Celebration at the Capitol.

Monday — a national holiday — is the 89th anniversary of King's birth.

Keynote speaker Kevin McDonald cited historian Vincent Harding's comment, in his book, "Martin Luther King, The Inconvenient Hero," where Harding — one of King's friends as well as a neighbor in Atlanta — wrote: "It appears as if the price of the first national holiday honoring a black man is the development of a massive case of national amnesia concerning who that black man really was."

Missouri Supreme Court Judge George Draper III told about 100 gathered in the Rotunda for the annual Legislative Black Caucus program that many people honor King as a hero, "which he is, indeed, but he was also a man."

We "have a tendency to romanticize" King's legacy when we look back on this a half-century later, Draper said, and even King's sister, Christine King Farris, "wants to help demythologize one of our heroes. My brother was no saint — but an average and ordinary man."

Still, Draper said: "Dr. King sacrificed much for our people, for the (civil rights) movement, for this nation and for the world."

McDonald added, "(King was) an American who led the most profound social movement in American history — who changed the lives of millions of people he would never come to know (and) lost his life attempting to heal the most terrible wounds in our society."

However, even though today's society has "traveled an extraordinary distance from (King's) long night in a Birmingham jail," McDonald said, "the current level of progress across our nation would have dismayed Dr. King, because today's King would have carried a very different mindset" from the one most people remember the murdered leader by.

"Let's not forget that King was as much reviled as he was revered," McDonald said. "The FBI once said he was the most dangerous man in America (because) he cut against the grain."

Draper noted King's father was a Baptist preacher, and before following in his father's footsteps, the young King entered Atlanta's Morehouse College with plans to become a lawyer.

Influenced by others, he decided to go into the ministry instead.

However, in the 1960s, McDonald noted, "Morehouse College wouldn't let King on the Board of Trustees because they said he was a bad influence on young people because he went to jail too much."

McDonald, who holds an education doctorate degree and also is an attorney, is the four-campus University of Missouri System's vice-chancellor for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity.

Without King's leadership of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and '60s, Draper noted, "The state of our nation might be quite different. We might not have the representation we have here today. Indeed, that movement and the person and the sacrifice of Dr. King changed the world."

McDonald added, we should remember King because he "challenged our nation to envision what it should be — not what it could be — by unpacking its 'stuff,' its values."

King's message was "part of a tradition of a people who were terrorized, traumatized and stigmatized for 400 years" of slavery and segregation in the United States, McDonald reminded the MLK Celebration audience.

Before his death April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee, McDonald said, King had already started moving away from his integrationist dream to a different vision: restructuring American society to "save the soul of a nation" and create one society where people of many different backgrounds and faiths really live together.

Following that goal will "require all of us to look at ourselves with new eyes," McDonald said.

MISSOURIAN

Columbia hospitals avoid Medicare payment penalty

ASHLEY CRAFT

Over 3,000 hospitals nationwide were evaluated recently on the health care they provide, as part of the Affordable Care Act requirements.

Results showed 751 hospitals across the country will face penalties for the number of preventable complications that occurred over the past year. Boone Hospital Center and University Hospital were not on the penalty list.

While University Hospital has [been under review in the past](#), the system in 2017 focused on ways to improve its care.

"MU Health Care physicians and staff completed 527 quality-improvement projects," University Hospital spokeswoman Jennifer Coffman said. "A number of these projects were focused on areas important in Medicare's quality programs, but our commitment to quality care is much broader than these programs."

The Affordable Care Act established the evaluation program in 2014 as a way to "encourage hospitals to reduce" what the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services define as

preventable complications. Those range from in-hospital falls to post-operation sepsis, [according to the centers' website](#).

Julie Brookhart, spokeswoman for the centers, said they give hospitals 30 days to review their evaluation and submit questions.

Hospitals whose evaluations fall in the bottom 25 percent make the list and will have their Medicare payments docked 1 percent. Stanford Health Care in California, Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago and the University of Kansas Hospital in Kansas City were among those on this year's [penalty list](#).

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services evaluated 72 hospitals in Missouri. The following hospitals will face the penalty:

- Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital
- Christian Hospital Northeast
- St. Louis University Hospital
- SSM DePaul Health Center
- SSM St. Clare Health Center
- Mercy Hospital Lebanon
- Truman Medical Center Hospital Hill
- Hannibal Regional Hospital
- Texas County Memorial Hospital

Representatives of Boone Hospital Center declined to discuss the fact that the hospital didn't make the list of those to be penalized. A Thursday news release from Madison Burke Loethen, the hospital's multimedia marketing specialist, said the hospital was awarded five stars, the highest recognition, by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

"The website ranks more than 4,000 hospitals nationally," Burke Loethen said in the news release. "Only 83 hospitals in the country received 5 stars."

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

[Sigma Alpha Epsilon at Mizzou shut down as national organization probes violations](#)

BY KATY BERGEN

kbergen@kcstar.com

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The national headquarters of Sigma Alpha Epsilon ordered its University of Missouri chapter to stop operating last month as it investigates reports of health and safety violations at the house.

The Fraternity Service Center issued the [cease-and-desist order for the Missouri chapter](#) in December after an initial investigation.

Johnny Sao, the director of communications for the national Sigma Alpha Epsilon organization, told The Star that an investigation was opened in December after health and safety violations were reported to the Fraternity Service Center of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Staff had also discovered violations.

Sao said the length of cease-and-desist orders vary and that the investigation is ongoing.

"The Fraternity Service Center of Sigma Alpha Epsilon is still reviewing the case and at this time does not have future recommendations," Sao said in an email. "Appropriate actions and recommendations will be taken upon completion of the review."

According [to the Columbia Missourian](#), Sigma Alpha Epsilon is the fifth fraternity at the University of Missouri to be suspended by its national headquarters in the past two years.

Delta Upsilon was suspended in 2016 for a violation of fraternity policy. Kappa Alpha Order was suspended in 2016 and Sigma Phi Epsilon was suspended in 2017 for violations related to hazing.

Sigma Pi was banned in 2016 for repeat violations related to hazing.

An [external review of the University of Missouri's Greek system](#) conducted this fall determined that the university fraternities and sororities [are at great risk](#) when it comes to issues of student drinking, hazing, and substance abuse.

Investigators found that sororities and fraternities did not feel comfortable going to the university for help because of a fear of retribution or punishment for infractions.



National headquarters reviewing Missouri SAE fraternity

COLUMBIA (AP) — The national headquarters of Sigma Alpha Epsilon has told its chapter at the University of Missouri to stop all chapter operations until further notice.

The Fraternity Service Center issued the cease-and-desist order for the Missouri chapter last month after an investigation into health and safety violations at the house.

Johnny Sao, spokesman for SAE, says the national group is still investigating the case and appropriate actions will be taken when the review is done.

Missouri spokesman Christian Basi told The Columbia Missourian the actions were initiated by the national organization, not the university.

SAE is the fifth Missouri fraternity to be suspended in the past two years, three of them for hazing violations.

The New York Times

No College Kid Needs a Water Park to Study

Op-ed by JAMES V. KOCH

In a competition to woo students, public universities are increasingly offering lavish amenities that have nothing to do with education.

The latest trend is lazy rivers, which have been installed at several big institutions, including the Universities of Alabama, Iowa and Missouri. Last year, Louisiana State University topped them all with a 536-foot-long “leisure” river in the shape of the letters “LSU,” part of an \$85 million renovation and expansion of its gym. It was L.S.U. students who footed the bill.

At a time when college has never been more expensive, this is the last thing students should be paying for. According to the College Board, tuition and fees at public four-year institutions grew more than 60 percent over the past 10 years. State budgets for higher education have been slashed, and students have to make up the difference.

In the case of L.S.U., the lazy river was financed entirely by student fees, an addendum to their annual tuition. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, over the past five years, those fees increased by 60 percent, nearly triple the amount L.S.U. students paid in 2000.

Tuition and fee hikes at public universities don't come out of nowhere. Each has to be approved by a school's governing board, whose trustees are typically appointed by the governor. Ensuring affordable, quality education is an essential part of trustees' responsibility, but unfortunately often not part of their practice.

Trustees of public universities are stewards of a public trust that rests nobly on the notion that an enlightened citizenry is vital to a democratic society. They have a fiduciary duty to represent the citizens and taxpayers who support public institutions of higher education, as well as the students who attend them. But even though the best interests of students and taxpayers revolve around college access, affordability and graduation outcomes, too often presidents and boards are more focused on the rankings, reputation and popularity of the institution itself.

In my career as the president of two state universities and a consultant to nearly 50 higher-education institutions, I've observed dozens of college presidents skillfully co-opt their governing boards into approving costly projects that make schools look more attractive. (Of

course, every college president has to increase costs sometimes. But the goal is to make sure it is necessary, while keeping expenses as low as possible for students.)

Trustees, who typically meet four to eight times each year, are entertained as if they are visiting heads of state, flattered for their service and financial contributions to the institution. College presidents sweeten requests for new buildings and research centers, as well as additional student affairs programming, with cleverly branded words like “promise” and “excellence.” What board would want to withhold promise and excellence from its beloved student body?

College presidents also tranquilize trustees into agreement with impossibly large volumes of reading material. Trustees get binders full of documentation about institutional successes that are padded with expensive plans for increasing growth and reputation. Most come away impressed by their president’s expertise and vision and assured that — thanks to their efforts — the university is on the right track.

The unfortunate truth is that while most college presidents care deeply about their institution’s success, an important part of their job is to shake free more resources. They seldom initiate serious campaigns to contain costs.

This means it falls on trustees to be better prepared to help challenge costly proposals that don’t add educational value. When it comes to state schools, the states themselves should educate trustees to understand their responsibilities to the citizenry and students. Training on big-picture issues and higher-education trends, such as the financial trade-off between instruction and research, the costs of intercollegiate athletics, and the expansion of amenities, would help trustees develop courage to ask college presidents probing questions that look beyond institutional narratives and cherry-picked rhetoric.

Our nation’s governors must also play a role. As they appoint public university trustees, they can and should mandate training to make university boards responsible to taxpayers and students. I don’t mean to imply that trustees should devote themselves to ritual opposition to presidents, who usually possess an unmatched understanding of the institutions they lead.

But presidents are not infallible.

James V. Koch, a member of the board of Partners for College Affordability and Public Trust, served as president of the University of Montana and Old Dominion University.

MISSOURIAN

MU Extension Council election open

JENNA KIESER

The annual election for the MU Extension Council is now open for voting.

Registered voters in Boone County can cast ballots for council members, who provide input on MU Extension educational programming.

There are several ways to vote:

- Visit the [extension website](#) to vote online
- Request a paper ballot by phone at 573-445-9792
- Request a paper ballot by email at BooneCo@missouri.edu
- Vote in person at the Boone County University of Missouri Extension Office

Completed paper ballots must be mailed to Boone County Extension Office, 1012 N. Highway UU, Columbia, Missouri 65203.

The election is open until midnight on Jan. 23.

Extension Program Director Kent Shannon said the number of people who cast ballots in the annual council election has risen since the option to vote online was added. He estimated 1,500 to 2,000 people will vote.

Those who participate can choose 10 of the 12 candidates. The candidates are Steve Callis, Cindy Downing, Jill Edwards, Hattie Francis, Donna Hepburn, Elizabeth Hoyos, Sharon Pike, Donna Puleo, Andrew Stanton, Mary Studer-Logsdon, Odie Swanegan and Jenny Workman.

Biographies of each of the candidates are available on [MU Extension's website](#).