



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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[UM Board of Curators plans for state budget cuts](#)

Watch story: <http://www.komu.com/news/um-board-of-curators-plans-for-state-budget-cuts>

By Khaki Martin

COLUMBIA - The incoming president of the University of Missouri system , Mun Choi, attended his first regular meeting Thursday, which kicked off with an update on the UM system budget.

Choi attended the meeting at the University of Missouri - Columbia after spending Tuesday at the state capital with Gov. Eric Greitens and legislature leadership.

The six present board members and the president-elect met for roll call at 10 a.m before leaving for a private executive session for an hour. The public Board of Curators meeting resumed at 11:10 a.m. with Vice President of Finance Ryan Rapp's presentation on the system budget.

Rapp reviewed how the universities are funded, making distinction between core operations, including state appropriations and tuition, and auxiliary operations, which are self-sustaining. The university cannot determine the use of funds from grants and gifts that come from donors and external agencies, he said.

"Without the roots and trunk of a healthy tree, without a healthy trunk, our financial tree and other funding sources are challenged over the long run and it significantly impacts our mission," Rapp said.

However, state budget cuts are forcing the board of curators to reevaluate the existing operational budget for fiscal year 2017, after Greitens announced a \$37 million withhold from the state in January. This month, Greitens announced additional cuts to higher education for fiscal year 2018.

The spokesperson for the University of Missouri System, John Fougere, said this is a challenge for the board, as well as for all public higher education institutions across the state.

"One benefit that we have here is that we have gone through this before, and the University of Missouri System has taken great pains over the years to really be as effective and efficient as possible with our resources," he said. "We are prepared to go forward to address these cuts. It won't be easy, but we're in a position where we're able to do that because how efficient and effective we've been in recent years."

Rapp said the University of Missouri system has a history of managing to hold costs down over the past 15 years, and is below the peer average on administrative spending.

"To be specific, we spent 39 percent less on institutional support per student. This represents approximately 80 million dollars in savings," Rapp said, comparing the UM system to the Universities of Colorado, Michigan, Illinois, Arkansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Tennessee and Texas A&M respectively.

According to Fougere, the UM Board of Curators is working to develop a short term plan and a long term plan in response to the state budget cuts.

"We have informed the campuses in their current fiscal year, we want them to stick to the budget for this year, and to try to raise additional revenue and cut funds where they can," Fougere said.

"What we've also told them is if they have gaps in their budget for the current year, they can use some one-time current reserve funds to cover those gaps for now, but after this, we ask that any gaps they have they close those permanently because going forward, some of that funding is funding that we don't expect to get back."

Rapp said the UM system's strong balance sheet allows for more operating flexibility moving forward, and the board would integrate strategies with recommendations from the UM Review Commission and MDHE Mission Review.

He also pledged the board's commitment to transparency and full communication with faculty, staff and students.

The budget for next year will be set at the UM Board of Curators meeting in April in Rolla.

The Board of Curators meeting will continue into Friday.



[UM Board of Curators meeting addresses state budget cuts, FY2018](#)

Watch story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/um-board-of-curators-meeting-underway-in-columbia/322188115>

By Alyssa Toomey

The University of Missouri Board of Curators is meeting in Columbia.

The meeting began at 10 a.m. Thursday morning with a call to order followed by an executive session.

After the executive session, the curators met for a public session that included a budget update from University of Missouri System's Chief Audit Executive Ryan Rapp.

As ABC 17 News previously reported, Greitens' budget for the 2018 fiscal year will reduce funding for higher education by more than \$100 million. Interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley told us earlier this month that he expects Mizzou to receive \$22 million less in FY 2018, if the budget passes as is.

The budget update primarily focused on the UM System's "operating fund"--which is where the majority of instructional and public services activities are budgeted.

In FY2017, the operations fund revenue totaled \$1.21 billion, including 49.9 percent in net tuition and fees, 37.3 percent in state appropriations and 12.8 percent in other income. The FY2017 operations fund expenditures totaled \$1.20 billion, including 59.8 percent in salaries and wages, 18.5 percent in benefits expense and 21.8 percent in other expenses.

A plan for FY2018 is already being hammered out. Rapp said the plan will include a tuition strategy and pricing model, a cost structure review and resource utilization opportunities. Faculty and staff will also have input on the principals and priorities of the plan.

Aside from the operating fund, Rapp noted that health care performance has continued to strengthen, with the December 2016 revenue being 11 percent higher than December 2015 revenue. He also pointed out that the UM System has a history of managing lower costs,

spending significantly less than its peers. He said state withholdings will challenge the university's operating fund budget, but added that the system is well equipped to solve the shortfalls.

ABC 17 News will continue to update this story as the curators' meeting continues.



[UM system approves revisions to Title IX regulations](#)

Watch story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/um-system-approves-revisions-to-title-ix-regulations/323064752>

By Taylor Petras

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University Board of Curators approved revisions to several Title IX rules and regulations at its meeting Thursday.

Some of those changes include adding a nondiscrimination statement under "Policy and Procedures for Promotion and Tenure" and "Employment and Termination."

Curators also approved modifying the definitions of sex discrimination specifically referencing pregnancy and modifying the definition of discrimination based on other protected statuses such as race, religion age and disability.

Following the social unrest on the Mizzou campus during the 2015 fall semester, the Board of Curators announced an initiative to address areas of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Dr. Kevin McDonald was appointed as the UM System's first ever Chief of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer on June 1, 2016. His appointment was the first of eight initiatives met by the Board of Curators.

During the curators meeting Thursday, the University of Missouri's Ethics and Compliance Hotline Annual Report was also presented. The hotline was implemented in 2007 as a way for employees to report misconduct without fear of retaliation.

According to the report, 112 initial reports and 11 information referrals were called into the hotline in

2016. Of those, 66 reports involved MU Health and 29 involved the Mizzou campus.

Seventeen of the initial reports were allegations of discrimination and another 17 were allegations of inappropriate behavior.



UM curators approve increase to room and board rates

By Megan Favignano

University of Missouri students will see an increase in room and board costs starting this summer.

The UM System Board of Curators on Thursday unanimously approved student housing and dining rates, which raises costs at each of the system's four campuses. The university governing board held its regular meeting on MU's campus Thursday and will meet again Friday.

Curators increased MU's room and board, for the predominant plan, by \$320 -- bringing it to \$10,070 for the academic year. The predominant plan is comprised of a renovated traditional double room and a dining plan that includes 225 meals each semester. Missouri S&T will see the largest increase as room and board for the predominant plan goes up by \$435 this summer.

Elsa Brodarick, an MU junior who lived on campus freshman year, said even a small increase in housing costs can have a significant impact on a student.

"If you're paying for your own tuition," that cost increase "doesn't just come from nowhere," she said.

Ryan Rapp, UM interim vice president for finance and chief financial officer, told curators this year's decline in freshman enrollment has reduced MU Residential Life's revenue. The university was able to cover the shortfall through "permanent and one-time savings," according to meeting documents.

MU saw a more than 20 percent decline in its incoming class this year. Overall, enrollment dropped 6 percent this school year compared to last. Given the low freshman enrollment, Brodarick said the university's increase in housing costs while building new and renovating existing on-campus housing doesn't look good to current and prospective students.

Aside from MU's struggle with low enrollment, the university and the entire UM System also have been grappling with budget cuts after Gov. Eric Greitens last month restricted \$31.4 million from the university system's fiscal year 2017 budget. The 2017 fiscal year ends June 30.

In Greitens' proposed budget for fiscal year 2018, he recommended cutting \$40.4 million from the UM System's basic appropriation.

Rapp gave curators an overview of the university's current budget, noting it is "early in the planning process" for the fiscal year 2018 budget, which goes into effect July 1.

"We have a history of successfully managing through reductions in state support," Rapp told the curators. "We've had a history of managing to lower costs."

The governor's fiscal year 2018 budget proposal would give the university one of the lowest state appropriations it's had in 18 years. Five of the past 18 university budgets received lower state appropriations.

On Friday, curators are set to discuss the "changing fiscal environment for Missouri higher education," according to the board's agenda.

TUITION TALKS POSTPONED

Typically, curators set tuition rates for the following academic year at the board's February meeting. However, the rates are not up for a vote this week or listed as a discussion item during the board's public sessions. Because university leadership only received the governor's budget proposal last week, John Fougere, UM System spokesman, said the university decided to postpone discussing tuition.

"We're in discussions right now about a strategy going forward," Fougere said.

Curators will discuss how the university system plans to prepare for a decrease in state appropriations at the board's next meeting in April at Missouri S&T. Fougere said curators likely will vote on tuition rates then.

UM curators did discuss tuition at UMSL and unanimously approved a change in the tuition policy, implementing a new program specific to students coming from Illinois. Starting next school year, UMSL's Illinois students will pay the same tuition rate as Missouri students.

"UMSL would only need to add 25 new students to break even on this," Rapp said.

Curators reconvene at 9 a.m. Friday in Stotler Lounge at the Memorial Union on MU's campus and will hear interim UM System President Mike Middleton's last report as president. Mun Y. Choi will take over March 1.

MISSOURIAN

UM curators vote to raise fees, cut tax credit for out-of-state students

ANDREW KESSEL, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Starting this summer, students in the University of Missouri System will have to pay more to live and eat on campus. The UM System Board of Curators voted unanimously on Thursday to increase room and board fees across the four campuses.

These are the fee increases, broken down by campus:

The costs refer to the most common living and dining arrangement at each campus. At MU, this is a traditional two-person room and 225 meals per semester. Curators noted that a decline in freshman enrollment from 2015 to 2016 played a role in the decision to raise fees.

The decision is part of a three-year plan by the MU Department of Residential Life to reduce costs, which also included delaying phase two of the Dobbs Replacement Project. Phase one, which was approved by curators in 2013 and is still in progress, allowed for the demolition of Jones Hall and the construction of two new residence halls and a new dining hall. One of the two residence halls, Brooks Hall, is open, while the two other buildings are set to open in August. Phase two would replace Laws and Lathrop halls.

The curators also unanimously approved a tuition discount for undergraduate Illinois residents who attend the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Beginning in the fall, the rate for Illinois undergraduates will be set equal to the amount paid by in-state Missouri students. This cost could fluctuate in subsequent years, but the Illinois rate will never be less than the in-state cost. The Illinois rate will be reviewed after five years for a possible renewal, the curators said.

The reduced cost will help boost enrollment, UM Chief Audit Executive Ryan Rapp said. The school typically enrolls 40 to 50 Illinois students.

"This plan will allow for UMSL to expand into two markets," Rapp said.

He emphasized that UMSL would only need to add 25 additional students under the lower tuition rate to break even with the previous rate.

The curators eliminated a tax credit for non-Missouri residents who pay Missouri income tax. The credit allowed students or their parents to offset some of the additional cost of out-of-state tuition. According to meeting documents, paying for the tax credit cost the UM System \$2.2 million in fiscal year 2016.

The board approved the \$4.3 million expansion of MU's Memorial Stadium. The entire amount was raised through private gifts. The curators chose Populous Inc., a Kansas City-based architecture firm, to design the planned south end zone expansion.

The Board of Curators will reconvene at 9 a.m. on Friday in Stotler Lounge of Memorial Union.

MISSOURIAN

[GEORGE KENNEDY: Budget cuts a bitter birthday present for MU](#)

GEORGE KENNEDY, 14 hrs ago

As far as I can tell, there's no formal celebration planned Saturday to celebrate the 178th birthday of our university.

Gov. Greitens pretty well pre-empted any celebratory spirit when he went down to Nixa last week, announced a cut of more than \$80 million in the higher education budget for next year and advised our public institutions to “tighten their belts.” About \$40 million of that cut comes from the University.

The Missourian reported that the governor promised “less money for professors, colleges and universities than they expected.” His rationale: “Our budget is broken.”

There’s no disputing that something’s broken. Already, Gov. Greitens and his predecessor have withheld millions from the current year’s budget because state revenues are running below even the modest projections made last year. The income tax cut passed over Gov. Nixon’s veto in 2014 and a variety of tax credits are estimated to have reduced state revenues by more than \$500 million a year.

The important question is whether the best way to mend a broken budget is by battering what is probably the single most important generator of the ideas and the educated work force essential to a better future for our state and its people.

It’s not as though the state has been overly generous to its flagship university. Over the past 15 years, state appropriations have declined from supplying 62 percent of the university’s funding to 35 percent. Tuition and fees have increased from 29 percent to 52 percent of funding.

Another measure of state support is the appropriation per capita. That is how much each Missourian, on average, pays toward the cost of higher education. In 2016, we stood 46th among the 50 states. Each of us contributed about \$170. That’s \$100 less than each Kansan paid and far less than half the level from each Nebraskan.

When you consider that the four campuses educated more than 75,000 students in the fall 2016 term, you’d have to conclude that Missouri taxpayers are getting a bargain.

The bargain looks even better in light of another number: 62. That’s how many members there are in the American Association of Universities, which is generally considered to be the national

all-star team of higher education. MU has been a member since 1908. The only other SEC members are Texas A&M, Florida and Vanderbilt.

KU is a member. So was Nebraska, until it was booted five years ago. By all accounts, we're hanging on by our fingernails. With membership criteria heavily weighted toward scholarly productivity and overall educational quality, it's not hard to imagine that a little more belt tightening could squeeze us out.

Why would that matter, you ask, other than as a point of pride? Well, Gov. Greitens is suggesting that we rely less on appropriations and follow the "Purdue model" of attracting more out-of-state and international students who pay top dollar. I'm sure the governor knows that Purdue is an AAU member, which no doubt contributes to its attractiveness.

In fact, as the Post-Dispatch reports, MU's out-of-state undergraduate enrollment has doubled in the last decade. Still, 70 percent of our students continue to be Missourians. We are, after all, the state university.

And despite budget cuts, we still have worldwide reach. That was demonstrated once again with the announcement this week of the new Institute for Korean Studies. One co-founder, quoted in Wednesday's *Missourian*, is a recent addition to the university's political science faculty, Dr. Sheena Chestnut Greitens.

The article didn't say how the institute is funded. It did point out that the launch party Thursday night was to feature North Korean refugee and human rights activist Grace Jo. Admission was free.

I'm going to think of it as an early birthday party.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Mizzou stadium project takes big step forward

By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch

COLUMBIA, MO. • Missouri's football stadium renovation must wait for the summer for approval from university leadership, but athletics director Jim Sterk expects the process to stay on course for completion by 2019.

The University of Missouri Board of Curators approved the hiring of an architect to design the south end zone facility for Memorial Stadium by a five-to-one vote during Thursday's meeting on Mizzou's campus. Rather than vote on full approval for the project, set to cost an estimated \$96.7 million, curators asked to split the approval process into two votes. Thursday's vote also authorized design costs of \$4.31 million, which already have been raised by the athletics department through private donations.

Curators will vote again in June to approve the total project. Mizzou athletics has raised nearly \$44 million in donations for the facility, Sterk said. MU has planned to cover the balance of the costs through revenue bonds financed through the university.

The June approval "doesn't slow the momentum," Sterk said after Thursday's vote. "It doesn't slow the timing of the process. ... It gives us time to improve the financing plan we put in front of the curators."

The board approved MU to hire Populous, Inc., a Kansas City architectural firm, to design the facility.

The proposed project is a four-story football team facility affixed to a newly constructed south side of the stadium that will feature new areas for private suites and general admission seating. Rather than build around the current south end zone structure, Missouri has decided to take down

the entire south bowl and build a new structure. The redesigned south bowl will feature more premium seating options, but the stadium's overall capacity (71,168) won't increase, Sterk said. The capacity could decrease depending on Populous' design, he said. The south bowl currently holds 10,800 general admission seats.

Pending board approval, MU will begin construction this summer and continue through the season, but current south end zone seats won't be disrupted for the 2017 season, Sterk said. MU plans to take down the south end zone section after the final home game, set for Nov. 11 against Tennessee.

That assumes the board will approve funding when it meets June 22-23 in Columbia.

Pamela Quigg Henrickson of Jefferson City was the only curator who voted against Thursday's measure. She didn't voice any opinions about the proposal during the public discussion.

Ryan Rapp, the UM system's chief audit executive, formally introduced the measure before voting took place.

"The project is important to MU athletics to remain competitive in the SEC," Rapp said. "It's an important part of the recruiting process. Additionally MU athletics is a self-sustaining operation that supports the campus. The success of MU athletics has a direct impact on MU's ability to not only recruit student-athletes but helps the campus grow and maintain enrollments."

Rapp said delaying the project approval another four months "allows us to better understand what our fiscal picture is going to look like going forward."

Sterk said he's sensitive to the state's current economic climate — newly elected Gov. Eric Greitens plans budget cuts for higher education — but pointed to the project's financial impact as measured by a recent study by consultant firm Convention, Sports and Leisure. The study projects a \$700 million regional impact from the project along with 1,200 new jobs, MU announced in December.

The June approval decision also allows Mizzou to raise more money for the project.

“If in fact we approve this, (athletics fundraising is) not slowing down,” curator Phillip Snowden said.

“They’re going to continue to raise private dollars to add to the number as we go forward.”

Curator John Phillips of Kansas City said he was reluctantly in favor of the project in light of the fiscal challenges the board faces.

“I think it might be helpful to say a lot of us raise our eyebrows at the amount we devote to athletics, myself included,” he said. “But I’m convinced this particular project would benefit the entire university, particularly the MU campus. There’s such private support for it, it’s hard to say no. So, I’m a reluctant yes. I do appreciate in this time where we have restricted funds we can have a project that’s well-funded at this point privately. I think we have to explore it.”

Curators Donald Cupps (Cassville), Maurice Graham (Clayton) and David Steelman (Rolla) also voted in favor of the proposal but did not speak during the public discussion.

Similar stories ran in the following media outlets.

[Columbia Daily Tribune](#)

[The Kansas City Star](#)

[SEC Country](#)

[Kansas City Business Journal](#)

[The Missourian](#)

Odom hire doesn't violate nepotism law

By Blake Toppmeyer

When Missouri football Coach Barry Odom hired his brother last week, questions were raised about whether the move violated the state's nepotism law.

The scenario is similar to one the Missouri attorney general's office ruled on 20 years ago.

Brian Odom joined the Missouri staff as an outside linebackers coach after previously working as a defensive quality control coach for two seasons at Washington State. He is the younger brother of Barry, who has been MU's head coach since December 2015.

Article VII, Section 6 of the Missouri Constitution states that "any public officer or employee in this state who by virtue of his office or employment names or appoints to public office or employment any relative within the fourth degree, by consanguinity or affinity, shall thereby forfeit his office or employment."

In 1997, Jay Nixon, then Missouri's attorney general, issued an opinion after Corby Smith was hired as an assistant football coach at MU. His father, Larry, was the head coach.

"It is the opinion of this office that the son of the head football coach at the University of Missouri may be appointed as an assistant football coach at that school without violating Article VII, Section 6 of the Missouri Constitution, the nepotism provision, when the head football coach is not involved in the hiring process," Nixon wrote then.

Chad Moller, spokesman for MU's football program, wrote in an email Wednesday that Athletic Director Jim Sterk "is the only individual with authority to make a hire within the department, and this was the case here."

University of Missouri System spokesman John Fougere pointed to the 1997 attorney general precedent when asked about the hiring. Loree Anne Paradise, a spokeswoman for the attorney general's office, wrote in an email Wednesday that "the Attorney General's office is not aware of any additional opinions on this matter beyond the 1997 opinion by then-Attorney General Nixon."

Brian Odom will earn \$240,000 in base salary in his role as assistant. That's the lowest salary of any assistant on staff, trailing offensive line coach Glen Elarbee and tight ends coach Joe Jon Finley, who each earn \$325,000. Brian Odom filled the position of Greg Brown, whose salary

was \$325,000. Brown, who was MU's cornerbacks coach, left to become the secondary coach at Auburn.

Before his two seasons at WSU, Brian Odom was a strength coach at Houston and Arizona. His hiring was part of a staff restructuring at MU. Co-defensive coordinator Ryan Walters will now serve as the position coach for all defensive backs rather than just the safeties.

The Barry and Brian Odom and Larry and Corby Smith combinations aren't the only examples of a relative working for a head coach at Missouri.

Alex Grinch was Missouri's safeties coach for three seasons under former Coach Gary Pinkel. Grinch is Pinkel's nephew. T.J. Cleveland was an assistant coach for former men's basketball Coach Mike Anderson. Cleveland is Anderson's nephew. Wayne Kreklow is MU's volleyball coach, and his wife, Susan, is his top assistant. Michael Porter used to be an assistant coach for Robin Pingeton, Missouri's women's basketball coach. Porter is Pingeton's brother-in-law.

BRADY RESURFACES: Former Missouri defensive end Walter Brady has resurfaced at Middle Tennessee. Brady's addition to the Blue Raiders' roster was detailed in a story posted to the team's website on Tuesday. The story notes that Brady enrolled in September and sat out the 2016 season. The school had not previously announced Brady's addition.

Brady was dismissed from Missouri's program last year before preseason camp for a violation of team policies. He was freshman All-American in 2015, when he tallied 40 tackles and seven sacks.

Brady, a Florence, Ala., native, initially committed to MTSU out of high school before flipping his pledge to Missouri. He'll have two seasons of eligibility to play for the Blue Raiders.

"It was a rough transition at first, but I finally got settled in towards the end of last semester," Brady said in the story on the team's website. "It's like being home – MTSU and I have a lot of history."



Effectiveness of third MMR vaccine uncertain

Watch story: <http://www.komu.com/news/effectiveness-of-third-mmr-vaccine-uncertain>

By Lauren Petterson

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri is recommending that students get a third Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccine because of the mumps outbreak on campus, but it is not clear exactly how effective the third vaccine will be.

"There is some information to say that there is protective value, but there hasn't been a definitive scientific study to tell us how much so," Dr. Michael Cooperstock said. "That's part of the reason why it's a recommendation but not considered mandatory. There's a pretty good chance that you would get additional protection though from that third immunization."

All of the students who have gotten the mumps at the University of Missouri have already received two MMR vaccines.

"We know that many vaccines are not 100 percent protective. There are some that are and some that are not. This happens to be one of the ones that isn't," Cooperstock said. Cooperstock is the chief of the section of pediatric infectious diseases at the MU Children's Hospital.

"Even with two vaccines, still about 20 percent or so of people are still susceptible," Cooperstock said. "We think that they're likely to get less serious illness if they get it, so there's still some protection, probably, from the two that they've had."

The University of Missouri is not requiring that students get a third MMR vaccine, but MU News Bureau Director Christian Basi said recommending the third vaccine is a way for MU to be proactive about the spread of mumps.

"Back in December, we had a discussion with them and decided to go ahead and recommend the third vaccine," Basi said. "We have had reports of close to about 2,500 students who have gotten a third dose of the vaccine while they were on break."

Basi said about 500 of those students got vaccinated at the MU Student Health Center.

There are about 50 students at MU who do not have the MMR vaccine because they have a waiver.

"None of those 50 students, to our knowledge, have contracted the disease," Basi said.

In total, the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services has identified about 370 cases of mumps between Aug. 22, 2016 and Feb. 7, 2017. 334 of those cases were MU students.

MU students will have access to a third dosage of the MMR vaccine for free.

"The state is providing about 2,000 doses of the vaccine for free. And so we're hoping that we can immunize that many students," Basi said.

The vaccines will be available Feb. 15-17 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on the second floor of Memorial Union's north tower on the MU campus.

MISSOURIAN

[Grace Jo shares story of North Korea escape at institute launch](#)

THOMAS OIDE, 11 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Grace Jo still remembers having to cross the Tumen River, which forms the border between China and North Korea.

The water was flowing fast after a hard rain, and it reached her mother's knees. To stay above the water, then 6-year-old Grace had to climb into her mother's backpack. After an hour, Grace, her mother and her 10-year-old sister successfully reached the other side.

That was one of several stories Jo shared about escaping North Korea during her speech at the Thursday launch of the newly-created MU Institute for Korean Studies.

Sheena Chestnut Greitens, an MU assistant professor of political science, and Harrison Kim, an assistant professor of history, said the institute focuses on research and will specialize in topics such as inter-Korean relations, the history of socialism and refugees and migration.

The MU Asian Affairs Center, department of history and department of political science currently fund the institute, but co-director Kim said it's in the process of applying for external funding sources. The goal is for the institute to have a steady flow of funds for research.

Jo spoke to a crowd of more than 100 people in Jesse Wrench Auditorium. Gov. Eric Greitens, MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley and Interim UM System President Mike Middleton were among the audience members.

Jo currently attends Montgomery College in Maryland and hopes to continue working in human rights when she graduates. She is the vice president of the organization NKinUSA, a group dedicated to highlighting human rights violations in North Korea and helping North Koreans refugees escape and resettle in other countries.

Jo was chosen as the event's speaker to spread awareness about the experiences of North Korean refugees.

“As a survivor, I think it is our mission to speak to the people,” Jo said. “I’m very happy that many people are interested in human rights in North Korea.”

Jo said she is one of 214 North Korean refugees who have settled in the United States. According to the film "I Am Grace," which was screened at the institute's launch, more than 300,000 North Koreans have defected since 1953.

Jo was born on July 18, 1991, in North Korea. Throughout her childhood, she said food was scarce.

It was so scarce that her grandmother and two younger brothers died of starvation. Her father was caught crossing into China to find a bag of rice to feed his family and later starved to death

in prison. Jo's oldest sister also traveled from North Korea to China in search of food, but never returned. Jo hasn't seen her sister in 18 years and believes she was sold to human traffickers.

After losing almost her entire family, 6-year-old Grace, her 10-year-old sister and her mother started the journey to China in July 1998.

"We walked for several days and several nights," Jo said. "It was July, so it was very hot during the day and very cold at night. My mother was anxious because if the guards found us, we would be sent to a political prison camp."

Two years passed as the family traveled the countryside. But they were eventually caught and sent back to North Korea. Between 1998 and 2006, Jo was repatriated twice, and her sister and mother were repatriated four times.

Jo didn't want to give up. She continued her escape attempts and hoped for a better life.

"Every day we lived under a scary life. Whenever we heard police sirens, we had to go and hide somewhere," Jo said. "We wanted to live like a human being, and that's why we took great risks to go to South Korea or to America."

In December 2006, Jo gained protection from the UN Refugee Agency. She came to the U.S. in 2008 with the help of a Korean-American missionary who raised \$10,000 to help free Jo and her family.

Her transition to the U.S. wasn't easy, Jo said. Jo's older sister had to work multiple jobs to support the family as their mother's health declined. And since Jo wasn't able to go to school while she was in China or North Korea, she had to work while attending high schools at night.

In 2015, Jo got her high school diploma and her license to be a dental assistant. She gained citizenship in 2013, an accomplishment Jo said was worth her hardship.

"I think about those adventures we had been through ... I felt like finally, I belonged to somewhere. I belong to this country."

MISSOURIAN

Columbia Public Library will host First Amendment event

ALLYSON VASILOPULOS, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — In honor of the 225th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights, the Columbia Public Library will host a panel discussion on Monday examining how the First Amendment applies to modern-day America.

The event, "Examining Free Speech in the Digital Era," will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday in the Friends Room of the library. The library partnered with the League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County and the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy to assemble a panel of scholars to talk at the event.

Panelists include Adam Seagrave, the Kinder Institute associate professor of constitutional democracy and associate professor of political science at MU; Nicholas Drummond, the Kinder postdoctoral fellow in political science and Jim Robertson, the managing editor of the Columbia Daily Tribune.

Each of the panelists will speak briefly about a topic, and the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions, said Patricia Miller, adult services manager for the library.

"We try to use this as an opportunity to educate ourselves and educate everyone a little bit more about the Bill of Rights and what it says," Miller said. "This will be an opportunity to hear a little bit from the experts."

Seagrave will speak about how the meaning of "freedom of speech" has changed in a technologically-advanced nation, especially with social media usage. He will discuss how the principles outlined in the First Amendment apply today.

"In my opinion, quite a lot is the same, including much of what is most important," Seagrave said.

Drummond will explore how people decide what is truthful, according to a library flier about the event. People today are afraid to discuss topics they consider "too dangerous." Drummond will compare that to political philosopher John Stuart Mill's concept of openly sharing viewpoints to uncover the truth.

Robertson's will talk about journalism within the First Amendment, particularly the day-to-day challenges journalists face and how they can help to separate truth from disinformation.

The panel discussion will complement the library's 225th anniversary display on the clay brick wall of the library's first floor. The Columbia Public Library was one of 15 libraries selected by the Missouri Humanities Council and the National Archives to host this exhibit, which will continue until Feb. 28.

In addition to the exhibit, the library has had a children's book display with materials pertaining to the Bill of Rights, and will be putting up a second display on the library's second floor, Miller said.



Collective Bargaining in the Crosshairs

Iowa lawmakers push bill to severely restrict collective bargaining by employees in higher education.

No MU Mention But Missouri is Mentioned

By Colleen Flaherty, February 10, 2017

Academics in Iowa are fighting proposed legislation they say will ravage their unions, with negative consequences for the institutions as a whole. Observers say it looks like Wisconsin's union takedown all over again.

“Republicans said they were just going to tweak a couple things in the legislation on collective bargaining, but this isn't tweaking -- they produced a bill that was nearly 70 pages long and completely gutted it,” said Joe Gorton, an associate professor of criminology at the University of Northern Iowa and president of its longstanding faculty union.

“We won't be able to negotiate on evaluation, we won't be able to negotiate on reductions in force or staff cuts or grievance procedures or health insurance -- all these things are all the table,” Gorton said of the potential impact of Iowa's [HSB 84](#).

Indeed, the bill specifically prohibits contract negotiations over insurance, leaves of absence for political activities, supplemental pay, transfer procedures, performance evaluations (for faculty members and other employees), procedures for staff reduction, grievance procedures for resolving questions arising under the agreement, and any employment “advantage” based on seniority.

Applicable to all employees except those in public safety, the bill also limits mandatory topics for negotiation to “base wages,” saying that pay increases shall be no more than 3 percent or the local consumer price index -- whichever is lower. Unions would have to be recertified by election prior to the end of every collective bargaining agreement in a two-thirds vote by all members, not just voting members -- a major effort, and at the union's expense. And the governor could reject agreements, even those agreed upon by employees and institutions.

Beyond concerns about faculty members' collective bargaining rights, Gorton said he wondered how the bill would affect the university's ability to recruit and retain top faculty as the only public university in Iowa with collective bargaining for professors. A recent union survey of its members found that 82 percent would consider leaving the university, either by seeking employment elsewhere or retiring early, if they lose the right to bargain collectively with Iowa's Board of Regents. Some 97 percent of faculty members said collective bargaining was important for morale.

In Wisconsin, legislation limiting unions was followed up by what many have called a legislative “gutting” of tenure protections for faculty members at public institutions. Public faculty members in Ohio staved off lawmakers' attempt to effectively end collective bargaining for most professors in 2015, in part by partnering with other unions in the state. The Iowa faculty union is embracing a similar strategy.

Gorton said efforts to limit tenure and collective bargaining for faculty members -- whether in Iowa, Ohio, Wisconsin or Missouri, where tenure is also being challenged -- were part of the same agenda to “devalue” public higher education.

"Public higher education in 50 years is not going to look like it did 50 years ago, and that's a problem for you and for me," Gorton said.

David Vanness, an associate professor of health population sciences at the University of Wisconsin at Madison who vocally opposed changes to tenure policies there, said he thought Iowa's "version of Act 10" -- as Wisconsin's blow to collective bargaining was known -- is that limiting bargaining to "small" increases in wages "would drastically limit faculty union power, and together with recertification could certainly harm membership."

What's happening in Iowa "certainly does seem familiar," he added.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

[Court Rebukes Trump's Travel Ban, and Harm to Universities Plays a Key Role](#)

No MU Mention

By Goldie Blumenstyk, Shannon Najmabadi, and Sarah Brown February 09, 2017

In a decision Thursday night, three judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit refused a request from the Trump administration to reinstate a travel ban that had temporarily barred visitors from seven nations, and all refugees, from entering the United States.

[The decision](#) means that for now at least, President Trump's executive order — which had stranded students and scholars overseas and forced others on campuses in the United States to cancel research projects and other personal and professional travel out of the country for fear of not being allowed to return — still cannot be enforced.

The appellate judges affirmed that the states had legal standing to challenge the executive order, specifically because of its impact on students and researchers at their public universities.

As with the ruling last Friday by a lower-court judge, which first blocked the executive order nationwide, the travel ban's impact on public colleges and universities played a key role in the appellate panel's unanimous decision.

The States of Washington and Minnesota had initially challenged the ban in part on grounds that it was harmful to their colleges and universities, and that factor loomed large in the temporary restraining order issued last week by Judge James L. Robart of the U.S. District Court in Seattle.

The Trump administration asked the Ninth Circuit appellate court to undo Judge Robart's order, claiming that the states didn't have legal standing to challenge the travel ban and that the courts didn't have the authority to block an executive order.

But in their ruling Thursday, the appellate judges flatly rejected the government's claim that the courts had no authority to review an executive order on immigration based on national security, saying that such a claim "runs contrary to the fundamental structures of our constitutional democracy."

The judges also affirmed that the states had legal standing to bring the case. And that standing, they said, arose specifically from the way the ban's impact on students and researchers had harmed the states' public universities.

Invoking court precedents, the judges noted that schools can assert the rights of their students. "The interests of the states' universities here are aligned with the students. The students' educational success is 'inextricably bound up' in the universities' capacity to teach them," the ruling says. "And the universities' reputations depend on the success of their professors' research."

As operators of state universities, the order continues, the states "may also assert the rights of their students and faculty members." Minutes after the ruling was released, President Trump denounced it from his Twitter feed. "See you in court," he tweeted, in all caps. "The security of our nation is at stake."

Story [continues](#).