



MU News Bureau

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Senate blocks UM curator appointments

By Rudi Keller

The Missouri Senate is holding up Gov. Eric Greitens' appointees to state boards and commissions — including three new members of the University of Missouri Board of Curators — because the GOP majority wants to settle some issues, Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard said Thursday.

Greitens on Feb. 14 appointed Democrat Darryl Chatman and Republicans Jamie Farmer and Jeff Layman to the board, filling vacant and expired terms. The Senate gubernatorial Appointments Committee, chaired by Richard, held a confirmation hearing March 8.

An expected vote was not held March 16, just before lawmakers took their mid-session break. The Senate traditionally holds votes on nominees on Thursdays as part of routine business closing out a legislative week.

“The Republican caucus wants to visit with the governor on a couple of issues next week,” Richard, R-Joplin, said to reporters after the chamber adjourned. He did not name the issues but said a vote could come next week.

“I hope we can get some of those issues resolved,” Richard said.

Chatman is an attorney who lives in St. Charles County. He would represent the Fourth Congressional District, which includes Columbia and the MU campus, if confirmed. Farmer, a business owner from Jefferson City, would represent the Third Congressional District. Layman, a senior portfolio manager with Morgan Stanley who lives in Springfield, was Greitens' campaign finance chairman and would represent the Seventh District if confirmed.

The Fourth District seat is vacant following Greitens' withdrawal of Jon Sundvold, appointed by former Gov. Jay Nixon. Farmer would replace Pam Henrickson and Layman would replace Donald Cupps of Cassville. Henrickson and Cupps remain on the board and will participate in meetings until their replacements are confirmed.

There are two other vacant seats — the First District seat previously held by Mary Nelson of St. Louis and the Second District seat, held by Thomas Voss of Eureka. Nelson and Voss, appointed by Nixon and certain to not be confirmed, resigned from the board in January.

The student representative seat on the board also is vacant.

The Senate also is delaying action on appointees to the Missouri State University Board of Governors and the Clean Water Commission, Richard said.

State Sen. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, said he was not sure what issues are preventing a vote.

“I have no idea,” he said. “I haven’t been a part of it. I was made aware of what the plan was not too long before we went into session. I don’t think there is anything that will keep those individuals from being board members soon.”

The curators’ next scheduled meeting begins April 27 in Rolla. The board is expected to set tuition rates for the fall at that meeting and soon after, in May, select a new chancellor for the Columbia campus. Rowden said he expects the board will be at full strength by that time.

“I would hope we would still be able to meet that deadline,” he said. “I share the desire to get all the individuals in place as soon as possible.”



MU, private businesses kick in largest share to attract United Airlines

By Brittany Ruess

Private businesses and the University of Missouri are the second largest contributors to a fund that is enticing United Airlines to add flights to the Columbia Regional Airport.

United Airlines and city officials announced that starting Aug. 1 the airline is bringing a daily flight to Denver International Airport and twice-daily flights to Chicago O'Hare International Airport to the Columbia Regional Airport. The company was only willing to bring the flights to the airport if it limited its financial risk through a revenue guarantee fund, according to an agreement presented to the Boone County Commission on Thursday.

The Central Missouri Air Service fund guarantees revenue to the airline of up to \$600,000 in its first year of operation if revenues fall short because of empty seats. Private businesses, the university, Boone County, Jefferson City and Cole County are contributing to the fund. Stacey Button, director of the city's economic development department, which oversees the airport, said each group determined its own level of contribution.

The university and private businesses are each contributing \$200,000 to the fund.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said in an email that the university has interest in the airport's success as its researchers and entrepreneurs benefit from airport services. Investors and companies, such as startups, rely on the airport to receive and send materials, he said.

"Having the ability to ship and receive goods around the country in a timely manner is vital to our growth, not just as a university but also as a community," Basi said. "University officials realize that our participation in a strong airport is a key factor and support this as we can. Additionally, we have students from all 50 states and many countries around the world. This will help us as we recruit them."

Jefferson City is contributing \$100,000 and Boone and Cole counties are each putting \$50,000 into the fund. The city has committed to providing \$250,000 worth of marketing for United Airlines, and Button said she and city spokesman Steve Sapp are working on marketing options.

Presiding Commissioner Dan Atwill said the county's contribution is coming from a sum of money the county received from Boone Hospital Center's last lease negotiation with St. Louis-based BJC HealthCare. In those negotiations, BJC gave the county an additional \$1 million and some of the money has been used since for various reasons, including a \$500,000 contribution to the air service revenue fund with American Airlines in 2013, Atwill said.

He said he's hopeful United Airlines will bring an economic benefit to the county, but that's not guaranteed. The only guarantee is the county's contribution to the fund, he said.

"This all depends on the people of the area using the service," Atwill said. "We're hoping that it works like the last one and it's a service that people want."

A revenue guarantee fund was last established to attract American Airlines in 2013. The airline started flights from Columbia to Chicago O'Hare International Airport and Dallas/Forth Worth International Airport in February 2014 after the city set up a two-year, \$3 million fund with American Airlines. The city put in \$1.8 million to the fund. Of that, \$600,000 was from private investors. MU and Boone County each contributed \$500,000 at the time, while Jefferson City and Cole County each gave \$100,000.

The county eventually got back the \$500,000 it contributed plus \$22,000 in interest.

The city made a \$22,562 payment in March 2013 from the fund to the airline to offset losses from empty seats in its first two weeks of service, but made no more payments after.

The city's agreement will come before the Columbia City Council during its meeting Monday for a first reading.



Boone County considers \$50,000 contribution to United Airlines revenue guarantee

Watch story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/boone-county-considers-50000-contribution-to-united-airlines-revenue-guarantee/425243818>

By Sara Maslar-Donar

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Boone County commissioners are set to decide whether the county will contribute \$50,000 to a revenue guarantee that will ensure flight revenue for United Airlines.

"It worked well in the past and I expect it will this time," said presiding commissioner Dan Atwill.

In 2012, the city of Columbia entered into a similar agreement with American Airlines. The two-year, \$3 million contract was a guarantee for its Chicago and Dallas/Fort Worth flights.

Public and private entities contributed the money and if a flight did not reach its expected capacity during a particular month, money to fill the gap would be drawn from the fund.

The city only dipped into the fund once in two years, and the money was returned in full to the investors with interest.

This time around, United Airlines is getting a \$600,000 guarantee. Cole County has pledged \$50,000, Jefferson City officials will contribute \$100,000 and the University of Missouri is shelling out \$200,000. With the proposed amount from Boone County, the remaining \$200,000 has been raised by about a dozen local businesses and people.

Greg Steinhoff, vice president of strategic operations for Veterans United, said he called many of them to ask if they would be willing to contribute and was pleased that most of them said yes.

"It's a lot of \$5,000 or \$10,000 donations," he said. "A lot of the same people as last time are participating."

Columbia will contribute \$250,000 in marketing the flights. Atwill said United is interested in marketing their flights, particularly the new Denver flight.

Atwill said the commission will most likely approve the contribution because they support economic development and bringing more opportunities to the airport.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

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While Kansas City area grows, St. Louis slows, or so census shows

BY KELSEY RYAN

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Story generated from News Bureau direct contact.

The Kansas City metro area continues to grow, while the St. Louis metro area lost population in the last year.

The St. Louis metro's population declined by 1,328 from 2015 to 2016, according to the latest migration estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. Its natural population growth — more births than deaths — was positive at 6,633, but its net migration was a negative 7,403 — 11,583 domestic migrants left, and 4,180 international migrants arrived.

And for the first time since 2011, St. Louis County, which covers several outlying cities around the city of St. Louis, dropped below 1 million people, largely because of a rise in net domestic out-migration.

Meanwhile, the Kansas City metro area experienced modest growth, said Jeff Pinkerton, senior researcher at the [Mid-America Regional Council](#), the planning organization for greater Kansas City.

The seven-county Kansas City area grew by about 19,900 from 2015 to 2016. About half of that was natural population growth, and the rest was net migration, Pinkerton said.

Since 2010, the Kansas City metro area has added about 97,000 people, or about the population of Lee's Summit.

“That's not anything to sneeze at — that's a pretty good size,” Pinkerton said.

In the past, a significant portion of the Kansas City area's growth has been on the Kansas side, in Johnson County. But in the last year, that's started to change.

“We’re starting to see the Missouri side flex its muscles a little bit more,” Pinkerton said. “The Missouri side is really capturing a larger share of the population growth.”

Platte County was the fastest-growing county in Missouri from 2010 to 2016, with 10.1 percent growth, said Tracy Greever-Rice, director of the Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis at the University of Missouri.

The Springfield area also is growing quickly, she said. Christian County, south of Springfield, experienced 9 percent population growth from 2010 to 2016.

Although the city of St. Louis has been losing population for years, the most recent data showing a dip for St. Louis County was a bit of a surprise, said John Posey, director of research for the East-West Gateway Council of Governments in St. Louis, which is the area’s metropolitan planning organization.

“That’s something we’re going to need to keep our eyes on,” Posey said. “We need to wait and see if this is a long-term trend or statistical blip.”

Pinning down the reasons why the St. Louis metro area as a whole has seen a decrease is difficult.

Generally, people move to where they have economic opportunity. And while St. Louis is no longer the traditional manufacturing hub it once was, there is still advanced manufacturing that makes up a significant portion of its local economy.

St. Louis is not the only metro area facing that challenge, Posey said.

“Among the manufacturing power houses of 50 years ago, de-industrialization has affected these regions the hardest,” he said. “They’re struggling to redefine their niche in the global economy.”

But St. Louis has held its own in retaining good-quality jobs, and income growth has held steady, which is a better indicator for quality of life than a bunch of low-wage jobs, he said.

Now, when you look at the last few years, the numbers lost are in the hundreds rather than thousands, Posey said.

The city of St. Louis, which has a population of about 312,000, has been losing people for decades.

At the city’s height in 1950, the city of St. Louis had more than 850,000 people, Posey said.

“It’s a long process that’s been going on, but the piece of good news is the rate of decline is slowing down,” Greever-Rice said.

Nationally, the county with the biggest outward migration from 2015 to 2016 was Cook County, Ill., home to Chicago. More than 66,000 people left, but it remained the second-largest county in the country, behind Los Angeles County.

Maricopa County, Ariz. — home to Phoenix — replaced Harris County, Texas, as the county with the highest population growth. Maricopa County gained 81,360 people between July 2015 and July 2016 — or about 222 people per day.



Boone County Historical Society announces 2017 inductees

By The Tribune's Staff March 31, 2017

The Boone County Historical Society has announced the honorees who will be inducted into the Boone County Hall of Fame.

The annual honors are awarded in three categories: business or organization, posthumous recognition and a living person.

The University of Missouri was selected as the 2017 organization, according to a news release which cited the campus' impact on the local and state economy, noting the state's economic growth rate is 25 percent higher because of MU.

Edwin W. Stephens was selected for the posthumous recognition. Stephens, who died in 1931, was president of the Missouri Press Association, the first president of the State Historical Society and the first president of the Boone County Historical Society, among many other organizations that he served as president or chairman.

And in the final category, the honor was given to former Columbia Mayor Darwin Hindman and his wife, Axie. Hindman served as mayor for 15 years and, the release notes, could be called the father of the Katy Trail State Park as his initiative caused the state to consider the plan that eventually resulted in the trail and park. Axie Hindman was co-chair of a capital campaign committee that funded the renovation of the Missouri Theatre and was instrumental in helping start the One Read program, which is a communitywide reading program sponsored by the Daniel Boone Regional Library.

The Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony will be held Oct. 5.



How owning a dog could improve your health

By Dr. Manny Alvarez

Generated from News Bureau press release: [A Pet in Your Life Keeps the Doctor Away](#)

Nearly everybody will smile when they're petting a dog. If the dog happens to plant a big kiss right on your hands or face, you will probably laugh and giggle, even while pushing the dog away. Did you know that dogs can bring more than a smile to your face, though? Science shows that they actually improve your health.

One Autistic Teen

For years, one autistic teen named Cadence wanted a service dog. Knowing that this dog would improve the teen's self-esteem and anxiety, Cadence's mother applied for one over and over again. Every time, her mother kept telling Cadence the sad response—no.

While Cadence has high function as an autistic girl, she still struggles with emotions sometimes. Cadence needed the unconditional love of a dog to balance those moments and bring her that smile. After four years of lowered spirits and let-downs, Cadence finally got a service dog, and the teen couldn't have been more excited.

The Health Benefits of Dog Ownership

For Cadence, a service dog will help improve her emotional health, and ultimately the physical side too. Still, Cadence isn't the only one who will benefit from owning a dog. Here are just a few ways that dogs can boost your health and bring you happiness:

Dogs Strengthen Your Heart

According to the American Heart Association, dogs can decrease your risk of cardiovascular disease. There could be several reasons for the lowered risk, including the time spent exercising the dog and the distraction from work or family stress.

Although the AHA has not been able to link dog ownership and heart disease conclusively, studies do show that dog owners have better heart health.

Dogs Lower Stress

Remember how dogs make you laugh and smile as you pet them? Ultimately, those lighthearted laughs will lower your stress levels.

A study from the University of Missouri-Columbia revealed that petting a dog causes your body to release those “happy hormones,” including serotonin and oxytocin. At the same time, a dog will also lower the stress hormone cortisol.

In one Missouri study, scientists tested the hormone levels of dog owners and non-owners alike. They found that people received the most benefit (through increased serotonin levels) when petting their own dogs. Also, simply stroking the dog for 15-30 minutes lowered the participants' blood pressure by 10 percent.

Dogs Boost Immunity

If you have children, owning a dog can work in your favor, fending off the onset of allergies. Published in *Clinical & Experimental Allergy*, one study showed that infants exposed to a pet before the six-month mark have a decreased risk of allergies. They also have a decreased risk for hay fever, eczema, and upper respiratory infections too.

In addition, dogs may help balance out and boost your gut health. Because dogs have many different types of beneficial bacteria, owning one will expose you to them.

As you take your dog outside during the day, it will also pick up organisms from outdoors. Simply put, you will definitely benefit from exposure to your dog's healthy bacteria.

Treat Dogs Humanely.

In light of how much dogs can benefit their human companions, you would think that people would treat them with kindness. Unfortunately, thousands of dogs are mistreated, neglected, and killed across the world every year.

While you might think that animal cruelty means nothing for humans, you might be surprised. Many criminals who have committed violent and grotesque acts against humans actually started with animals.

Even if animal abusers did not turn into human offenders, you should still find the abuse appalling. When a person adopts a dog into his home, he is communicating that he will take responsibility for the dog's care.

The dog will give him love, but what will he receive in return? For abusive owners, the dog will find himself neglected, beaten, and even killed inhumanely in exchange. If you know a dog in an

abusive situation, you should not tolerate it. Find help immediately and protect man's loving best friend.

If you choose to open up your home to a dog, take responsibility for it. Get all the benefits of a healthy immune system, lowered blood pressure, and reduced stress. Then, give it the love and attention it deserves, and you'll find an unconditional friendship that lasts a lifetime.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

IRS Tool Used for Student-Aid Forms Will Be Offline Until the Fall

NO MU MENTION

By Adam Harris MARCH 30, 2017

A tool that millions of students have used to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Fafsa, will be offline until the fall, the Internal Revenue Service and the Education Department's Federal Student Aid office announced on Thursday.

The IRS and the department announced the outage of the Data Retrieval Tool, a resource that makes it easier to fill out the Fafsa, earlier this month, several days after the tool mysteriously went offline.

"While this tool provides an important convenience for applicants, we cannot risk the safety of taxpayer data," said John Koskinen, the IRS commissioner, in a news release.

"We will do all we can to help students and families successfully submit applications while the tool is unavailable, and remain committed to protecting applicants' personal information," James W. Runcie, chief operating officer of the Federal Student Aid office, said in the release. Several people, Mr. Runcie added, had reached out to say applying for federal aid was more difficult without the tool.

On Monday a bipartisan group of lawmakers on the education committees in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives sent a letter to the department urging it to help students and families affected by the outage. In the letter, the legislators express concern about the students and families who would be unable to use the tool, and urged the department to take several actions.

Top members of the House and Senate education committees requested a briefing on the outage earlier this month. The department held the briefing on Thursday afternoon, aides to the lawmakers told The Chronicle.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Trump Proposal to Cut Indirect Research Payments Would Hit State Universities Hardest

NO MU MENTION

By Paul Basken MARCH 31, 2017

The Trump administration's plan to cut billions of dollars in research spending by eliminating indirect cost reimbursements would devastate university science, especially at public institutions, experts warned.

The U.S. secretary for health and human services, Tom Price, told Congress this week that the idea is to save taxpayers money while giving them the same amount of research activity. Indirect cost payments are funds spent on "something other than the research that's being done," Dr. Price told a House of Representatives subcommittee on health appropriations on Wednesday.

But university representatives made clear Thursday that it simply does not work that way. Indirect costs reflect the legitimate expenses of providing scientists with labs and complying with a host of essential services that somehow will still need to be paid, the representatives said.

Under current law, a researcher who receives a federal grant to conduct research cannot simply be billed by his or her university for those costs, said Tobin L. Smith, vice president for policy at the Association of American Universities, which represents major research institutions.

And universities absolutely won't force students to cover the difference, Mr. Smith said. "The reality is we don't have other revenue sources to pay for those things, because let's face it, we are not going to rob tuition to pay for those costs," he said. "It just is not going to happen."

It's not clear what universities would do if Congress actually accepted the administration's proposal to end indirect cost payments, said David Kennedy, director of costing policy and studies at the Council on Governmental Relations, another association of research universities and affiliated medical centers.

State institutions probably would suffer first and hardest, Mr. Kennedy said, because they would have virtually no ability to cover lab costs with outside resources. Some private institutions might try to let faculty accept some grants and cover facility costs from endowments, though that, too, is hard to predict, he said.

But Mr. Smith cautioned about even that scenario. Some large private universities may have healthy endowments, but often those funds are restricted to specific uses, he said.

Each university negotiates its indirect cost rate with the federal government, with typical levels ranging around 50 percent of the grant value. The National Institutes of Health last year paid \$6.4 billion in indirect cost reimbursements to accompany \$16.9 billion in total research support, some types of which do not involve indirect cost payments.

The Trump administration, for its fiscal 2018 budget recommendation earlier this month, suggested cutting the NIH budget by 18 percent — from \$31.7 billion to \$25.9 billion. It subsequently proposed cutting \$1.2 billion from the NIH's budget for the current fiscal year.

Other federal agencies also pay indirect costs on their research grants. The administration has not yet announced a budget plan for the National Science Foundation, which gets about \$7.5 billion in annual taxpayer support. *Story [continues](#).*



Drew's Downgrade

Ratings agency dings small university for spending big after a new president took over. As focus shifts to a budget deficit, question becomes whether Drew can cut spending while growing enrollment.

NO MU MENTION

By Elizabeth Redden March 20, 2017

MaryAnn Baenninger inherited a budget deficit when she came to Drew University in the summer of 2014. The next year, the small private university's deficit grew.

And that was by choice.

Drew spent more as Baenninger sought to put money into the university's campus, students and employees. The university issued its first raises in about five years. It hired a respected enrollment guru and increased its financial aid spending. It renovated the dining hall.

The spending was a change for Drew, a pricey university to the west of New York City in Madison, N.J., which had been preparing for budget cuts following several years of dropping enrollment before Baenninger arrived. But, according to Baenninger and members of her administration, the spending helped to keep talented staff and faculty members from leaving, improve student retention and increase applications from prospective students.

"We were losing kids on the food, for God's sake," Baenninger said. "Our salaries were going downhill. Now they're going up."

Recently, however, the spotlight has shifted to Drew's deteriorating financial situation. Moody's Investors Service drove home that point this month by downgrading Drew's bonds for the second time in 15 months. Moody's dropped one series of bonds from Ba3 to B2 and two others from Ba3 to B3, sinking them farther into junk territory and signifying that they are highly speculative.

Moody's pointed to operating deficits that are expected to last longer than previously projected, along with a competitive student market constraining possibilities for short-term revenue growth. It said Drew has no more unrestricted liquidity left and would have to rely on loans and distributions from temporarily restricted endowment assets for working capital. Moody's also assigned a negative rating outlook.

Story [continues](#).