MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

February 2, 2018
Budget cuts to higher education would bring heavy costs for Missouri

BY NATHAN WILLETT
Special to The Star
February 01, 2018 03:23 PM
Updated February 01, 2018 03:26 PM

Nathan Willett is student body president at the University of Missouri. He co-authored this with Payton Englert, student body vice president, and Missouri State University’s Brandon McCoy, student body president and Caitlin Schaefer, student body vice president.

As college students, we often get criticized for thinking short term, caring only about the next tailgate before a sporting event, or ending up with a ticket from running late to class and parking in the wrong lot. For the most part, we are not going to deny that. It is also true that we do not always know what the future will hold in terms of our next job and post-graduation plans. We get reminded of that plenty when answering questions from our loved ones during school breaks.

But in terms of the betterment of our state, we do know that the governor’s proposed budget prioritizes the short term over the long-term climate of Missouri.

On Monday, after having some time to look over the governor’s proposed budget, we were joined by numerous other student leaders from all corners of our state in expressing our deep disappointment with the governor and his administration’s proposed fiscal year 2019 budget for higher education funding. The recommendation includes a $68.1 million—or 10 percent—reduction in higher education spending. This is on top of the well-publicized withholding in 2017 and base cuts in 2018.

Now, we are not asking for a “free college for all” plan that places no financial responsibility on individuals to pay for their education. We just simply don’t want to go backward in terms of funding for higher education in Missouri.

We want to make it known to the people of Missouri that public higher education is an unparalleled economic driver for states like ours. It is not an exaggeration to say that public higher education paves the way to the American Dream. It adds value to those who attend institutions of higher education and for those who benefit from the fruits of its labor.
At the beginning of this year, Amazon released the list of 20 cities named as finalists for its proposed HQ2. St. Louis and Kansas City, however, were not among those. Both submitted thoughtful proposals in hopes of luring the $5 billion investment project and 50,000 jobs, but it’s no surprise to us that Missouri turned up empty handed. Innovative companies don’t want to plant themselves in a state where education for innovators isn’t valued.

If we are going to attract businesses and more quality jobs, we need to invest in the education of our people. By 2020, 92 of the 100 highest paying occupations in Missouri will require at least a bachelor’s degree. If this budget proposal were to be implemented, we would be sacrificing the future and quality of higher education in Missouri, to the detriment of all Missourians.

Universities can’t do their part in meeting workforce demands without resources. If the governor’s budget proposal were to be implemented, it would place Missouri public universities in a position where they must continue cutting faculty and staff that are crucial to the programs that benefit our state.

Public universities have worked over the past two years to cut excess costs and become more efficient. We have reached a point, though, where hardworking students and their families are going to be the ones to bear the burden of the revenue shortfall. Steepening tuition and fees will be a gatekeeper for those who can — and cannot — realistically attain higher education.

The opportunities offered to the next generation to gain hands-on experience, work with diverse groups of individuals and engage in the community are truly invaluable. As students who come from all types of towns in Missouri, we can attest to the wide-ranging benefits of the college experience.

Each year, public universities train and shape the leaders and the workforce of our state’s future. It’s time to invest in them, and invest in Missouri.

This is not a red or blue issue. It is about you, the people of Missouri, and our future.

MU College of Veterinary Medicine names Carolyn Henry as new dean

BY ELENA K. CRUZ

MU announced the appointment of a new dean for the College of Veterinary Medicine Thursday afternoon.

Carolyn Henry, the college’s interim dean since August 2017, will assume the role immediately.
“We feel very fortunate that she accepted the invitation to be the dean,” said Jim Spain, interim provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Henry is out of town and couldn’t be immediately reached. However, she said in a Thursday news release that she wants to continue the school’s “mission to teach, heal, discover and serve” as she assumes the role. Former Provost Garnett Stokes conducted a focused, internal search for the new dean and Henry was the sole candidate, Spain said. She had been the interim dean since the start of the fall semester after Neil Olson, the former dean, left to take the same position at St. George’s University in Grenada.

Henry began working at MU in 1997 as an assistant professor of oncology. She became the university’s first American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine board-certified oncologist. Henry has also been the associate director of research at the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center since 2011.

“Dr. Henry truly cares about the success of faculty, staff and students, and her messages regarding the value of providing a distinguished veterinary curriculum resonated with donors and board members,” Stokes said in the news release.

Spain said he is confident that Henry will be able to maintain the college’s standing as MU faces budget cuts.

“Dr. Henry is nationally recognized,” Spain said. “She’s been recruited for similar positions by a number of other outstanding universities as deans of their colleges of veterinary medicine.”

Henry’s salary will be $310,000 a year in her new position, according to MU spokesman Jeff Sossamon.

**COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE**

**Henry named dean of veterinary medicine**

By Columbia Daily Tribune

**Carolyn Henry, interim dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine since May, was given the job on a permanent basis Thursday in one of the last official acts by University of Missouri Provost Garnett Stokes.**

Henry, a cancer researcher, joined the MU faculty in 1997 as an assistant professor of oncology. She holds dual appointments in veterinary medicine and the School of Medicine and has been associate director of research at Ellis Fischel Cancer Center since 2011.
Henry’s predecessor, Neil Olson, left MU to become dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine at St. George’s University in Grenada.

“Dr. Henry’s leadership was viewed very positively by stakeholders and campus leaders inside and outside of the college,” Stokes said in a news release.

Stokes’ last day at the university was Thursday. She is leaving to become president of the University of New Mexico.

MU provost announces new dean for College of Veterinary Medicine

By ELIZABETH DUESENBERG

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: MU provost appoints College of Veterinary Medicine dean

COLUMBIA, Mo. - University of Missouri Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Garnett Stokes announced on Thursday that Carolyn Henry, current interim dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, was named dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Henry will start her new position immediately.

“Dr. Henry’s leadership was viewed very positively by stakeholders and campus leaders inside and outside of the college,” Stokes said. “Dr. Henry truly cares about the success of faculty, staff and students, and her messages regarding the value of providing a distinguished veterinary curriculum resonated with donors and board members. Dr. Henry is more than prepared to lead the college into the future. Mizzou has much to look forward to working with Dr. Henry as the new College of Veterinary Medicine dean.”

Henry earned a doctor of veterinary medicine degree at Auburn University. She practiced small animal and emergency medicine in Alabama and Georgia before coming back to Auburn to complete an oncology residency and a master of science degree.

“I am truly humbled to serve as the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Missouri’s only institution that confers the DVM degree,” Henry said. “This is not a responsibility I take lightly.
Our students are among the best, and they graduate with the skills needed to serve important roles in the veterinary profession. MU is a national leader in comparative medicine, in which our outstanding faculty and student researchers collaborate with other disciplines sharing discoveries and innovations for animals and people. As a land grant institution, we also bear responsibility for supporting agriculture in our state and serve an important role in food security. I look forward to continuing the support of our mission to teach, heal, discover and serve.”

'Lucile Bluford Residence Hall' approved by board of curators

Generated by UM System release: New MU residence hall honors African-American leaders

BY KACEN J. BAYLESS 8 hrs ago (0)

The previously unnamed new residence hall on MU’s campus will now bear the name of an African-American leader who once sued the university after being denied admittance because of her race.

The UM System Board of Curators voted unanimously to name the building “The Lucile Bluford Residence Hall” during its meeting on Thursday. The atrium of the residence hall will be dedicated to Gus T. Ridgel, the first African-American to graduate from MU.

According to a news release, the naming recommendation came from Curator Darryl Chatman and Student Representative Courtney Lauer, who led a working group to find a name for the hall.

Bluford’s career as a journalist included the coverage of civil rights for The Kansas City Call newspaper in the 1930s. Despite her merits in journalism, MU withdrew her admission to the university based on her race. Bluford was denied admission 11 times.

Decades later, she was given the Missouri Honor Medal and awarded an honorary doctorate in humanities in 1989.

“Lucile Bluford and Gus Ridgel exemplified the university’s values of Respect, Responsibility, Discovery and Excellence,” Board of Curators Chairman David Steelman said in the release.

In November, the MU Faculty Council recommended a plaque be installed at the residence hall at 502 Kentucky Blvd. that would describe Bluford’s career as an editor and activist.
The unanimously approved resolution suggested information that could be included on the plaque, including:

“Students come to Mizzou from diverse backgrounds. Some are the first in their families to attend college; some overcome economic barriers; still others transcend prejudice around class, race and identity. Many of our students do not fit into the traditional legacies of the University of Missouri and might feel a gulf between themselves and the names of the people commemorated on our buildings.

“In naming this residence hall in honor of Ms. Bluford today, we declare that all students have a home here, in this and every residence hall, and we recognize Ms. Bluford’s role in helping Mizzou realize that all students are integral to Mizzou’s path to greatness.”

MU dorm to honor two African-American pioneers

By DAN CLAXTON

COLUMBIA — Two African-American students who made history trying to be admitted to MU will be honored by naming a new dormitory and its atrium after them, according to a statement by the University Board of Curators.

A new dorm at 502 Kentucky Street in Greektown will be known as Lucile Bluford Hall and its atrium as Gus Ridgel Atrium.

Bluford was a pioneering journalist who worked for the Kansas City Call for 70 years. She was denied access to the University 11 times because of her race. When the state supreme court finally ruled in her favor in 1941, the journalism school closed the doors of its graduate school, claiming too many teachers were serving in WWII. In 1984, she was finally honored when the university presented her with its Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism.
Ridgel was the first African-American student to graduate from the university with a master's degree. To gain admission, Ridgel had to file suit and go through the court system. He graduated with a master's degree in economics in 1951.

The new dorm opened last fall and offers community-style double and single rooms.

MU’s Newest Hall Named Lucile Bluford Residence Hall

By LYDIA BIRT • 15 HOURS AGO

The University of Missouri Board of Curators voted unanimously on Thursday to honor two African-American leaders who shaped the University of Missouri-Columbia’s history. According to a press release from the University of Missouri System, the board voted to name MU’s newest residence hall for journalist and honorary doctoral degree recipient Lucile Bluford. The hall’s atrium will honor MU’s first African-American graduate Gus T. Ridgel.

“From this day forward, Lucile Bluford Residence Hall and the Gus T. Ridgel Atrium will stand as testaments to the spirit of justice and perseverance that animated both of these individuals,” said David Steelman, chair of the Board of Curators. “Lucile Bluford and Gus Ridgel exemplified the university’s values of Respect, Responsibility, Discovery and Excellence.”

Curator Darryl Chatman and Student Representative to the Board of Curators Courtney Laurer recommended the hall’s naming. Bluford’s nomination was well-received in the MU community.

Lucile Bluford Residence Hall and the Gus T. Ridgel Atrium are located at 502 Kentucky Blvd. The facility opened last fall and offers community-style double and single rooms.

“It’s my hope that Bluford Hall and the Ridgel Atrium will remind us all of our duty to ensure that Mizzou is welcoming to all students, faculty and staff,” MU Chancellor Alexander N. Cartwright said. “I am proud of the overwhelming support our campus has shown for recognizing these two individuals.”
New MU residence hall honors 2 prominent African-Americans

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri is naming the newest residence hall on the Columbia campus after a prominent late black journalist once denied admission there.

The Board of Curators voted unanimously Thursday to name the 279-student dorm after Lucile Bluford. The hall's atrium will honor Gus Ridgel, the university's first African-American graduate.

Bluford was denied admission to the university's journalism school 11 times because of her race. In 1989, five decades after Bluford's first application, the university granted her an honorary doctorate degree in humanities. She spent decades working at the Kansas City Call newspaper before her death in 2003.

Ridgel received a master's degree from MU in economics in 1951. He taught, researched and worked as an administrator at the university level. The 91-year-old Ridgel described the naming as "humbling."

Similar stories ran in national media outlets

UM Board of Curators lower Mizzou student housing and dining rates

By TAYLOR PETRAS
COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri Board of Curators approved a 3.5 percent decrease in room and board costs at the Columbia campus at its meeting Thursday.

Some Mizzou students who live in a residence hall and are on a meal plan could save about $350 a year, paying less than $1,000 a month for the 2018-2019 school year.

"This goes in line with our strategy to try to find additional ways to cut the costs of attending the University of Missouri," said MU spokesperson Christian Basi. "It breaks down those barriers that we are consistently hearing about across the country when it comes to affordability and tuition at universities."

Last year, Mizzou students paid about $10,070 a year for room and board. Next school year students will pay about $9,720 to live on campus. The curators also approved as much as a two percent increase in housing and dining rates for the other three campuses Thursday.

Basi said the university has been working to attract more students to live in residence halls, including graduate students. Several empty halls remained vacant this year due to a drop in enrollment numbers. He said the university is expecting to fill all of its residence halls next school year.

The UM System is facing $80 million in funding cuts from the state based on the proposed budget. Basi said residence hall rates aren't funded through public money.

"We’ve been able to take a look at some of the areas that we can and have direct control over and been able to make adjustments that are in favor of students’ pocketbooks," he said.

The curators meet in Columbia again Friday at 9 a.m.
A marketing campaign aimed at returning students will fill the University of Missouri’s residence halls in the fall, including six left mostly idle this year, putting additional pressure on private landlords who are already struggling to fill off-campus apartments.

Vice Chancellor for Operations Gary Ward told the Board of Curators on Thursday that all the residence halls would be in use in the fall, and in an interview afterward said he expects them to be at or near capacity. Cuts in room rates and relaxing the requirement to purchase meal plans for returning students are a big part of the increase, Ward said.

“We have done a lot of creative marketing to our returning students,” he said. “We had never done that before. We had never offered residential hall living to upperclassmen, sophomores and transfer students.”

Because of a severe drop in new freshmen, the only students required by university policy to live on campus, MU idled seven residence halls in the spring. Some were kept available for use by visitors, including football weekend rentals.

The 16 residence halls used this academic year have a capacity of about 5,000. Six will be reopened, adding about 1,300 more beds, and one, Responsibility Hall, was put under long-term lease to MU Health Care for administrative offices.

This year’s incoming freshmen class was 4,134, down 2,060 from 2015. While officials expect some rebound in that figure, most of the reopened rooms will be filled with returning students. Those are the same students targeted by landlords, who offered incentives of $1,000 or more to renters last summer, with one operator offering to buy students out of their housing contracts.

Like Ward’s report on dorms, most of Thursday’s session of the curators was consumed by reports and discussions of projects underway. The board did approve naming a new residence hall after Lucille Bluford, a Kansas City journalist who fought to integrate the School of Journalism.

Bluford applied to the school’s graduate program in 1939, winning a Missouri Supreme Court order in 1941 that the school should admit her if Lincoln University, the state’s public university for black students, did not establish a comparable journalism program. MU closed all graduate studies, citing demands of World War II, before she could be admitted.

RELATED

The board also approved a tuition plan for the UMKC campus that would extend in-state tuition rates to Kansas students and allow students from seven states — Arkansas, Iowa, Kentucky, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas — to attend at 150 percent of in-state rates. The seven states are part of the Midwest Student Exchange Program. The tuition program for Kansas extends a program already available to students living in counties adjacent to Missouri.

The program was approved to make UMKC more attractive, system chief financial officer Ryan Rapp said. Right now, he said, “Missouri is a net exporter of students to Kansas.”
A project that will produce action at future board meetings is a task force created to include several curators, UM System President Mun Choi and the chancellors of all four campuses. They are studying the structures that govern the university system and the role of campuses and the central administration.

Since Choi arrived in March, the university has been engaged in cuts because of lower state support and declining enrollment and to make money available for reallocation. Part of Choi’s program is also to centralize more functions to save money and to make campuses work more closely together.

Curator Darryl Chatman, who is chairing the task force, said a survey has been created to dive into the issues and task force meetings will produce a report in time for the April board meeting.

“What we would like is something that tells the system what their role is and the campuses what their roles are and what the campuses’ roles are with each other,” Chatman said.

UMKC cutting tuition for students from Kansas and 15 other Midwest states

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
mdwilliams@kcstar.com
February 01, 2018 04:34 PM

In a continued push to boost enrollment, the University of Missouri-Kansas City is lowering tuition costs for students living in Kansas and 15 other Midwest states.

The move, approved Thursday by the University of Missouri Board of Curators, takes UMKC’s slogan “Border Schmorder” to a whole new level and creates two new tuition rates for students from outside Missouri.

UMKC developed the “Border Schmorder” slogan when it offered in-state tuition rates to students from 11 counties in Kansas. Under a new Kansas rate, residents of every county in the Sunflower State would pay the same tuition as Missouri students.

A second new tuition payment program will be called the Heartland Rate. Under that program, students who are residents of 15 contiguous Midwestern states will pay 150 percent of the in-state rate paid by Missouri residents. That’s much lower than what those students would pay now.

Boasting that UMKC has outstanding research opportunities, low student-faculty ratio, and the opportunity to engage with a major city, Barbara A. Bichelmeyer, interim chancellor and UMKC
provost, said in a statement that UMKC “can’t afford to allow cost to be a barrier to young people who appreciate those advantages and view UMKC as the perfect launching pad for their careers.”

With the new Kansas rate, students who qualify would pay the Missouri in-state rate of $278 per student credit hour — a savings of almost $14,000 a year for a full-time student taking 30 credit hours.

The new Heartland Rate is $417 per student credit hour, compared to $768.90 for residents of states from outside the 15-state Heartland region. That would be a savings of about $10,000 a year for a full-time student with 30 credit hours.

Both new rates go into effect this fall.

UMKC developed the Heartland Rate by expanding an existing program in which UMKC and universities in nine other states agreed to accept each other’s students at a tuition rate that is 150 percent of the rate paid by in-state students.

North Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio are participating in that reciprocal student exchange program.

To create the Heartland Rate, UMKC added South Dakota, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas to the mix — offering students from those states the 150 percent in-state tuition rate, but without the reciprocal agreement.

The reduced tuition rates come as UMKC officials compete for students with area universities that recently have also taken steps to lower the cost of a college education.

Two weeks ago Missouri State University announced it is reducing the number of credit hours needed to complete a bachelor’s degree for 80 percent of its programs, knowing that the faster students get through college the less it costs them. MSU is also expanding scholarships, freezing housing rates and lowering meal prices, and making less expensive textbook options available.

Also at play for Missouri universities is Gov. Eric Greitens recent budget recommendation for a $68.1 million — or 10 percent — reduction in higher education spending.

With state funding cuts on the horizon schools are looking to increase enrollment and bring in more tuition dollars. UMKC has a plan to boost enrollment to 20,000 from its current 16,000 students.

“We have been planning for this so we have the staffing and the physical space for additional students,” said John Martellaro, university spokesman.

While UMKC’s two new tuition rate reduction plans are good for growing enrollment, they may seem to detract from the need to increase revenue.

No so, Martellaro said. “We are expecting growth, so while we might get fewer dollars per student, we expect to make that up but having more students. We are ready to open our doors.”
Curators approve new teaching center, housing and tuition changes

BY KACEN J. BAYLESS AND DANIEL KONSTANTINOVIC

The UM System Board of Curators meeting on Thursday was punctuated not by any single issue, but rather by a slew of approvals and discussion about topics including housing affordability and teaching services. Among these topics were the creation of a new teaching center at MU, changes to housing rates across three campuses, the dedication of a MU residence hall and tuition changes at UMKC.

Creation of a new MU teaching center

At a luncheon with student leaders, Interim Provost Jim Spain said that a new teaching center will open on MU’s campus to “focus on supporting faculty in teaching roles.” According to Spain, the curators will also announce a new UM System Dashboard, which will compile measurements from teacher evaluation forms filled out at the end of each semester by students.

Spain said the projected cost of investment into the new teaching center, which was first conceived in 2014 at the request of former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, will be anywhere from $750,000 to $1 million. A portion of that investment will go toward a search for the director of the center, Spain said.

These announcements followed concerns expressed by student leaders about the effectiveness of teaching services at MU, as well as student rights and affordability.

Changes to housing affordability

MU Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer Ryan Rapp presented a summary of student housing and dining rates for next year. Among the four UM System campuses, MU will see a 3.5 percent decrease in the costs of room and board in fiscal year 2019 compared to this year. Missouri S&T and UMKC’s housing costs will increase by 2 percent; students at UMSL will pay the same rate.

At MU, the average housing and dining plan will cost $9,720 per year and include 200 meals per semester. The curators approved the cost plan, which will go into effect this summer.

Rapp said all residence halls at MU except Responsibility, which is being leased by MU Health, will be in use for student housing next year.
“We’re looking at different ways of attracting new students,” Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Gary Ward said. “So far, it’s been very, very successful. We are committed to providing affordable housing to our students.”

With this reduction in housing costs, MU hopes to fill all of the residence halls left vacant this year due to low enrollment, campus spokeswoman Liz McCune said.

“Gary said our goal is to have the residence halls 100 percent occupied,” McCune said. “All I can say is that the numbers are pointing up, not just with new students, but also increasing returning and transfer students.”

Bluford Residence Hall

The curators unanimously approved to name MU’s newest residence hall after African-American journalist Lucile Bluford. The hall’s atrium will be named after Gus T. Ridgel, MU’s first African-American graduate. According to a news release, the naming recommendation came from Curator Darryl Chatman and Student Representative Courtney Lauer, who led a working group to find a name for the hall.

Bluford was denied admission to the University of Missouri 11 times in the 1930s due to her race, but was later given the Missouri Honor Medal in 1984 and awarded an honorary doctorate in humanities five years later.

“Lucile Bluford and Gus Ridgel exemplified the university’s values of Respect, Responsibility, Discovery and Excellence,” Board of Curators Chairman David Steelman said.

UMKC Tuition Changes

The curators also approved the creation of two new tuition rates for UMKC. The first rate, known as the Kansas Rate, previously offered in-state tuition to Kansas residents who lived in one of eleven counties, but will now offer all Kansas residents the same rate that Missouri residents pay.

According to documents provided by the curators, this rate will allow UMKC to have more attractive tuition rates in comparison to other schools it competes with for enrollment. Additionally, UMKC would only need to add 42 students to offset the tuition lost by the 13 Kansas students who are currently paying the non-metro rate. The goal for the first year would be to add 50 new students under this rate.

The second rate, known as the Heartland rate, will go into effect for fall 2018 and offer tuition at 150 percent of the in-state price Missouri residents pay to residents of the following states:

- Arkansas
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
Kentucky
Michigan
Minnesota
Nebraska
North Dakota
Ohio
Oklahoma
South Dakota
Tennessee
Texas
Wisconsin

Protest

The curators had their share of dissenters throughout the day. In the hallway just outside the student luncheon, protesters from the Mizzou Energy Action Coalition donned glittering party hats and offered cards and pumpkin-orange cupcakes to curators as they walked through the Reynolds Alumni Center, “thanking” them for divesting in fossil fuels. The coalition requested in October that UM divest in fossil fuels, but were denied.

“Thank you for Divesting from Fossil Fuels,” one thank-you card read. “This move... shows that the UM System will take its values seriously.” The most they got was a thumbs up from President Mun Choi as he passed by.

Coalition of Graduate Workers co-chair Eric Scott, an MU graduate instructor in the English department, sat in the front row of chairs holding a white sign.

Scott’s handwritten poster emphasized that although members of the coalition submit W-2 forms and receive a paycheck, they still aren’t recognized as a union by MU.

Choi eventually caught Scott’s eye and noticed the sign in his hands. Choi walked over, sat next to the graduate student and patted him on the back.

“I just wanted you to know that we see you and we’re happy that you’re here,” Choi whispered to Scott.

Throughout the meeting, coalition members stopped by and held their own signs of protest.

“The university has, for two and a half years now, refused to negotiate with us, to meet with us, to have any sort of dealings with us, despite the fact that we have followed all of the proper rules and channels for a union recognition campaign,” Scott said.

The coalition is currently suing the UM System for not recognizing graduate workers as employees. In response to the graduate student protests, campus spokesman Christian Basi said MU’s position on the issue has not changed and that it will be decided in court. The hearing date is set for April.
The UM System Board of Curators meeting will resume Friday morning with the MU Faculty Council breakfast and presentation.

Special Report: "The Price of Education"

By ALYSSA TOOMEY


COLUMBIA, Mo. - It's a tough time for higher education in Missouri.

Public higher education institutions are facing significant challenges due to cuts from state appropriations, and specifically at the University of Missouri, a drop in enrollment.

This year, the UM System's budget could go down by as much as $80 million as Gov. Greitens' proposed budget cuts core funding for the UM System by 10 percent.

"$80 million represents the operating budget for about eight times the College of Engineering at Mizzou," UM System President Mun Choi said in an interview with ABC 17 News. "That's the kind of impact we're facing."

This year's proposed cuts come after a nine percent cut last year and more than a decade of decreased state funding.

"Right now we are running very lean. The number of faculty members at Mizzou has actually decreased over the past five years, and many of our staff members are providing additional support because of the staff separations we've had," Choi said.

Last year, there were more than 500 faculty and staff separations across the system with more than 300 of those at Mizzou. That was after a $40 million cut.

"That's what we're trying to avoid," Choi said.

As a result of the proposed cuts, Choi said the system is asking for relief from Senate Bill 389. Passed in 2007, Senate Bill 389 caps tuition increases at CPI.
"It's very important for us to have the flexibility to charge tuition that can be tested by the market place," Choi said.

"This is a competitive market," MU economics professor Joe Haslag explained, "So what you want to figure out is what's the price that someone is wiling to pay to consume or invest in a University of Missouri Columbia education."

If the tuition cap is lifted, Choi said the system won't lose sight of affordability.

"When we increase tuition we're going to be mindful of the cost of attendance so that we put more resources into need based scholarships for our students," he explained.

"They would never go to a place where they’re pricing themselves out of the market because if they do then enrollment is going to go down and they are going to have another problem on their hands," Rowden said.

State leaders said the lack of funding is already causing problems in our state. In the UM System, Choi said there are now 200 more students attending universities in Arkansas when compared to 10 years ago.

"That represents a brain drain," Choi said. "The likelihood of that student who goes out of the state to study, leads to a higher likelihood that that person will stay in that location to further their careers. We want to have those students pursue their careers here in Missouri."

Asked about the long-term effects on our state's economy, Rowden replied, "It could be potentially devasting."

Not only do universities help produce an educated work force, but there is also value for the student.

"The value added of a bachelor's degree versus a high school diploma, means, over the course of a person's lifetime, about a million dollars in purchasing power," Haslag said. "If I told you, I'll give you a million dollars if you give me $250,000, you're probably going to take that bet every time."

Rowden said investing in higher education isn't "optional."

"To implicate that investing in higher education is optional I think is asinine," he said. "I think it's incredibly shortsighted."

A study is currently in the works on the UM System's economic impact. Choi said he expects the impact to be above $3 billion a year. That return is more than seven times the state's investment.

"An investment in higher education is an investment in the future," Choi said.
“We have to think longer term," Rowden echoed. "We've got to do it because if we don't we're going to put the next generation in a box that they might not be able to get out of."

Higher Education Institutions Campaign for Ability to Raise Tuition and Funding

By SARAH KELLOGG • 23 HOURS AGO

Presidents from multiple universities testified Wednesday morning on behalf of a bill that would change how universities could charge tuition. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, allows universities with an above average tuition rate in the state of Missouri, to raise tuition up to ten percent past the rate of inflation.

It modifies the current law which currently caps the tuition rate, in most cases, at the rate of inflation. The bill also removes the appeal process universities must follow if they want to raise tuition past the cap. Now, with a cap of 10 percent past the inflation rate, universities no longer have to appeal to the state board of higher education, but cannot go past the cap. According to Rowden, the intended purpose of this bill is to provide an option for universities when they are facing budget cuts.

“It is my hope, that this bill is never used, because the idea that, this would only happen in a world where we are cutting core appropriations,” Rowden said.

Nine people spoke to condone the bill, including UM System President Mun Choi. Choi linked the support of this bill to last year’s budget cuts and the proposed budget cuts Gov. Eric Greitens is recommending for higher education this year.

“This tuition increase relief that we are seeking, is really tied in to how much support we are getting from the state. During the past two years we’ve seen an 80 million dollar cut to our appropriations and that’s putting us into a precarious situation,” Choi said.

Another supporter was Natalie Butler, who represented the Associated Students of the University of Missouri.
“With the series of cuts in fiscal year 2018 and those proposed in fiscal year 2019, combined with the tuition caps, we’ve really put universities in an unworkable position,” Butler said.

Sen. Dan Brown, R-Rolla, expressed his support of the bill, questioning the amount of involvement the government has with tuition rates.

“I think colleges and universities are smart enough to price their services, and if they overprice it, they’ll pay the price,” Brown said.

The bill did receive scrutiny. Senator Jason Holsman, D-Kansas City, said he’s hesitant to support the bill without some way to provide tuition predictability for students. Holsman also noted that the governor’s recommendations are subject to the Senate’s decision.

“Until we get our arms around what our Senate position is going to be, I think it’s too early to determine whether the universities need a ten percent increase above the cost of inflation,” Holsman said.

Universities were again the topic of discussion during the House Education Appropriation subcommittee. Representatives from six universities spoke to the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee. Members of the education appropriations subcommittee heard testimony from the heads of multiple universities Wednesday afternoon.

Choi was one of six representatives who spoke on behalf of their respective universities.

“We believe very strongly that further cuts will lead to larger class sizes, higher student to faculty ratios and ultimately, lower graduation rates, which essentially increases the cost of attendance for our students,” Choi said.

Choi requested the restoration of the UM System core budget, the restoration of line item projects and the committees help in passing a senate bill that would allow universities to change the tuition cap to ten percent beyond the inflation rate.

Mike Middleton, the Interim President of Lincoln University, stated that Lincoln university could not sustain more significant cuts.

“A decline in the number available high school students was already forecast, but with this additional wave of cuts, we are in a perfect storm, with no clear break in the clouds.” Middleton said.

Two common themes among some of the universities’ statements were the support of raising the tuition cap, and a request to delay performance-based funding.
Gov. Eric Greitens is proposing a $6.5 million increase to Missouri’s student financial aid programs, a modest boost amid his desire to cut $68 million in direct funds to the state’s public colleges and universities.

The state’s Department of Higher Education gave 64,500 students attending in-state schools about $128.5 million last year in the form of three grants: Access Missouri, a financial need-based grant; Bright Flight, a merit-based scholarship; and the A+ Scholarship, providing free community college to students completing 50 hours of community service in high school.

The governor’s budget asks for increases of $2 million for Access Missouri, $3.5 million for A+ and $1 million for Bright Flight.

“Gov. Greitens appreciates the value of affordable higher education that equips our citizens with quality degrees, certificates, and training,” the budget outline said.

The scholarships have been chronically underfunded and unable to keep pace with rising college tuition. For example, when Bright Flight was created 30 years ago, the scholarship covered half of the tuition at the University of Missouri-Columbia. The grant now covers a fifth of the cost of classes at Mizzou.

The state’s largest scholarship program, Access Missouri, is almost $40 million short of being able to give recipients the maximum possible grant. Last year, the state gave 44,000 students $1,676 each. The scholarship is worth up to $2,850.

“It’s by far got the largest number of students and struggles the most to meet statutory minimums,” said Faith Sandler, executive director of the Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis.

The $2 million proposed increase is better than a cut, Sandler said, but it will still leave Access Missouri “dramatically underfunded.”
The small increase is enough to maintain current award levels as demand is expected to rise, according to Department of Higher Education spokeswoman Liz Coleman.

The Scholarship Foundation advocates state financial aid should be focused on financially needy students and not high academically achieving ones, who it argues are more likely to receive other scholarships from top colleges.

State lawmakers expanded A+ eligibility to private high schools in 2016, which requires high schoolers to complete community service as well as maintain good grades and attendance in exchange for a free associate degree.

Six of the 22 high schools that are part of the Independent Schools of St. Louis consortium signed in the first year, according to executive director Jamie Driver. He said he expects that number to increase.

One high school that jumped at the chance to join A+ is St. Francis Borgia Regional High School, a Catholic institution in Washington, Missouri.

“We wanted to give every opportunity that was available to our students if one of our students wanted to pursue a community college education or technical college education,” said Kim Flores, a school counselor.

It was a scramble for seniors to complete the needed community service in a short time frame, Flores said, but 38 students out of a graduating class of 123 earned the scholarship.

She calls the perception that students attending a private school don’t need financial assistance to get an education a misnomer.

“Not all of our families are able to pay for college and this A+ scholarship really does aid those families a great deal,” she said.

Ryan Lowry, a senior at St. Francis Borgia, completed the community service to earn the A+ Scholarship by tutoring at his old grade school. He plans to use the scholarship to complete general studies at East Central College in Union before going on to become a pre-med student at either Truman State or Maryville University.

“I won’t have to take out a lot of loans,” he said. “A+ is helpful so I can knock out my gen education classes for free.”
Tweaking mosquito genes may stop spread of dengue

Researchers have discovered a link between genetic molecules in mosquitoes and dengue fever.

The researchers focused their efforts on a single species of mosquito, Aedes aegypti, a key player in the spread of such diseases in animals and humans around the world. The results could lead to breakthroughs in fighting destructive tropical diseases like dengue fever, Zika virus, and yellow fever, a new study shows.

An estimated 2.5 billion people live in places where it’s possible to contract dengue fever, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

While small outbreaks have occurred in the continental United States, dengue fever has been particularly severe in Puerto Rico, where a 2007 epidemic affected approximately 10,000 people.

“Given the widespread global distribution of the Aedes aegypti mosquito, we estimate over 40 percent of the world’s population is at risk from dengue,” says Susanta K. Behura, assistant research professor in bioinformatics and computational biology at the University of Missouri.

“Now that the study has been completed, the research could be used to precisely modify the genetic material of mosquitoes, preventing them from spreading disease to humans,” Behura says.

Recent research has shown that fragments of transfer RNA (tRFs), small sections of RNA that can regulate gene expression, play a role in development of disease. The finding prompted researchers to collect samples from mosquitoes around the world, which then underwent molecular analysis.
In analyzing tRF response to a variety of conditions and stimuli—including sex, developmental stage, and exposure to the dengue virus—researchers found that a specific tRF was expressed differently when exposed to each of these conditions.

**Genetically modified mosquito doesn’t catch dengue**

In particular, the sex-biased expression was important, as only female mosquitoes feed on blood and spread diseases to humans. This particular tRF is a promising candidate for further study, raising the possibility of a targeted approach to halting the spread of dengue fever.

“We do not have vaccines for all the different viral diseases caused by this mosquito,” Behura says. “Currently, the best way to fight these mosquitoes is to control them, and the rational way to control human infections is to make them incapable of spreading the disease.”

The study is published in *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*. The University of Notre Dame, the Fogarty International Center, and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health funded the work.

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.**

**Opinion: A Dubious Narrative Contributed to the NFL Protests**

An exhaustive search of public records finds no evidence of the racial crimes alleged at the University of Missouri.

*By: Jillian Kay Melchior*

When the University of Missouri’s football team vowed to stay off the field until administrators met the demands of student protesters, defensive end Charles Harris grasped the national implications earlier than most. Wearing a shirt with the anti-police-brutality slogan “I can’t breathe,” he told reporters in 2015, “Let this be a testament to all other athletes across the country that you do have power.”

Mr. Harris, who now plays for the Miami Dolphins, heeded his own call. Last September he locked arms with other players in a show of support for four teammates who knelt during the national anthem.
But public records obtained through the Missouri Freedom of Information Act suggest that the Mizzou protests, like the riots in Ferguson a year earlier, might have been inspired in part by a false narrative. Graduate student Jonathan Butler had started a hunger strike, claiming the administration had failed to address racist acts on campus, including incidents in which Mr. Butler, who is black, was himself the purported victim. Football players were “very concerned about his life,” Coach Gary Pinkel said at the time.

On Martin Luther King Day in 2016, Mr. Butler delivered a keynote address at Kansas City’s Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, in which he described two instances in which he claimed he had been personally targeted at Mizzou because of his race.

“Being on campus, I’ve seen the N-word spray-painted on my door,” Mr. Butler said. “I’ve experienced white students who have jumped me during the President Obama’s election night. . . . I was jumped by three white students on campus.” Mr. Butler said such behavior “allowed to be going on, on campus—let me make that very clear, was allowed to be going on, on campus.” But an exhaustive review of law-enforcement records showed no sign of the incidents Mr. Butler described.

Vandalism on campus is reported to university police, both a residence-life staffer and a university police spokesman told me. Neither the university police department nor the Columbia, Mo., city police received any report of an incident where Mr. Butler’s door, residence or property was vandalized. Furthermore, neither police department has any record of Mr. Butler being jumped, assaulted, attacked or otherwise physically harmed by students as he described at any time between January 2008 and May 2016, when he departed the university.

To make sure I wasn’t missing anything, I reviewed all incident reports from both the campus and city police mentioning any physical assault or harm caused to any individual on, directly before or directly after Election Day in 2008 and 2012. I also worked with authorities at both departments to double-check all such reports possibly matching the incident Mr. Butler described in which victim names had been redacted. Finally, although it would be unusual for an incident involving a student to be reported only to the Boone County Sheriff, the department also performed a search under Mr. Butler’s name.
There was no record of the racist assault or vandalism Mr. Butler described. It’s possible that the incidents happened and he didn’t report them—but in that case there is no basis for his claim that the university “allowed” the incidents to occur.

Meanwhile, internal Mizzou emails raise questions about whether Mr. Butler’s hunger strike was genuine.

On Nov. 3, 2015, the day Mr. Butler claimed to launch his hunger strike, the university president’s chief of staff, Zora Mulligan, sent an email to several administrators. “I heard through the grapevine that [Mr. Butler] has agreed to take one meal a day,” she wrote. “True?” Ms. Mulligan later told me she was never able to determine for sure whether Mr. Butler was eating during his hunger strike.

Administrators also received reports of food going into the tent where Mr. Butler camped out on the quad alongside other student protesters, as well as rumors that he was eating. They struggled to substantiate them.

A source who had direct contact with Mr. Butler throughout the hunger strike told me: “He was wearing sweatshirts, so very loose-fitting. He had water there, had a hoarse voice, but wasn’t noticeably weak or falling down or dizzy. During the week, I didn’t think he was on a hunger strike. People who were in meetings with him and saw him during the week weren’t sure he was actually on a hunger strike.”

Maxwell Little, a member of the protest group Concerned Student 1950, dismissed questions about whether Mr. Butler had been dishonest about the hunger strike. “He’s a good guy,” Mr. Little told me. “He proved that through physical demonstration and putting his body and his reputation on the line to improve the university community. What more do you want?”

The Mizzou protests drew to an end only after the resignation of the chancellor and president. Mr. Butler’s hunger strike won him national prominence and a Ford Freedom Award. But his credibility matters because his actions have had repercussions far beyond Columbia. The athletes who have drawn inspiration from Mizzou would be justified in questioning whether the famed protests were built on lies. Mr. Butler could answer that question, but he did not respond to repeated requests for comment.
Just because you and almost everyone you know has the flu doesn’t mean your dog is doomed to get the bug, too.

Although it’s possible, it’s not likely.

“There have been a few isolated examples of humans passing the flu to their dog or cat,” said Carol Reinero, MU professor of small animal internal medicine. This is called reverse zoonosis.

However, dogs can get their own kind of flu, and there have been outbreaks of two strains in other parts of the country. The newest of these strains, H3N2, was first identified in the United States in April 2015, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Canine influenza is passed from dog to dog, and “social” dogs who go to dog parks, day care or a groomer are at higher risk, Reinero said.

Greg Chapman, a veterinarian at Noah’s Ark Animal Hospital and Bird Clinic, said he hasn’t seen any cases of the dog flu. “They seem to be in bigger cities,” Chapman said. “It’s probably because there are more dogs and ways to catch it.”

Dog flu symptoms include fever, aches, decreased appetite, swollen lymph nodes and dehydration, Chapman said.

“It’s very similar to human conditions,” he said.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, dog flu can be contracted through “droplets or aerosols containing respiratory secretions from coughing, barking and sneezing.”

The dog flu also can be contracted indirectly from contaminated objects, including human hands.
Although it can be passed between dogs, it has not yet been documented to be passed to humans, Reinero said. “The virus had adapted to the dog as a host, and there have been no reported cases of human infection with a canine influenza virus to date,” she said.

The dog flu is no small matter, though. “Whatever it is about these two particular strains, they have potential to be deadly,” Chapman said.

While owners can spot symptoms, “you can’t tell just by looking at a dog what kind of pathogen (bacteria or viruses) they may have,” Reinero said.

Chapman recommends reducing a dog’s travel, staying in local areas, limiting exposure to other dogs and getting necessary vaccinations.

**Trash complaints against MU fraternity cause a stink for parents**

By DAYTONA EVERETT AND BLAKE SAMMANN


COLUMBIA - From beers cans to beer boxes, trash continues to travel from Alpha Epsilon Pi or AEPi fraternity into the next door Children's House Montessori school, according to parents of the children who attend the school.

"The wind had blown trash all over along the fence, trash all through the alley. It's always been bad, but this was the first time it was really bad," Beatrice Stewart, one of the parents told KOMU 8.

Stewart said the continued presence of trash on the school's playground has parents worried.
"I think there's a lot of concerned parents at the school, me being one of them and I think we've just kind of had enough of it and wanted to do something about it," Stewart said.

Several nuisance complaints have been filed with the city of Columbia against the fraternity in the past, but according to Stewart, trash continues to be a problem.

KOMU 8 found seven nuisance complaints were made to the city dating back to February 2013. The city also filed two nuisance violations against the fraternity's property less than three months ago in November 2017. One for accumulation of garbage and another for accumulation of trash/debris. The city said the fraternity a deadline to pick things up or it would, "take steps to correct the violation."

"I know that the trash has been an ongoing issue, but I don't think they care to do anything about it," Stewart said.

Stewart said she wishes surrounding community members were more conscious of the problem the trash creates.

"I think it's just kind of disheartening that someone in this community, college community and community of Columbia wouldn't have more respect for the property," Stewart said. "We've got kids next door who are learning better and learning about how to grow up and respect the Earth and take care of themselves and the property on which they live."

As a result, Stewart said she thinks both the university and its students should be more aware of their actions.

"I think it's important for Mizzou to recognize the importance of it and also for college kids growing up to learn that they need to take better respect of property," Stewart said.

Leigh Kottwitz, Columbia's neighborhood services manager, said responsibility for keeping property clean ultimately lands on the owner and the city is expected to enforce codes concerning nuisance violations.

"The city of Columbia does have jurisdiction to enforce ordinances throughout the city," Kottwitz said.

However, Kottwitz said the process is made far easier if everyone works together to solve the issue.

"Voluntary compliance is the best outcome for everyone involved," Kottwitz said.

According to Kottwitz, now that the issue has received attention, a member from the city's office of neighborhood services is going to check it out Friday.
If the city issues a nuisance violation and things are not picked up, the city would clean things up for AEPi and the fraternity would have to foot the bill. AEPi would also face being prosecuted for violations of the city’s ordinance, one violation per day the mess remains.

The fraternity did not comment on this story.

Complaints against Alpha Epsilon Pi for littering

By KELSEY KERNSTINE


COLUMBIA, Mo. - City officials have received several complaints about a particular fraternity house. The most recent problem is the trash that blows into the school next door.

ABC 17 News visited Alpha Epsilon Pi and found litter all over the lawn, including beer cans and boxes.

We spoke with a concerned parent, Beatrice Stuart, whose daughter attends the school right next door to the fraternity. She told us what she sees everyday, "beer bottles in the front yard, beer boxes in the front yard, it is my understanding that Mizzou is a dry campus."

Trash blows into the school's playground and teachers are left picking it up.

Reports claim some fraternity members just throw their trash outside the window, hoping to reach the dumpster.

Stuart further said, "I think it is a bad representation of our community and the values we should have for our children."

ABC 17 News did some investigation and checked into just how many complaints have been made against Alpha Epsilon Pi.

We found two in the last two months and half a dozen more in the past few years.
We went to the house and asked the AEPI president what he thought of the complaints and he told us, they are trying to fix the problem.

City code compliance workers told us nuisance complaints like this are common against fraternity houses and other properties in the East campus area.

The city takes nuisance complaints seriously and if you have a concern in your neighborhood, please go to this link.

---

**BenFred: Who is the real Terrence Phillips?**

By [Ben Frederickson](#)

If this is true, Terrence Phillips has to go.

**If this is true, the Missouri point guard should not play one more minute for the Tigers.**

If this is true, Phillips must be turned into an example, and not the good kind, like so many of us believed him to be.

Sports fans have been taught time and time again that they don’t really know the players they support. And how many times must we media members be reminded that our brief encounters with the athletes we cover rarely provide a real gauge of their moral fiber?

I remind myself of this often. Yet here I am, feeling startled again.

Phillips? He’s supposed to be a feel-good story.

Phillips? He’s the younger brother of a former NBA star who never brings up that his big brother just happens to be Brandon Jennings.

Phillips? He’s the rare college athlete interested in more than his sport. He took classes to learn sign language. He started his own non-profit. He launched a charity toy drive.

Phillips? He didn’t just talk about being a good teammate. He exemplified it. After weathering the depths of the downtrodden Kim Anderson era, he rejected the idea of transferring and accepted a severely diminished role on an improved team — then cheered his tail off for his teammates from the bench as a 22-year-old junior.
Phillips? He has more school spirit than Truman. Even as his impact on the court diminished, his impact off it increased. Last year, his peers voted him chair of the Southeastern Conference men’s basketball leadership council. He served on a chancellor’s committee. He had taken an interest in student body government, and recently showed an interest in running for a position.

Fitting, I figured, considering it has been nearly a decade since Phillips’ sixth-grade teacher told The New York Times that Phillips, not Jennings, would become the most famous of the basketball-playing siblings. One was headed toward the NBA. The other, Gabriella Spadaro told The Times, would be president of the United States.

Phillips? Yes, Phillips. He’s the latest name tied to the ‘MeToo’ and ‘Times Up’ movements that have encouraged and inspired survivors of harassment and sexual violence to speak out.

Either multiple women are spreading well-choreographed untruths about Phillips, or the overwhelmingly positive public persona of the player was a lie.

The allegations against Phillips are just that, allegations, at this point. The Title IX process must run its course. The university will remain silent. But these allegations are stomach-churning.

The Post-Dispatch has interviewed three women who say they have filed complaints against Phillips as part of the Title IX investigation.

One woman said Phillips physically abused her. Full stop. Phillips allegedly inflicted physical harm on a woman.

If this is true, Phillips has to go. First-year Tigers coach Cuonzo Martin cannot tolerate violence against women by his players. He is in the process of establishing the value system in his program. Some things are non-negotiable. This must be one of those things.

There are more allegations.

Other women have described to the Post-Dispatch a pattern of behavior from Phillips that ranges from unbecoming to predatory. The details of these alleged interactions are, at best, disgusting. One includes an alleged non-consensual recording of a sexual encounter.

Phillips, who was suspended from the basketball team shortly after he and the team were informed of the Title IX investigation, has not responded to the Post-Dispatch’s requests for comment concerning the allegations made against him.

He did speak to the Kansas City Star on Wednesday.

“There are two sides to every story,” he told The Star. “Some people really want to say ‘Me too’ because apparently it’s the cool thing to do. I have a side. I am cooperating with Mizzou like I was instructed. Unfortunately I can’t say a lot, but at the end of the investigation, I intend to be cleared from the accusations. People who know me know this isn’t me.”
Phillips’ dismissal of the “MeToo” movement should draw a cringe, whether you believe him or not. Now is the wrong time to underestimate its power. Unacceptable behavior by men is being brought to light from the world of athletics, to politics, to Hollywood. Now perhaps more than ever before, universities are realizing it is better to shine a light in the closet than use it for hiding skeletons.

Readers of this sports section are experiencing Title IX déjà vu. But while this investigation will play out under the same federal guidelines as the still-unresolved investigation into four St. Louis University men’s basketball players, these seem to be significantly different situations.

The issue at the center of the SLU investigation, according to those on both sides of the case, seems to revolve around whether an image was taken with or without consent.

That issue is just one of the items on Phillips’ alleged list of wrongdoing.

Phillips says the truth will come out.

The women who say they know the truth about him believe it has.

MU's Relief for Africa chapter to send students to Ethiopia this summer

ABIGAIL YOUNG

Students in a new MU organization will travel to Adaba, Ethiopia, this summer to build a latrine.

The project has the potential to make a huge impact in a community where the death rate is high from diseases related to water contamination from human waste.

"In order to prevent mortality rate by open defecation, we want to build a latrine that will prevent future deaths overall," said Nisha Patel, president of the Relief for Africa MU chapter.

Relief for Africa’s purpose is to enhance the lives of under-resourced communities in Africa by providing access to medical and public health, education, training and clean water.

Patel brought Relief for Africa to the university after her friend, Khyati Somayaji, started a chapter at the University of Michigan.
The Missouri chapter will partner with Relief for Africa: Ann Arbor, Michigan, which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting communities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Relief for Africa MU chapter had its first meeting Tuesday night with 14 students in attendance. The students and executive board will pay their own way to make the trip in August.

"Along with building a latrine, we want to increase public education for the schools that we are building the latrine for," Patel said. "We will be talking to the students about personal hygiene and the importance of environmental pollution awareness."

Stephen Jeanetta, the chapter's faculty advisor, said Patel and other executive members of the organization came to him last summer with the idea.

"When these students go to Ethiopia, I hope they build relationships with the community and maintain a strong connection furthering this organization's success," Jeanetta said.

On Feb. 13 and 14, Patel and the organization's members will sell bags of baked goods in MU's Student Center from 1-4 p.m. Patel also hopes to organize a 5K in April to help raise more money. All proceeds from the fundraisers will go toward the latrine project.

---

The Death of College Free-Speech Zones

NO MU MENTION

By JEREMY BAUER-WOLF

In 2016, Kevin Shaw, a student at Los Angeles Pierce College, was stopped from passing out Spanish-language copies of the Constitution around the community college. He was told he needed to keep his activities confined to a small slice of campus -- what the institution had deemed its "free-speech zone."

Such areas, designated at some colleges both public and private, are where administrators expect students to exercise their free-speech rights to avoid interrupting the campus flow. They can be small, such as the one at Pierce College, which was a rectangle no more than three parking spots wide, a little more than 600 square feet -- or limiting in other ways. At the University of South Dakota, a student needs to reserve a free-speech spot at least five days in advance.
These zones are probably going to die.

Experts say that lawmakers are generally quick to banish them from campuses and that they hold up poorly to court challenges. Shaw sued his college -- a lawsuit recently backed by the U.S. Justice Department -- alleging that the restrictions clamped down on all spontaneous speech. In January, a federal district court refused the college's motion to dismiss the case.

In the last year, state legislatures, including those in Colorado, Tennessee and Utah, have stepped in and banned free-speech areas.

**Virginia, Missouri and Arizona also previously outlawed the zones.** Florida’s Legislature will consider a bill this session that wouldn’t allow them.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions told a crowd at Georgetown University in September that administrators “coddled” students to the point that free expression had been stifled on campuses. The Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives introduced a proposal in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act that would also essentially eliminate the free-speech zones.

“Every public college in America is going to do away with the notion of free-speech zones,” said Frank LoMonte, director of the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information at the University of Florida.

Free-speech zones have generally faltered under legal scrutiny, despite persisting on a number of campuses. The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), the civil liberties watchdog group that has led the charge against free-speech zones on college campuses, located at least 52 institutions with limiting free-speech-zone policies. That's about 11 percent of the roughly 460 colleges and universities it investigates for its “Spotlight on Speech Codes” report.

For years, colleges have faced legal challenges to their free-speech zones and in many cases have done away with them. Grand Valley State University, in Michigan, eliminated its zone last year when students sued.

Back in 2005, members of the College Libertarians at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro broke the student conduct code after they intentionally protested outside the free-speech area to test the university’s policies.

Eventually, the institution dropped the violations against the students and mostly scrapped its free-speech-zone requirements, though overnight protests must still be held in specific places. The university attorney told the Greensboro News & Record at the time that the history of the policy was unknown and may have been a “holdover” from the Vietnam War and civil rights eras.

“I think their days are numbered,” said Joe Cohn, legislative and policy director at FIRE.

The zones were initially developed around the civil rights movement outside of colleges, when the government was struggling how to develop time, place and manner limits on the blossoming protests. This eventually trickled down to campuses, where administrators set up free-speech
zones at first as a positive measure, Cohn said. They were meant to be spaces where students were entirely free to protest, but the rest of campus would be open to a degree as well, he said.

In the late 1970s and early ’80s, the interpretation of these policies started to shift to where the zones became the only place students were allowed to protest, which is flatly unconstitutional, Cohn said.

Removal of the zones from college campuses has become a bipartisan rallying point for state legislators, in part because they tend identify with students of different political persuasions who feel their speech has been squashed, Cohn said. Lawmakers also see this as an easy win in working with their colleagues across the aisle.

It’s not much of a heavy lift -- FIRE and the Goldwater Institute have developed model legislation for free expression, which includes striking the zones.

When Missouri’s then governor, a Democrat, signed the bill to outlaw free speech zones in 2015, it was with the overwhelming support of a Republican Legislature, said Tony Rothert, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri, which lobbied for the legislation. Rothert said in a divided government, rarely did legislators come together as they did for this bill. It passed unanimously in the Senate and with a large majority’s support in the House of Representatives.

"I think that everyone agrees in principle that public places where expressive activity can occur is important," Rothert said. "I think that some of the more conservative groups are under the impression -- and I've seen no evidence of this -- but that their voices are not welcome on campus, or they are shut out."

The legislatures are the best arena for solving colleges’ abuse of free-speech areas, because litigation can often be time-consuming and cases don’t differ much, Cohn said. At the University of Cincinnati, for instance, the free-speech zone occupied 0.01 percent of its 137-acre campus, which a federal court in 2012 eventually ruled was so small that it would limit free expression. Cohn posed a hypothetical: if another campus’s free-speech zone was 0.02 percent of the grounds, then a separate lawsuit would be required to challenge it and would likely end with the same result.

Lawsuits over the zones can also be thrown out once students graduate and lose their standing, Cohn said, and lawyers are far more reluctant to take on a case they know will eventually be dismissed. Politicians can close this “loophole,” he said. Some laws, such as in Utah, also allow for students to be compensated for damages -- in some cases $500 for a violation, with $50 for each subsequent breach of the law, along with attorney and court fees paid.

“These are the bodies that can expressly say ‘knock it off,’” Cohn said of state legislatures.

Colleges are allowed to develop “time, place and manner” restrictions, LoMonte said. This means they can ban protests from taking place in areas where they might disrupt the campus.

But designating swaths of lawn where students can have a picnic or play with their dog but might be barred from passing out leaflets doesn’t make sense, LoMonte said.
Some colleges might argue that the zones are necessary from a safety standpoint, LoMonte said - - that allowing students unfettered access to protest wherever they choose could result in large-scale riots on multiple areas of the campus. But the law does not support that reasoning, LoMonte said.

“I think whenever you are taking pieces of property off limits for expression, you are going to be a climbing a very steep hill to justify it constitutionally,” he said.