University of Missouri seeks expansion of research, humanities

By: Rudi Keller

University of Missouri leaders have worried for several years about MU’s position in the American Association of Universities and on Tuesday Chancellor Alexander Cartwright set a goal of climbing out of the bottom of the association’s rankings for research spending.

The association consists of 28 private and 32 public research universities and MU’s total research spending of $250 million annually is in the bottom quarter of public members. In a speech to a crowded auditorium in the Bond Life Sciences Center, Cartwright said it would take $102 million to move up to the next quartile and his goal is to double the funding available.

The speech was an overview of actions Cartwright intends to take over the next three to five years to expand research and promote humanities on campus. One method will be to replicate programs such as the National Swine Resource and Research Center, he said.

Other steps Cartwright outlined are to form an Academy of Curators Professors so the top faculty on campus can share resources and provide mentoring to younger researchers and to establish an Artist in Residence program to share expertise on campus.

Since the new system and campus leadership arrived last year, UM System President Mun Choi and Cartwright have focused heavily on adding to the research capabilities of the university and evaluating the quality of academic programs to determine which need more support and which could be eliminated.

Supporting humanities is an important part of the university’s mission, Cartwright said to reporters after his speech. Art supports the economy and makes life at the university more attractive, he said.

“When we go home at night, I don’t ask my wife if she wants to go and figure out how to design an iPhone,” Cartwright said. “I talk to her about, do we want to go to a play, do we want to go somewhere else and really enjoy these creative activities?”

The artist-in-residence program is another way to grow interest in the arts and will support the School of Visual Studies, created last fall by the merger of the Art, Art History, Film Studies and Digital Storytelling programs.
“The more vibrant our arts and humanities, the more people will want to come to this region and it is part of the overall strategy for attracting people to Central Missouri,” Cartwright said.

The goal of doubling research funding isn’t as daunting as it sounds, Cartwright said. The new research centers will each require $20 million to $25 million annually to operate. They will attract large grants, he said.

“What we want to do is we want to double the money we are getting from federal, private industry and also from philanthropy,” Cartwright said. “So it means a concerted effort on making sure that we are competitive for the largest grants available.”

A major part of the research effort will be the construction of the Translational Precision Medicine Complex, a proposed laboratory costing $150 million to $200 million that will bring together engineering, medicine, veterinary medicine and other disciplines into one center for collaborative work.

The financing is still being worked out but the center will focus on providing individualized treatments based on a patient’s genetics, lifestyle, diet and other factors. The center will also produce treatments that evaluate a patient’s risk factors for disease, such as environmental pollution, said Patrick Delafontaine, dean of the School of Medicine.

“The main strategic focus will be the major causes of mortality in the United States and the world, which is cardiovascular disease, cancer being the leading ones, but also of course chronic pulmonary disease, chronic kidney disease, and others,” he said. “So really, those are the big targets of precision medicine.”

Other initiatives announced Tuesday include a competition called the Mizzou Innovates program for students, faculty and staff to work together on major challenges in Missouri and the world and an Office of Research Advancement, which will assist faculty in writing multi-investigator research proposals that draw large grants.
MU plans to double research funding over the next five years, chancellor says

By: Kacen J. Bayless

MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright announced a plan Tuesday to double MU’s funding for research and expand research and creative activities that affect the state and beyond.

In front of about 100 students, faculty and staff, including University of Missouri System President Mun Choi, Cartwright’s speech at the Bond Life Sciences Center focused on creating initiatives meant to improve MU’s global reach.

“One of the things we want to do is have people understand we are very serious about becoming a premier Midwestern university,” Cartwright said at a news conference after the speech. “We are a university who wants people to be looking at us and going, ‘Oh, they’re innovative, they’re the university that we want to work with, they’re the university that gets that we can have people connected across all the disciplines and tackling really complex problems.’ And that’s what we want to be known as.”

The plan to double research funding — from $200 million to $400 million in annual expenditures — would work to decrease the funding gaps between MU and other public schools
in the Association of American Universities. Cartwright’s plan includes attracting three to five national research centers over five years.

“We want to double the money we’re getting from federal, from private industry and also from philanthropy,” he said during the news conference. “So, it’s a concerted effort on making sure we’re competitive for the largest grants available. The reason I mentioned going after three to five national research centers is that typically those centers position you to be more competitive for research grants.”

Cartwright emphasized the impact these grants would have on the state economy. He said he predicts each national research center would provide about $20 million to $25 million in funding over four to five years. More researchers would translate into more inventions and technologies that will affect companies and increase jobs.

To help receive these grants and improve MU’s research, creative activities and economic development, Cartwright also announced several new initiatives:

**An Academy of Curators Professors,**

- A collection of the highest-ranking academic professors awarded by the UM System Board of Curators, will serve as a resource for MU and provide guidance to students and faculty.

**The Mizzou Innovates Program**

- Will engage students and staff in identifying and solving state and world problems.

**The Artist-in-Residence Program**

- Will invite professionals, such as artists and musicians to MU. The plan would improve the arts and humanities programs at MU and help drive the economy because “the more vibrant our arts, the more people would want to come to this region,” he said.

**An Office of Research Advancement**

- Will help identify possible grant opportunities for MU.
Cartwright also said MU’s use of the shared facilities and partnerships among different organizations provided by the planned Translational Precision Medicine Complex, or TPMC, will help MU obtain outside grant funding.

Translational medicine is the combination of research and application: inventing new ways to treat and diagnose illnesses and then using them to help actual patients. Precision medicine is the practice of tailoring medical treatment to the molecule-by-molecule make-up of the patient. At a curators’ meeting last November, creation of the $200 million complex was deemed a top priority.

“Through the TPMC, the university will be able to pursue a collaborative approach to disease treatment and prevention that accounts for individual variability in genes, environment and lifestyle,” Cartwright said.

Cartwright said MU is also committed to doubling funding for clinical medical trials to provide Missourians with access to new technologies and treatments.

MU chancellor announces programs to double funding; expand research

By NNAMDI EGWUONWU

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri chancellor announced on Tuesday morning the launch of several initiatives that look to increase the impact of the university's current research.

In a statement, Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said, "MU faculty are shaping views on politics and society. They enrich our lives through art and humanities. They develop solutions to the world's grand challenges in food, water, health and others, and they engage in our community -- both on and off campus. This significant impact is creating a better future for citizens of our state, nation and world."

One way the chancellor said he will increase the university's impact is by doubling MU's funding from federal sources like the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, within the next five years.

Cartwright said the new Office of Research Advancement will work to "target large multi-investigator research grants" and "coordinate initiatives focused on identifying grant opportunities."

"Funding is really important because if you can't get funding, you can't get access to the materials you need or the places you need to go," said student researcher Tessa Valleroy.

In addition to creating more opportunities for funding, Cartwright said the university "wants to do more."

He announced the establishment of more programs to expand research avenues for MU faculty, staff and students.

The Translational Precision Medicine Complex will foster partnerships between researchers of different disciplines and from different organizations.

Cartwright said this will help MU emerge as a global leader in biomedical research and maximize opportunities for external grant funding, while enhancing MU’s ability to recruit and retain the most talented researchers.

The chancellor said the Artist in Residence Program will bring "exciting artist and creative thinkers here to share their expertise with our faculty, staff, students and the public."

"A 2015 study said arts and culture generated more than $14 million in local economic activity," Cartwright said. "Much of that is related to the university, and we all benefit from that."
The Academy of Curators Professors will encourage the "best and brightest researchers" at MU to interact with junior faculty and scholars, and share their expertise with a broader range of the community.

Other initiatives announced include the Mizzou Innovates Program, a competition that will see MU faculty, staff and students work to find ways to solve problems within the state and world, and a concerted effort to attract three to five externally funded national research centers, such as National Swine Resource and Research Center at MU, in the next five years.

"We want people to be looking to us and going 'they're innovative. They're the university that we want to work with." Cartwright said.

All of the initiatives will be headed by current school faculty and staff.

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**Chancellor Cartwright announces new MU initiatives**

By KELSEY KERNSTINE


COLUMBIA, Mo. - Today, University of Missouri's Chancellor Alexander Cartwright announced new initiatives designed to boost research and creative activities on campus.

It marks Cartwright's seventh month at the university. He has a goal to make the University a premier Midwestern institution.

"We want people to be looking to us and going, 'they're innovative, they're the university that we want to work with, they're the university that gets it.' We can have people connected across all disciplines and tackling really complex problems and that's what we want to be known as," said Chancellor Cartwright.

His initiatives are as follows:
• **Academy of Curators Professors** - Establish curator's distinguished professors academy that will serve as a resource for the university in providing guidance and mentorship to students and faculty.

• **Artist in Residence Program** - Invite visual and performance artists, musicians, dance scholars and other professional to the campus to share their skill with faculty, staff, and students.

• **Mizzou Innovates Program** - Annual competition to focus on bringing students, faculty, and staff together in identifying and solving problems in Missouri and the world.

• **National Research Centers** - Work to attract three to five externally funded national research centers in the next five years.

• **Office of Research Advancement** - Establish an office that will provide the infrastructure to help target large multi-investigator research grants.

• **Double NIH and Industry Sponsored Clinical Trials Funding** - Double funding for clinical trials to provide Missourians with groundbreaking technologies.

ABC 17 spoke with students today and they are in favor of their Chancellor's plan.

An undergraduate medical student told us, "I think one of the underappreciated things about research is how much a student is able to learn through it, it gives us a way to actually apply what we've been learning in school for so many years to a real world setting and see our work actually benefit something."

University of Missouri said that for every one dollar they receive, they have an eleven-times return rate. Mizzou researchers bring in more than $200 million in outside funding to Missouri every year.

The Chancellor told ABC 17, by doubling research funding, it will bring more inventions, which will bring new technologies and companies and ultimately lead to more jobs, thus boosting Missouri's economy in the long-run.

He also says expanding the arts and humanities is a strategy to bring more people to Mid-Missouri.
MU Chancellor announces plans to double research funding

By MARK SLAVIT


COLUMBIA — University of Missouri Chancellor Alexander Cartwright announced Tuesday new plans to double funding for research.

Cartwright presented his plan before a crowd of university and business leaders, saying he wanted to increase campus research funding from $200 million to $400 million per year. Cartwright said MU researchers create new technology that creates new jobs in Missouri.

“We want to double the money we are getting from federal, private industry and also from philanthropy,” Cartwright said. "It means a concerted effort on making sure that we’re competitive for the largest grants available.”

He said university researchers have helped develop solutions to challenges around the world involving food, water and health. Columbia community leaders said the expansion of MU research was an economic boost to the entire state of Missouri.

“It’s great to hear about all of the wonderful things that are going on at the university," Columbia Chamber of Commerce President Matt McCormick said. "We now know what those future plans are and the impact the university has on economic development. It was nice to hear it all at one time and seeing everything that’s going on.”

Cartwright said the doubling of research funding would help MU become a global leader in biomedical research. He also said he wanted more involvement between the university and private businesses and other institutions of higher education.
New programs to expand MU research, creative activities and economic development

By Regan Mertz

Chancellor Alexander Cartwright spoke about research, creative activities and economic development at his address in Monsanto Auditorium on Tuesday. Cartwright introduced many new programs to grow research at MU.

These programs include the Academy of Curators Professors, Artist in Residence Program, Mizzou Innovates Program, National Research Centers, Office of Research Advancement and Double NIH and Industry Sponsored Clinical Trials Funding.

One of the new programs, the Academy of Curators Professors, will help the Curators’ Professors act as a resource for the entire university while providing mentorship to students and junior faculty, according to an MU News Bureau press release.

“I believe that one of the most powerful ways we can thrive as an institution and increase our external recognition is by bringing people together,” Cartwright said.

Cartwright said the process of MU students learning from faculty who also use the university to conduct research expands education and innovation in Missouri, the U.S. and even the world.

MU is ranked as a doctoral university with the “highest research activity,” according to the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

“After a little more than 200 days here, I want to focus on some of the ways Mizzou makes a positive impact on the state, the nation and the world,” Cartwright said.

He also introduced a five-year plan to double MU’s federal funding.

This funding will come from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, in addition to other industries and foundations, according to an MU News Bureau press release.

Cartwright said philanthropic support also helps to drive MU’s excellence. A large portion of these funds come from MU alumni who donate $93.7 million every year, Cartwright said.

“Our impact is amplified by the support of our tremendous supporters, many of them are our alums,” Cartwright said. “Our donors support our signature centers of excellence that enable our international recognized scholars to impact the world.”
Cartwright said these centers include the Reynolds Journalism Institute, the Thompson Center, the Novack Leader Institute and the Murray Center for Documentary Journalism, among others.

Over $200 million in outside funding is brought in by MU researchers every year, according to an MU News Bureau press release. This means that MU has a significant impact on Missouri’s economy. Cartwright said he hopes to attract three to five national research centers in the next five years.

The funds given to MU by the research centers will help create new innovation spaces at Ellis Library and new facilities at the School of Music.

Cartwright said these are “new and ambitious goals” and to accomplish this, an office for research advancement will be established.

“It’s our people that make Mizzou exceptional,” Cartwright said as he closed his address.

Alek Willsey, a research assistant in the philosophy department and treasurer of the Graduate Professional Council, introduced Cartwright at the address. He spoke of his journey in the field of philosophy at the graduate level.

“I am grateful to Mizzou that there is so much opportunity on campus that we would never expect,” Willsey said.

**MISSOURIAN**

**No vacancy for Airbnb guests in MU's North Hall**

KATHERINE KOKAL 17 hrs ago (0)

With a comfy twin-size bed, a fantastic view of Memorial Stadium and a convenient location with Starbucks and dining options nearby, David Oliver had a pretty good shot at getting a guest who was interested in his Airbnb listing.

The guest just would have had to forget about the other 170 students in the dorm and the resident assistant, whose room is about 40 feet away.
Oliver’s Airbnb listing was a dorm room in North Hall on MU’s campus, where he lives as a part of one of the business freshman interest groups. The room features a twin-size bed, a mini fridge and access to two restrooms, which are shared with three other suite mates.

As of Thursday, no visitors to Columbia had enjoyed the twin bed with Memorial Stadium views that Oliver advertised on Airbnb. It’s unlikely that any temporary home seekers will. Oliver received a call on Thursday afternoon from someone he assumed to be affiliated with the university named Tyler telling him to take down his listing.

Turns out, subletting university-owned property is prohibited, and the caller said Oliver’s housing contract with MU stated that. The business major from Houston took down his Airbnb listing immediately after the call.

“I didn’t know it was against my contract,” Oliver said. “I didn’t read it carefully.”

MU freshman David Oliver had his dorm listed on Airbnb until last week when he was forced to take it down by the university. Oliver advertised use of a clean desk and mini fridge to his potential guests.

According to previous Missourian reporting and AirDNA.com, the number of Airbnbs in Columbia has risen from a mere 53 in 2014 to 667 last year. Oliver decided to list his dorm room to make extra money for groceries and entertainment, like many property owners in Columbia. He said that if he hosted a guest for a weekend, he would crash at a friend’s house while the guest was in town.

“One-hundred-thirty-nine dollars to sleep at a friend’s house isn’t a big deal to me,” Oliver said.

However, $139 per night would be a big deal for the university, which prohibits subletting of campus properties. Liz McCune of the MU News Bureau said in an email that the housing agreement Oliver signed before moving in was a contract that allowed him personal use of the room as a student.
“It is not a lease that gives the student any right to control the property, or to rent or sublet the room,” McCune said.

In his listing, Oliver advertised use of a computer and access to a mini fridge with water, but did not mention other logistics like how guests would get into the building or his room. McCune said that hosting a guest would lead him into additional sticky situations.

“Renting out a dorm room also would run contrary to other policies as a practical matter, such as rules on accompanying guests and rules prohibiting loaning of keys and sales/solicitation,” McCune said.

Unfortunately for Oliver, he did not set up an arrangement with the university, nor did he tell many people, including his suitemates, about his Airbnb listing. When he received a call to take down the listing, he said he was surprised and confused about how his dorm room was identified.

“I guess it was because I left my windows open and I stated that I was near the stadium in my summary — that’s the only way I could know that he found out it was my exact room,” Oliver said. “So some good investigation work.”

He admitted, though, that it probably did not help his anonymity that his name and room number are registered with the university. For now, the only guests of the “cozy dorm room” with “fantastic views of the football field” and “two shared bathrooms” will be David Oliver and his non-rent-paying friends.
MU hosts juvenile justice discussion in light of new bill

By PAT MUELLER

Watch video at: MU hosts juvenile justice discussion in light of new bill

Generated from News Bureau Media Advisory

COLUMBIA - A bill that would raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to 18 years old is currently in committee at the state legislature. MU's School of Social Work hosted a discussion Tuesday night about the impact the bill would have on the state.

Right now, 17 year olds in Missouri are prosecuted as adults in court for any offense. Missouri is one of just five states in which the age to try someone as an adult is 17. Michigan, Texas, Georgia and Wisconsin are the others.

Missouri currently has dual jurisdiction for offenders under the age of 17 and a half. This means if they're found guilty in adult court, they can complete a juvenile sentence in a Division of Youth Services facility.

The bill says children are required to be prosecuted in juvenile courts, unless they're certified as adults. If that's the case, they're eligible for dual jurisdiction.

Panelists at Tuesday's discussion said Missouri's model for its juvenile system is one other states try to copy.

"The detention part of the system has a staff to child ratio of ten to one," said Brian Evans, state campaigns director of Campaign for Youth Justice. "There's lots of teaching and lots of accountability, as opposed to big giant prison-like facilities seen in other states."
Campaign for Youth is a national organization based out of Washington D.C. that works to get young people out of the adult system across the country. In the last two years, it helped change laws in four states: North Carolina, South Carolina, New York and Louisiana.

Evans said 17 year olds were tried as adults in many states because of laws passed in the late 80s and early 90s to counter high crime rates.

Missouri's juvenile system uses something called five domains of well-being.

"They look at a child, they look at the services and need of the child, as well as the family, then they provide those services," said Sarah Johnson, director of juvenile defense and policy for the Missouri Public Defender System. "They give kids a shot at a high school diploma, and even college credit."

The system also provides therapeutic services, which includes individual and family counseling.

"The juvenile system just gets them back on track in a way the adult system doesn't," said social work professor Clark Peters. "We understand now that young people's brains and developmental pathways are on an upward trajectory. We're going to try to align policy with practice."

The same bill failed to pass last legislative session.

House committee passes several bills expanding gun rights in Missouri

BY JOE SIESS

JEFFERSON CITY — A bill that would no longer consider places like bars and university campuses “gun-free zones,” as well as a number of other bills that expand Second Amendment rights, were passed through committee along party lines Tuesday night, despite Democratic efforts to impose certain amendments.

House Bill 1936, sponsored by Rep. Jered Taylor, R-Nixa, would allow individuals with conceal and carry permits to enter what are currently designated as “gun-free zones,” which include, hospitals, churches, child care centers and schools.
During the hearing, Rep. Jon Carpenter, D-Kansas City, proposed an amendment that would raise the age required to conceal and carry from 19 to 21. The amendment failed.

Carpenter also suggested outlawing bump stocks, a device that modifies semi-automatic firearms allowing them to simulate fully automatic fire.

A bump stock was used in a mass shooting in Las Vegas in October, which left 59 people dead and hundreds injured, recently prompting President Donald Trump to insist that he will ban the devices without the aid of Congress.

“I think it makes a lot of sense … that we at least have some restraint on what type of firearm we are going to allow people to use in all these new places like daycare centers,” Carpenter said.

That amendment also failed.

Echoing the arguments of law enforcement, Rep. Lauren Arthur, D-Kansas City, proposed an amendment to the bill that would remove bars from the definition of gun-free zones, given the dangers associated with combining alcohol consumption and firearms.

“This is not a radical idea,” Carpenter said. “I have absolutely no doubt that the people of Missouri agree with this amendment.”

That amendment also failed.

The bill passed and will move on to be heard in the House.

HB 1733, sponsored by Rep. Peter Merideth, D-St. Louis, failed. It would have reversed a 2016 law that allows for concealed carry without a permit in Missouri and creates an enhanced definition of “Stand your Ground.”

The following bills were also voted on:
HB 1865 which allows gun owners to transport their weapons as long as they are locked up in privately-owned vehicles, passed.

HB 1256, which imposes restrictions on the use of firearm tracking technology, passed.

HB 1326, which authorizes a tax deduction for the costs of firearm training or firearm safety courses, passed.

HB 1937, which prohibits political subdivisions from regulating the open carry of firearms, passed.

HB 1342, which would have prohibited persons from selling, delivering or transferring firearm ammunition or accessories to a person under age 18, failed.

HB 2281, which requires that all sales or transfers of firearms be processed through a licensed firearms dealer, failed.

Also during Monday’s hearing, the committee held a public hearing on two bills that would ban anyone convicted of domestic violence from possessing a firearm.

Representatives Donna Lichtenegger, R-Jackson, and Tracy McCreery, D-St. Louis, presented their bills together. Those barred from gun ownership under the bill also include individuals subjected to court orders related to domestic violence or anyone unlawfully in the United States. Such a ban was removed in Missouri two years ago when the legislature removed the requirement for conceal and carry permits.
Dozens Pile into Capitol Room Monday for Hearing on Gun Legislation

By DAPHNE PSALEDAKIS & TITUS WU & COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN • FEB 27, 2018

Missouri legislators are taking opposing stances on preventing future mass shootings.

A Republican lawmaker has proposed a bill that would eliminate gun-free zones, which include college campuses. A Democrat has proposed legislation that would eliminate permitless concealed carry.

In a packed hearing on Monday, the General Laws Committee heard eight different bills that addressed firearms, almost two weeks after a fatal school shooting in Florida.

Rep. Jered Taylor, R-Nixa, is proposing that those with a concealed carry permit could enter current "gun-free zones." Gun-free zones are places where the use and possession of firearms are prohibited and include hospitals, churches, child care centers and schools. The bill is similar to one he proposed last year.

Taylor said his proposal would help protect students in schools, citing research which said that 98 percent of public mass shootings occurred in gun-free zones.

"I could point to numerous examples where an individual could have stopped a mass shooting in these gun-free zones," he said. "This bill allows individuals to stop an attack if the need were to arise."
With or without a permit, one would be able to carry a concealed firearm in the following places: polling places, local government buildings, state government buildings, bars, childcare facilities, riverboat gambling operations, gated communities, amusement parks, churches, public sports stadiums and hospitals. One would need a permit, however, to carry a weapon onto a higher education campus or the state Capitol.

Regarding any of those locations that are private property, it would ultimately be up to the owners to decide if they will allow firearms.

Rep. Peter Merideth, D-St. Louis, took some issue with removing bars, particularly whose owners forbid guns on their property, as a type of gun-free zone.

"A bar owner isn’t going to know that there’s somebody with a concealed carry, because it’s concealed,” he said. "It’s not until that bar fight turns deadly that the bar owner is going to find out."

Allowing concealed firearms within college campuses proved to be controversial as well. Supporters said it would let people decide how to protect themselves, and not the government.

Alyce Turner, a Columbia resident and former teacher in Cooper County, is against allowing teachers and students to carry firearms on campuses.

"I am a former teacher, I have two teaching certifications, I’ve taught in schools, and I can’t imagine carrying a gun," said Turner, who attended the hearing but did not testify.

Turner was near the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School when the shooting happened and knows a junior from another high school in the area who had seven friends that were killed in the shooting.

"She was just traumatized," Turner said. "She didn’t go to school for days. She was terrified of going to school."
Turner said that if students started carrying at MU, she would probably move out of Columbia because she wouldn’t feel safe.

She isn’t the only one that is worried about the safety of carrying guns in schools. She said she talked to a student at MU who was studying education, but was now rethinking her career choice because she wouldn’t feel safe teaching at schools if they’re not a gun-free zone.

At the hearing, however, there was plenty of testimony in support of Taylor’s bill.

"I want our citizens to be the first line of defense," Austin Petersen, a candidate for U.S. Senate from Kansas City, said, referring to how an officer did nothing for four minutes while the Parkland shooting happened. "I think that an armed society is a polite society."

Connor Martin, a 17-year-old high school student from Troy, agreed, saying he knows dozens of students who want more people armed at school.

"We have a school resource officer at my school, but if he were harmed in any way," they would be helpless, he said.

Opponents of on-campus concealed carry weapons said college students aren’t mature or developed enough to handle guns. They worry that suicide would be more common as well and said more guns don't mean more safety.

"I do not feel comfortable with this normalization of guns on campus, especially in high schools," said Damen Alexander, 17, a high school senior from St. Louis. He proposed investing in schools’ infrastructure and social programs as a safer alternative.

Taylor said that allowing concealed carry on campuses could help women protect themselves from rape.
"When women are raped on college campus or elsewhere, and they are able to use a weapon to protect themselves, they are raped less than 1 percent of the time," he said. He did not cite a source for that statistic.

Merideth did not necessarily agree that allowing guns on campus would help women, but could instead have adverse effects.


"In light of the recent events, I think it goes radically against what the people of Missouri want," he said. "They want us to be coming up with sensible gun solutions, but yours goes so radically in the opposite direction."

**Reviving restrictions**

Merideth has proposed legislation aimed at permitless concealed carry.

Merideth’s bill, House Bill 1733, would reverse Senate Bill 656, which was passed in 2016. The Senate Bill allowed for permitless concealed carry in Missouri and created an enhanced definition of "Stand your Ground."

"It is my view, and the view of many of my constituents, that these changes were a mistake for our state that took us away from sensible gun regulations and toward a place where more and more guns are on the street," Merideth said.

Merideth cited the rise in armed crime. In the city of St. Louis, he said there was a 23 percent increase in aggravated assaults with a firearm from 2016 to 2017, while other violent crime went down in the city. Meredith acknowledged that there are many factors to why the violent crime rate when up but asserted that he believed this to be one of the reasons.

St. Louis resident Damien Johnson disagrees. "St. Louis city is a dangerous place," Johnson said. "There is a reason, today, why people would want to use something, whether a gun or pepper spray, to defend themselves."
Merideth is also concerned about the enhanced Stand your Ground law, which allowed people to use their guns to defend themselves in a public place instead of retreating when it was possible. He said it makes some situations harder to prosecute.

Meredith said he would be willing to amend his bill with another that has been proposed. If amended, his bill wouldn’t repeal permitless concealed carry, but would instead allow counties and municipalities within the state to decide if they want to allow it.

"Communities that don’t have a problem with folks carrying a gun around without a permit can allow their folks to do that," Merideth said. "But that they might not be able to come into my community, where we do have a problem with that, and other communities where residents say they have a problem with that."

Taylor supports "Stand your Ground." He said he should be able to defend himself regardless and not have to walk away from a fight.

Merideth, however, said that his proposal "would not make it so you can no longer defend yourself."

Other bills heard by the committee proposed tax deductions for people with concealed carry permits, making electronic tracking of firearms illegal and requiring background checks when selling guns online.

The General Laws committee will be voting on the bills at 5 p.m. Tuesday or upon adjournment of the House, said Rep. Robert Cornejo, R-St. Peters, who chairs the committee.
MU welcomes activist Janet Mock

By Jane Mather-Glass

Janet Mock, an author, TV host and transgender activist, shared her wisdom with Columbia last Wednesday. She shared messages about gender, race, the value of community and her future plans.

In a discussion led by MU professor Christina Carney, Mock provided thought-provoking talking points and talked about her path to where she is now. Mock has been highly successful in the past few years, having published two memoirs and hosted TV shows. Now, she’s working on the production of a new TV series and has countless goals — in fact, one of them is to “do too much.”

Mock is an activist in high demand, working with people like Laverne Cox and even appearing in one of Jay-Z’s recent music videos. But that wasn’t always her story. Mock told the audience about her time in college when she felt isolated living in New York City. A community she felt like she could belong to was nearby (she was just blocks away from where the Stonewall riots took place), yet she never reached out.

“I was like that girl in [America’s Next] Top Model who’s like, ‘I’m not here to make friends,’” she said. Her advice was to be proactive about finding a community because having a strong group of people who stand beside you is incredibly valuable and can create a sense of belonging. Before Mock found a community, she felt very disconnected.

“A community is made up of people that don’t really expect anything of me,” Mock said. “I can show up completely empty, and that’s more than enough.”

While Mock had much to share, she knows that many other people in her community do as well. Recently, she’s been trying to say “no” sometimes because she knows that her voice has been heard by many. Instead, she wants to elevate the voices of other black trans women, who have their own unique stories and perspectives to share.

As for her future, she wants to continue to tell stories of underrepresented communities on different platforms. She’s currently working on an upcoming show, Pose, which is set to air on FX later this year. The show features five trans women of color as series regulars, something virtually unseen in today’s media. Through this, she aims to challenge depictions of transgender womanhood and create more representation.

“I’ve told enough of my own stories,” Mock said. “Real representation means providing mirrors for young people to be able to see themselves.”
With more figures like Janet Mock on the rise, the future looks brighter and more diverse. Soon enough, the stories we hear will span a variety of backgrounds.

“I want to tell stories that matter,” Mock said. “I’ve wanted to do that since I was a kid.”