



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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MU braces for small class of first-time freshmen

By Rudi Keller

The 2017 class of first-time freshmen at the University of Missouri will be the smallest in almost 20 years as the Columbia campus endures another precipitous drop in enrollment.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, an MU official said between 3,900 and 4,000 first-time students will pay the \$300 enrollment fee due Monday. The incoming class of 4,780 for the fall 2016 semester was 23 percent smaller than 2015. The 2017 incoming class would be 40 percent smaller than the record first-time class that enrolled in 2014, a cohort that will begin graduating in May 2018.

On the record, MU officials have repeatedly said they could not make estimates for the fall because the past is not a reliable guide this year. The university has invested more in out-of-state recruiting while uncertainty about federal visa policies is cutting international interest.

In each of the past five years, the number of first-time freshmen enrolling for the fall semester has been within 100 of the number who pay the deposit by May 1. MU will be ready to make an official estimate for the fall this week, spokesman Christian Basi wrote in an email.

“We’ll need a few days to make sure the numbers are correct,” a process that will ensure no duplicates, he wrote. “Once that is done, we should be able to discuss what our upcoming class is looking like.”

After a faculty meeting in March, Basi and Provost Garnett Stokes said an early estimate was impossible. An estimate made in February 2016 led to across-the-board budget cuts of 5 percent and by May proved to be far too optimistic.

“We are working off a completely new base right now,” Basi said.

The last time first-time freshmen enrollment was below 4,000 was in the late 1990s, with 3,866 entering in August 1998. At that time, MU enrollment was about 23,000.

Overall enrollment, on campus and online, peaked in fall 2015 at 35,448. If past enrollment trends continue, MU could shrink to about 31,000 students in the fall, the smallest number since 2009.

The steps already being taken to account for shrinkage, however, are clear. At the beginning of April, the university announced that three residence halls, with a total of 531 beds, would be mothballed for the fall semester. That is in addition to four residence halls already shuttered since the spring of 2016.

The budget being prepared for the coming year recognizes a \$23 million decline in tuition and fee revenue at current rates from a smaller enrollment. Increases proposed for a May vote by the Board of Curators would recover \$14.5 million of that shortfall.

First-time freshman enrollments determine the size of future class cohorts. When fall semester counts are complete, the number of students counted as freshman is generally about 20 percent larger than the first-time student counts because of transfers of and students who did not earn enough credit their first year to be counted as sophomores.

This year, for the first time in more than a decade, the sophomore class is larger than the freshman class. It generally is about 80 percent of the freshman class of the previous year, for the same reasons the freshman class is larger than first-time students.

The senior class for a decade has generally been about 125 percent larger than the junior class the previous year, mainly due to five- and six-year students and transfers. The fall 2016 senior class, which will graduate next month, was the second-largest in campus history.

A campus that will be smaller by 4,000 to 5,000 students for the foreseeable future will leave landlords of student housing scrambling for renters. But it may ease some plans already put in motion by President Mun Choi and interim Chancellor Hank Foley.

Choi on Friday reported to the curators on his goals for increasing research and building new laboratories. His plans also call for examining degree programs to determine which should get more money and which should be eliminated.

“We have had a pattern of using those resources for specific programs,” Choi said to reporters after the meeting. “How do we redirect those resources for programs that actually elevate the university.”

Programs that don’t meet the mission or fall short of goals for excellence will be phased out, he said.

“We will be eliminating, phasing out programs that while they provide benefits, did not provide the” required “level of benefits to the university system,” Choi said.

On the Columbia campus, three committees are studying the future of programs, space needs and enrollment. After a faculty council meeting in March, Stokes said no programs would be eliminated that have students enrolled.

“Students are always assured completion of degrees,” she said. “Under accreditation standards, closing a program is a long process because there is a commitment to a student in a degree program.”

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

MAY 01, 2017 7:00 AM

With budget deadline looming, Missouri lawmakers still must decide who wins, loses

BY JASON HANCOCK
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JEFFERSON CITY - Time is running out for Missouri lawmakers to finish the state’s \$27 billion budget.

Hanging in the balance is the fate of thousands of elderly and disabled Missourians left wondering if they’ll be cut off from state assistance for in-home and nursing home care. Others wonder if they’ll receive a tax credit to help with rent.

The state’s public universities are going to see their funding slashed, but just how deep is unknown.

Whether the state will fully fund its employee retirement system is still up for debate, as is how many people Missouri needs to employ to enforce child labor laws and the minimum wage and to adjudicate workers’ compensation cases.

The state constitution mandates that the legislature send the budget to the governor by 6 p.m. Friday. That doesn’t leave much room for error as negotiators from the House and Senate convene to work out their differences.

“With a week left, this is definitely the latest that we’ve been in the process since I’ve been here,” said House Budget chairman Scott Fitzpatrick, a Shell Knob Republican.

Lawmakers entered the year facing a massive budget shortfall, thanks in part to rising spending on programs such as Medicaid and plummeting corporate tax collections because of legislation approved by lawmakers in recent years.

Compounding their problems, and greatly constricting their timeline, was the fact that Gov. Eric Greitens delayed the release of his budget plan by two weeks.

“We did not have this budget very long,” said Sen. Dan Brown, a Rolla Republican who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee. “We got it really, really late.”

One of the biggest potential pitfalls in budget negotiations was eliminated early last week when a bipartisan group of senators decided to buck GOP leaders and amend the budget to fully fund the state’s K-12 public education system for the first time in history.

The House had said fully funding public schools was its top budget priority. Senate leaders had repeatedly said it wasn’t going to happen. But in a break from tradition, 10 Republicans and all nine Democrats in the Senate ignored the wishes of GOP leaders and amended the budget to bump education funding by \$45 million.

Senate leaders did fend off a push by Sen. Rob Schaaf, a St. Joseph Republican, to block the state from turning over more of Missouri’s Medicaid program to private, managed-care companies.

Currently, managed-care companies provide coverage to Medicaid recipients in the Interstate 70 corridor, but on Monday that will expand statewide. Schaaf objected, noting that the expansion wasn’t the result of legislation but of language slipped into the state budget back in 2015. He also questioned whether the way the contracts were constructed was constitutional.

But his amendment rolling back managed-care expansion was defeated 22-10.

With public school funding and managed care off the table, the biggest sticking point could be in-home and nursing home care for elderly and disabled Missourians.

Greitens’ budget proposal called for saving \$52 million by requiring people to display more severe disabilities to qualify for state assistance, a plan that would have kicked 20,000 people off the program.

“That’s pretty draconian,” Brown said. “That’s pretty bad.”

The House voted to maintain funding for in-home and nursing home care by repealing a property tax credit for low-income seniors who rent their homes. The change would impact roughly 100,000 Missourians who take advantage of the credit, which averages about \$500 per person.

But a Democratic filibuster appears to have killed the tax credit repeal in the Senate, putting the funding of in-home and nursing home care in question.

Another difference left to be sorted out is higher education funding.

The House trimmed the University of Missouri System budget by 9 percent, or roughly \$50 million. The state’s other public universities and colleges saw a 6.5 percent cut.

The Senate flipped those totals in the hopes of working out a compromise with the House that would result in every school getting an equal cut.

The Missouri State Employees Retirement System, commonly known as MOSERS, requested an additional \$45 million from the state to help cover costs in the fiscal year that begins July 1. The Senate funded that request, but the House only put \$15 million into the pension plan.

Fitzpatrick has argued that the pension plan is not in long-term crisis, and that \$45 million in additional funds during a tough budget year is too big a request.

But proponents say the money is needed to maintain the fund's financial integrity and to assure the state doesn't lose its AAA bond rating.

"I don't want to see that fund get behind," Brown said.

The House budget includes funding for 11 inspectors in the state Department of Labor. Those inspectors enforce things like child labor laws, prevailing wage and minimum wage, among other state statutes. The Senate budget cuts that number to one. The Senate also differs from the House by eliminating 12 administrative law judges. Those judges adjudicate workers' compensation cases and other labor issues.

Senate Minority Leader Gina Walsh, a St. Louis County Democrat and president of the Missouri State Building and Construction Trades Council, questioned the wisdom of those cuts.

"These laws are still on the books," she said, "and we have to enforce them."

Despite some hiccups in the process — from the governor delivering his budget late to gridlock nearly derailing the Senate — legislators in both chambers are optimistic they'll meet the Friday deadline and avoid having to return for a special session.

The Star's Allison Pecorin contributed to this story.



[President: University of Missouri System will add faculty](#)

ROLLA, Mo. —The four-campus University of Missouri System will not delay adding faculty, expanding research and supporting students until revenue rebounds from current budget shortfalls, President Mun Choi said.

Choi said the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla will add 18 faculty members. Engineering, business and medical schools in Columbia also will add faculty, The Columbia Daily Tribune reports (<http://bit.ly/2oJCRqL>).

"They will be hiring faculty members who are going to elevate the research and the teaching mission of the university," Choi said during a news conference Friday after his first regular Board of Curators meeting. "So we are not retrenching."

Curators were told Friday that the Missouri system will need to cut 8 to 12 percent across its operations to balance its budget. That is a long-term figure designed to prepare for more reductions in state funding and to free resources for research, new faculty and student support, Choi said.

State colleges and universities, including the Missouri system, are facing a 6 to 9 percent reduction. A tuition plan discussed Thursday, with a 2.1 percent hike for in-state undergraduates, will not raise enough new revenue to offset declining enrollment.

About \$1.2 billion of the university's \$3.2 billion budget is spent on academic operations. The loss of state revenue could be about \$30 million and the decline in tuition revenue, if the current plan is approved, would be about \$8.5 million.

Choi said the university is behind public institutions in other states in attracting research grants, providing space or supporting lower-income students. He said the Columbia campus received \$24 million more in federal grants in 2013 than in 2003, but the University of Minnesota attracted an additional \$195 million in grants and the University of Illinois received \$51 million more.

The number of tenured faculty has declined on three of the four campuses since 2012, with the Columbia campus down almost 100 positions, he said. The space deficit for research is 242,000 square feet.

He also said support for students who are eligible for Pell Grants must be addressed, noting the net cost of attendance for those students is significantly lower at the University of Illinois, Indiana University and the University of Michigan but graduation rates for Pell-eligible students attending Missouri are well below those schools.

The curators will decide tuition rates next month and set the budget for the coming year at a June meeting.

Choi: University of Missouri System not 'retrenching' amid budget trimming

By Rudi Keller

ROLLA — A program to add faculty, expand research and provide more support for students will not be delayed until University of Missouri revenue begins growing again, President Mun Choi said Friday.

During a news conference that concluded Choi's first regular Board of Curators meeting since taking office March 1, he said Missouri University of Science and Technology will add 18 faculty members and that the engineering, business and medical schools in Columbia will add faculty.

"They will be hiring faculty members who are going to elevate the research and the teaching mission of the university," Choi said. "So we are not retrenching."

The materials provided to the curators said the UM System will need to cut 8 to 12 percent across its operations to align revenue with spending. That is a long-term figure, intended to prepare for additional state budget cuts and to free resources for research, new faculty and student support, Choi said.

The curators support those plans, board Chairman Maurice Graham said.

"We will set some important priorities and Dr. Choi is working with all four campuses to find out where programs may be reduced, maybe in some cases eliminated," Graham said. "The one thing that Dr. Choi has said and he said it again this morning is that there is going to be a significant increase in research."

Missouri lawmakers are working to complete a state budget by next Friday. State colleges and universities, including UM, are facing a cut of 6 to 9 percent. In addition, the tuition plan discussed Thursday, with a 2.1 percent hike for in-state undergraduates, will not raise enough new revenue to offset declining enrollment.

The university has a \$3.2 billion budget, with about \$1.2 billion spent on academic operations. The loss of state revenue could be about \$30 million and the decline in tuition revenue, if the current plan is approved, would be about \$8.5 million.

In his first report to the curators, Choi emphasized data that shows the university is not doing as well as public institutions in other states in attracting research grants, providing space or supporting lower-income students. On research, the figures showed the Columbia campus received \$24 million more in federal grants in 2013 than in 2003, but the University of Minnesota attracted an additional \$195 million in grants and the University of Illinois received \$51 million more.

The number of tenured faculty has declined on three of the four campuses since 2012, with the Columbia campus down almost 100 positions, he said. The space deficit for research is 242,000 square feet.

Choi identified support for students who are eligible for Pell Grants, federal aid based on financial need, as an area that must be addressed. He provided figures showing the net cost of attendance for those students is significantly lower, sometimes less than half of UM campuses, at the University of Illinois, Indiana University and the University of Michigan. At the same time, graduation rates for Pell-eligible students attending UM are well below those schools.

“We have to be honest with ourselves about where we are,” Choi said.

The curators will finalize tuition rates next month and set the budget for the coming year at a June meeting. Choi said the proposal for tuition could be increased but would not say how likely a higher figure will be presented.

The board by law has nine members, but for most of the past 18 months has operated at less than full strength. Three new members, Darryl Chatman, Jamie Farmer and Jeff Layman, appointed by Gov. Eric Greitens, were attending their first meeting this week.

Greitens has two more vacancies to fill and a student representative to the board to select. But he has been slower than any of his three immediate predecessors in filling seats on state boards and commissions, sending 22 names to the Missouri Senate since taking office in January.

His immediate predecessor, Jay Nixon, surpassed that number by early March 2009 and Republican Matt Blunt, who became governor in 2005 after 12 years of Democratic control, filled more posts by the end of January 2005. Gov. Bob Holden, who took office in January 2001, took the longest to fill at least 22 board or commission posts, surpassing that number by late March 2001.

Greitens’ spokesman, Parker Briden, did not respond to a message seeking comment about the governor’s plans for filling the board.

It is important for the board to be at full strength, Graham said.

“I would anticipate that in the next few weeks the appointment of the two additional board members plus the student member will occur,” he said. “That would be good.”

MISSOURIAN

UM System President Mun Choi outlines vision for better budget management

ANDREW KESSEL, Apr 28, 2017

ROLLA — University of Missouri System President Mun Choi on Friday laid out a vision of investing in research to generate more revenue and drive up university rankings.

Choi delivered his president’s report at the UM System Board of Curators meeting at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. The message was clear: The university system has a long way to go, and it starts with pinpointing programs of excellence and improving the quality of research facilities.

Choi showed curators a series of university rankings from U.S. News and World Report and broke down the position of each campus in different categories. Overall, MU ranked 111, Missouri S&T ranked 164, University of Missouri-Kansas City ranked 210 and University of Missouri-Saint Louis ranked 220.

That needs to change, Choi said.

"I challenged faculty members at UMSL," Choi told the curators. "Do you believe your school is ranked 220th in the country? The answer was an emphatic, 'No.'"

The push for improvement comes at a time of severe fiscal turmoil. In an email on April 3, Choi announced that the system needed to [cut 8 percent to 12 percent](#) of its budget for fiscal year 2018 to keep up with an expected drop in state support as well as declining enrollment.

Choi reiterated that the approach must be to evaluate which programs the system needs to phase out or eliminate, rather than make smaller cuts across the board.

"There will be programs that we're going to have to phase out because they no longer meet the mission of the university or the goals that we've established for excellence," Choi told reporters at a news conference after the meeting. "At the same time, (focus on) reallocation so we can grow the programs that need to grow for us to be elevated as a flagship institution."

Even though research was a significant theme of the meeting, Choi said that the system is committed to non-STEM programs as well.

"We will never move away from being a comprehensive institution," Choi said. "And that's a commitment that all of us as senior leaders and members of the board of curators believe in very strongly."

Choi mentioned UMSL's criminal justice program, the subject of an informational presentation during the meeting, as a prime example.

On Thursday, the curators considered a proposal that would [increase tuition by 2.1 percent](#) — about \$200 a year for undergraduate in-state students and more than \$500 for out-of-state students at MU. The curators will vote on the proposal in May.

Choi said one way the campuses could help students save money is by making use of free or inexpensive open-source textbooks. He held up a chemistry book to the curators. "This one is free to download," he said, "while a similar book would cost \$315."

That difference could net huge savings for students, Choi said, even if tuition does go up.

Choi also announced the appointment of Christopher Maples as interim chancellor at Missouri S&T. Maples is currently president-emeritus at the Oregon Institute of Technology and replaces Cheryl Schrader, [who will become the first female president of Wright State University](#).

Maples' appointment is for one year, and he will not be considered for the permanent position, according to a UM System news release. A national search for Schrader's replacement will begin at the fall.

Schrader was one of three departing system administrators honored with special resolutions from the curators. She joined interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley, who will [become president of the New York Institute of Technology](#) on June 1, and former interim UM System President Mike Middleton, who began his second retirement in March when Choi's tenure began.



[Deadline for UM Budget Decisions](#)

Watch story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=45a51860-d2e7-4ce2-86a6-50b703825d60>



[UM curators approves new faculty standards of conduct](#)

Watch story: <http://www.komu.com/news/um-curators-approves-new-faculty-standards-of-conduct>

By Lexi Larson

COLUMBIA - The UM System Board of Curators approved amendments to the University of Missouri-Columbia's collected rules governing faculty standards of conduct Thursday.

Changes to the collected rules came from a review conducted over the past year by MU's Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) and the University of Missouri Academic Officers (UMAO).

The changes affect standards for faculty conduct, performance and workload.

Ben Trachtenberg, chair of the IFC, said these changes were necessary.

"After the events of Fall 2015, we realized that we had a lot of rules that were confusing," Trachtenberg said. "People genuinely didn't know what was allowed."

Trachtenberg also said some of the rules were not as protective of the freedom of expression as he would like. He added that he and Hank Foley jointly appointed the committee which drafted these regulations.

The committee met during the Spring 2016 semester, and these new regulations will go into effect June 1, 2017.

Trachtenberg said these new rules only apply to the University of Missouri, and not the entire UM System.

"I think that other campuses in the system may benefit from the tremendous amount of work that we did," Trachtenberg said. "If they want to adopt the rules exactly as they are or something similar, they're of course free to do so."

Trachtenberg said he thinks these new rules will help clear up any questions faculty might have.

"I think last year for example there were a lot of questions about contested use of public space," Trachtenberg said. "If multiple people want to be in a certain quad at once, how do we decide who gets it, how are we going to regulate things like megaphones and chalking."

Trachtenberg said MU is very protective of the freedom of speech, and he wants people to feel free to communicate "robustly."

Trachtenberg said people are generally free to say what they want to say.

"The university is not in the business of deciding what messages people are allowed to convey," Trachtenberg said. "But we do have reasonable regulations on time, place and manner."

Robery Jerry was on the Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Protests, Public Spaces, Free Speech, & the Press. Jerry said these new policies set forth a framework that provides guidance for the responsible, reasonable and lawful exercise of first amendment freedoms.

"It shows Mizzou's commitment to and leadership in promoting and protecting the robust exchange of ideas – which is essential to preparing our students for future leadership roles."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Panda Express execs give \$1.5 million to Mizzou

By Ashley Jost

A summer research scholarship is chief among the programs getting a boost from a \$1.5 million gift announced Friday morning at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Andrew and Peggy Cherng, co-chief executive officers of the parent company for fast food chain Panda Express, gave the money to benefit Mizzou's Honors College. The gift is coming from the Cherngs' Panda Charitable Foundation.

Andrew Cherng earned his master's degree on the Columbia campus, and Peggy Cherng earned her master's and doctorate degrees there.

"We are delighted to contribute to inspiring better lives by supporting one of the nation's best honors colleges as well as providing resources to educate and train our future leaders," the Cherngs said in a statement.

J.D. Bowers, director of the Honors College, said in a statement that this gift will also help the college recruit new students.

The South Pasadena, Calif., couple is well-known for philanthropy. In March, they gave \$30 million to the California Institute of Technology to endow a new medical engineering department.

University of Missouri announces \$1.5 million donation

By Brittany Ruess

As the University of Missouri System faces a budget shortfall, the Honors College at the Columbia campus is getting a financial boost thanks to a pair of alumni.

The Panda Charitable Foundation, a philanthropic arm of the Panda Restaurant Group, Inc., which operates the Panda Express fast food chain, has given \$1.5 million to the MU Honors College for scholarships, programs and study-abroad opportunities for “high-achieving students” in the college, MU officials said Friday.

The University of Missouri System Board of Curators could seek a waiver from the Department of Higher Education to raise tuition above the consumer price index to make up for an expected \$40 million shortfall because of low enrollment and anticipated decreased state funding.

Tom Hiles, vice chancellor for university advancement, said private donations are always important to the university, but has a “huge morale impact” during a time of low enrollment and budget cuts to see alumni donate to the university. Last year, MU alumni set a donation record of \$191 million, he said.

“Private support can help attract best students,” he said. “Great institutions, public and private, find ways to attract the best students with scholarship support and other aid, so this is a great down payment on that.”

In a statement, Andrew and Peggy Cherng, MU alumni and co-chairs and co-chief executive officers of the Panda Restaurant Group, said they “hope this gift will give the Honors College additional tools to recruit the best students in the state and nation” while providing educational and career opportunities. The Cherngs did not attend a news conference announcing the gift Friday morning. Peggy Cherng earned a master’s degree in computer science and doctorate in electrical engineering at MU and Andrew Cherng earned his master’s degree in applied mathematics.

“We are delighted to contribute to inspiring better lives by supporting one of the nation’s best honors colleges as well as providing resources to educate and train our future leaders,” the Cherngs said in a statement.

Earlier this month, the Cherngs announced a \$30 million gift to the California Institute of Technology to name and endow the Andrew and Peggy Cherng Department of Medical Engineering, the South Pasadena Review reported.

Hiles said the university is working with the Cherngs on a potential gift that would lead the Honors College to be named after them. MU spokesman Nathan Hurst said in an email that nothing will be official for at least a few years.

“So, we’re going to continue the conversations with the Cherngs, we’re going to continue talking with other donors who support honors education and we’re excited about where that will go,” he said.

The Cherng’s gift will go toward several programs, including the Cherng Summer Scholars program that offers \$9,000 to undergraduate students to fund research projects or other work during a 10-week summer course. The Honors College chose 12 undergraduate students for the program out of the 32 applicants, making the selection process “intensely competitive,” said J.D. Bowers, Honors College director.

He called the summer program an “incubator of talent for the future” and said the project will lead the students into graduate school, launch their career and hopefully lead to scientific, historical or linguistic breakthroughs.

“They’re not producing a capstone, they’re not producing their culminating work. That terminology implies finality and completion,” he said. “Our goal rather is to see that they build on their achievements in the past while catapulting themselves to the next stage.”

Riley Messer, a political science student, said her project will focus on the geographical components of public and private corruption in the U.S. The project could focus on corruption in state legislatures and official corruption, which she said is an indicator of government corruption, but it could also include white collar crime.

“My goal is to come up with some ideas that could potentially influence public policy in terms of corruption, where corruption is centered in the United States and potentially some new revelations due to the fact that corruption is so hard to measure,” she said.

The Cherngs’ donation also will fund the CIRCA program, which is a “new, problem-based learning curriculum for honors courses that promotes interdisciplinary study and leadership development,” and study abroad trips to the Netherlands and in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, according to an MU news release.

MU also will use the money for the Cherng Conference and the Cherng Visiting Scholars program, which brings leaders studying global issues and solutions to campus annually.

Bowers said the Cherngs’ gift will allow the college to increase its 100 research and artistry opportunities to 500 by the end of academic year, covering a quarter of the college’s students.

“The Cherngs have given a gift that is in many ways priceless,” he said “And it comes at a time when they and we can demonstrate that the challenges we face as a college, as Mizzou and as education, are challenges that will be well vent. Simply put, we will not succumb, we will thrive and we will succeed.”

Hiles said the Mizzou: Our Time to Lead funding campaign, which kicked off in October 2015, has raised \$900 million of the \$1.3 billion goal.

MISSOURIAN

MU alumni donate \$1.5 million to Honors College

AMBER CAMPBELL, Apr 28, 2017

COLUMBIA — **Two MU restaurateur alumni have given \$1.5 million to the MU Honors College .**

The donation came from Andrew and Peggy Cherng, MU alumni and founders of the Panda Restaurant Group which includes the Panda Express restaurants, said Catherine Allen, a chairwoman of the "Mizzou: Our Time To Lead Campaign," in a Friday morning news conference.

The money will support scholarships, academic programs and study abroad opportunities for Honors College students.

"The education we received from Mizzou was instrumental in preparing us for (our) future," the Cherngs said in the release. "We hope this gift will give the Honors College additional tools to recruit the best students in the state and nation, and provide educational and career opportunities for MU's best and brightest students."

Some of the money was already being used to fund 12 students' participation in the Cherng Summer Scholars program, said J.D. Bowers, director of the college. Students in the program will participate in individually designed academic projects under the supervision of faculty mentors.

The gift also will support the CIRCA Scholars program — an interdisciplinary program, study abroad opportunities for students in the Netherlands and in Kuala Lumpur and the Cherng Conference and the Cherng Visiting Scholar program, which will bring experts on global issues to MU annually.

Bowers called the donation "monumental," and said it would have "a lasting impact on the lives of thousands of students that come through our college."



University rule changes affect protest space on campus

Watch story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/university-rule-changes-affect-protest-space-on-campus/468553744>

By Jordana Marie

COLUMBIA, Mo. - University of Missouri officials have changed policies that will affect gathering spaces and protests on the Mizzou campus.

Officials said the rules change will help campus community members and visitors understand their rights and responsibilities related to campus protests and the use of public space.

The policy changes include the use of facilities, illuminated devices on campus, sound amplification devices, posting materials on campus, chalking on campus and camping on campus.

The university said experts from law, political science, law enforcement, health and safety, public affairs and journalism were consulted during the formation of the new rules and revisions.

Interim chancellor Hank Foley and Faculty Council chair Ben Trachtenberg created the Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Protests, Public Spaces, Free Speech and the Press. The group worked on the policies for more than a year, according to university officials.

Robert Jerry was chair of the committee.

“The University of Missouri had some policies but they weren’t very elaborate, they were hard to find and it seemed clear on the campus community there was not a great deal of understanding about them,” Jerry said. “So what this project did was really to update our policies and articulate in a coherent way what the first amendment allows, what are the constraints, and that was the essence of what we did on the committee.”

A student group camped for an extended time on Francis Quadrangle in November 2015 to protest what it saw as racial issues on campus.

“The events on campus in the fall of 2015 led to the understanding that we needed a better campus wide understanding of how public spaces are used,” Jerry said.

The camping on campus policy prohibits camping on university grounds, in or under structures or in buildings except under approved circumstances.

The policy defines camping as temporary or permanent living quarters anywhere outside residence halls, apartments or other university-managed housing. It defines camping as sleeping outside between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. and sleeping in a parked car beyond the purpose of napping. It also prohibits the use of sleeping bags, mattresses, tents or other sleeping equipment.

“It'd be okay to put a tent on the quad,” Jerry said. “You just can't sleep in it overnight.”

Another policy change limits the decibel levels of megaphones and other sound amplifying devices. Generally, if the noise isn't disruptive to classes or offices, no permit is required.

“But if we were going to do something loud out here, like have a band, reasonable people would say, 'I need to go talk to somebody about this and get a permit.' We're not saying you can't do it, but you'll need a permit,” Jerry said.

Jerry said these policies aren't trying to limit free speech or protests on campus. Rather, make sure they're done in a constructive way.

“It's important those rights be exercised in responsible and reasonable and lawful ways,” Jerry said.

Protests, planned and spontaneous, are allowed across campus according to state law. However, the university is allowed to restrict those assemblies in certain areas for specific reasons.

“The lawn in front of the nuclear reactor is one,” Jerry said. “The grass in front of the hospital. Parking lots. The football field. There are reasons why those are not wide open to the general public to have a protest.”

MISSOURIAN

UM System employee health insurance audit could save nearly \$4 million

DANIEL KONSTANTINOVIC, Apr 28, 2017

COLUMBIA — An effort across the University of Missouri System to verify the eligibility of employees' dependents appears likely to save the university several million dollars this year.

The verification effort was conducted to make sure that information about the dependents included on employees' health insurance was up to date. Employees were asked to produce documents such as birth and marriage certificates, federal tax returns and, in some cases, court documents.

Preliminary reports from the UM Human Resources department given to the Intercampus Faculty Council suggest that the audit could save approximately \$3.736 million across the UM System, MU Faculty Council chair Ben Trachtenberg said.

"A small amount of spot-checking is done each year to make sure records are up to date," Trachtenberg said. "Apparently it is standard to do a 100 percent audit every few years."

Christian Basi, director of the MU News Bureau, said the status of a dependent on someone's health insurance can change with a divorce; change of custody of children; or a child "aging out" and no longer being eligible for coverage through a parent's insurance.

The savings in the report is an estimate, as an exact dollar amount can be hard to establish for a number of reasons, Basi said. People may have decided to update their dependent information when the audit was announced in February, rather than waiting for the audit to take place, meaning they would not be counted in the final total. Furthermore, one child in a family no longer being a dependent could potentially save the university money on future medical expenses, he said.

The verification effort was not performed to punish anyone falsely claiming dependents but rather to make sure all information is up to date, Trachtenberg emphasized.



[New MU Study Finds that Financial Literacy Decreases as You Age](#)

Listen to story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=cc2541bd-66b6-4c76-95c1-df47f297f6c5>

This story was generated by an MU News Bureau press release: [Older Adults Have 'Toxic Combination' of Lower Financial Literacy, Higher Self-Confidence](#)



[High school officials weigh in on possible festival venue change](#)

By Roger McKinney

Memorial Union and the Fine Arts Building at the University of Missouri on Friday were filled with well-dressed high school students — some lugging musical instruments — and their adult sponsors, who came for the 66th annual Missouri State High School Activities Association Music Festival.

Around 10,000 high school students will give around 5,000 performances in the festival that started Thursday and continues through today. More than 400 schools are represented at the festival, which also is called the State Solo and Small Ensemble Festival.

A staffer or intern in the south wing at Memorial Union on Friday was tasked with the job of “shusher,” pacing the common area on the main floor saying “shhh.”

Though it has been at MU for all 66 years of its history, next year the location is in question as MSHSAA has requested proposals for a festival venue for future years.

The association received only two proposals — one from MU and the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau and one from Missouri State University in Springfield and the city of Springfield. A decision is scheduled for the June meeting of the MSHSAA board. Julia Gaines, director of the MU School of Music, said MSHSAA staff members plan site visits to verify details of the proposals, including adequate performance space, available hotel rooms and other information.

David Phillips is band director in the Carrollton School District and his wife, Michele, is choir director. It’s about 90 miles northwest of Columbia and they said MU is a perfect central location for the festival.

Michele Phillips said traveling farther for the festival could result in an overnight stay in a hotel. She said she’s sure the festival is a good recruiting tool for MU.

“If I were the university president, I would want as many high school students on campus as I could get, considering the declining enrollment here,” she said.

Phil and Shelia Baumert, parents of Nick Baumert, a student in the Liberty North School District in the Kansas City area who was performing at the festival, said they drove down separately because Nick had other activities at school Friday afternoon.

“I think it’s convenient driving from Kansas City” to MU, Sheila Baumert said.

They said Nick performed at the state theater festival at Missouri State University just last week, but he prefers the MU campus.

“Our son seemed to love the campus down here,” Phil Baumert said. “I would think this would be the best venue, location-wise, for everyone.”

Brian von Glahn, choir director for Platte County High School in Platte City, north of Kansas City, said the school had 92 students at the festival, including 55 in vocal music.

“Our students look forward to coming here,” von Glahn said. “It’s a campus that’s very familiar to the students. It’s just an outstanding venue. The community is really welcoming, including the hotels and restaurants.”

He said he’s not familiar with the Missouri State University campus, but the school would adjust if that’s the MSHSAA decision. He said he would like it to be in a location that minimize the stress on students for what is already a stressful event.

A double quartet — four boys and four girls — from Trenton High school in far northern Missouri on Friday sang a capella “The Three Ravens” by Thomas Ravenscroft and “Il Bianco e Dolce Cigno” by Jacques Aracade in a room in Memorial Union.

Before performing, Trenton High School senior Mickenzey Willey, said she had been to the festival last year and in her freshman year.

“I think it’s a very nice setup,” Mickenzey said. “I really like Columbia.”

She said she also has been to Missouri State University on a campus visit, and it’s also a nice campus.

Tyler Busick, vocal music director at Trenton High School, said MU is the ideal venue.

“We love the facilities and Mizzou has been very accommodating,” He said. “Our hotel knows we’re coming every year. We know where we’re going and what we’re doing.”

He said Springfield would be a four-hour drive from Trenton, nearly double the school’s current trip to Columbia.

“Probably the biggest thing for us is, geographically, it’s much better here,” he said.

Terry Foster, a piano accompanist with Raymore-Peculiar High School, south of Kansas City, said he likes coming to Columbia for the festival.

“I think it’s a good place for the festival,” Foster said. “The only problem I found is parking.”

He said if the festival moves to Springfield, he would make the trip.

Daniel Hansen, choir director for the St. Joseph School District in northwest Missouri, said Columbia is about three hours away from his school.

“I think it’s a good destination,” Hansen said. “It does seem like it’s getting kind of small for the number of people here.”

He said Springfield wouldn’t be much of an inconvenience, since the students and school personnel stay overnight at a hotel anyway.

“For some schools it may be more of problem,” Hansens said, adding that the Kirksville School District in the northeast part of the state would have more difficulty getting to Springfield than to Columbia.



Environmental organization calls on MU to divest from fossil fuels

By Fiona Murphy

The Mizzou Energy Action Coalition will be presenting its campaign for the UM System to divest from fossil fuels to President Mun Choi on May 3.

The divestment resolution that passed unanimously in joint session calls for the UM System to “pursue total divestment of fossil fuel stock by 2020.” The University of Missouri currently has \$10 million invested in fossil fuel stock and 45 companies. The MU System Endowment is \$1.4 billion, and the resolution calls for 0.8 percent of the total endowment to be divested.

MU Chief Communication Officer John Fougere said in an email he is proud MU is a national leader in matters of environmental sustainability, but “it would be nearly impossible to function as an institution or as a society without the energy provided by fossil fuels.”

MEAC, previously called Coal Free Mizzou, successfully petitioned to the UM System Board of Curators in 2013 to switch MU’s primary energy source from the coal-burning power plant to renewable energy, a petition that was supported by 3,000 signatures. However, Fougere believes fossil fuels are too crucial to campus for the UM System to divest from.

“The dependency on energy provided by fossil fuels will continue to exist for some time, and it is our belief that disengaging from a large segment of the world economy is not in the best interests of the UM System,” Fougere said.

The divestment targets the Endowment Pool, which is not used to buy energy nor run the power plant or for any university operations. The Endowment Pool is invested in both publicly and privately traded stocks and bonds, including investments in fossil fuel companies. If the money gets divested, the MEAC has no suggestions as to which other companies the Endowment Pool would invest in.

“Directly, [the divestment] has nothing to do with our power plant,” MEAC president Frankie Hawkins said. “So by 'divesting from fossil fuels,' the university is agreeing to sell its stock in fossil fuel companies and invest in other companies.”

At least \$3.5 million of the MU System investment is in companies regarded by The Carbon Underground, an environmental organization, as some of top carbon emitters and most environmentally hazardous companies in history, including Gazprom Neft, one of Russia’s

largest oil producers and distributors, and CNOOC. This resolution, if accepted by Board of Curators, would make MU one of 16 schools to commit to divestment.

“This movement shows student solidarity with other larger movements of social justice,” Hawkins said. “It draws attention to the threat of climate change. We want to send a signal to fossil fuel companies that we are not in favor of cooking the earth five times over.”

The Missouri Energy Action Coalition, founded in 2008, presented its divestment movement initiative to Missouri Students Association April 12, and the resolution was passed in that night’s full Senate with an 18-6 vote. MEAC representatives met with UM System Curator Steelman and said he showed positive reception to this divestment. MEAC originally began its divestment campaign in 2013.

Hawkins said, with the support of joint session, their organization is taking the divestment proposal to a meeting with President Choi and UM System officials next week. On April 18, MEAC began a petition through change.org to get donations and a goal of 500 student signatures; the organization currently has 291.

“A unanimous vote from joint session took my breath away,” Hawkins said. “Going forward, it’s great to know we have the student body behind us. We have proof to bring to President Choi and UM System officials that people care.”

Joint session is composed of 11 student governments on campus. Each government receives one vote on joint session legislation.

The MEAC hosted a rally for “fossil fuels and climate injustice” on April 29 in Middlebush Auditorium. Many members of the community gathered for the rally which featured music, poetry from OneMic, various activists and speakers.

“Our planet is being threatened by corporations and governments,” MU senior and environmental activist Mallory Brown said. “We need to work for justice. It’s important to ask if we are we doing our best to commit to environmental justices in our community.”

Activists and residents spoke on the increasing issue of climate change, specifically in this political climate, as well as environmental action. Hawkins spoke at the rally and encouraged residents of Columbia to sign the petition and get involved in the movement on campus.

“I’ve signed MEAC’s petition because it’s an important thing,” MU sophomore Rachel Peterson said. “It’s a really good way for our university to demonstrate that we are not about climate change or fossil fuels.”



[Impact of enrollment decline hits apartment market](#)

Watch story: <http://www.komu.com/news/impact-of-enrollment-decline-hits-apartment-market>

By Chris Joseph

COLUMBIA - The decrease in enrollment at MU is leaving apartment companies short of their leasing goals.

"We're not where we want to be quite yet, quite frankly most places aren't where they want to be," said David Cochran, District Flats general manager.

In an effort to increase interest, District Flats on 8th street has reduced rent prices on some units by \$200 and waived security fees. Cochran said he has not had to let go any staff or significantly decrease resident perks.

Cochran said District Flats and other complexes traditionally aim to be full by mid-May, but are now having to lease through the summer to reach maximum occupancy.

Liz Young, community manager for The Reserve at Columbia, said it is not concerned about the occupancy as of now, but is planning to budget accordingly if the decrease continues.

"We opened lower than what we had projected," Young said.

She said management has confidence the enrollment numbers at MU will rise with time.

Both Cochran and Young said they had corporate financial support and flexibility during this period.

In a statement, the U Centre on Turner, which is currently under construction, said there has been "softness in the enrollment" but "the University of Missouri is a strong flagship institution that we believe in."

Overall, MU enrollment decreased by 7 percent from fall 2015 to fall 2016. Incoming undergraduates decreased by 22 percent. The official numbers for the fall 2017 MU enrollment will come out in May.

In response to the decrease, MU closed Respect, Excellence, Lathrop and Laws dormitories in the last year.

Meanwhile, new apartment buildings are being built on 9th street and Elm street. Others have just been opened for the previous academic year, including TODD on 5th street.

"For awhile there was a lot of money to be made, the places were all full. Rents were high, so it made sense to build," Cochran said. "Now it takes several years from the concept stage until when the kids move in. In that time period the market shifted."

This has forced local apartment companies to lower their prices and increase signing perks.

"We got a few hundred dollars up front," Patrick Turgeon, an MU junior said.

Turgeon signed a lease with U Centre for the fall. He said he was given a pre-paid gift card and said his current location, The Lyfe off Nifong, is doing the same.

"I get emails all the time about them giving out money for signing," Turgeon said.

The increase in market competition has also pushed down prices for downtown studio apartments.

Jessica Reid, an MU junior, is returning to the Belvedere apartments on Hitt street and is paying under \$400 a month for rent and parking.

"The location is phenomenal, I'm three minutes from campus and likewise from Broadway," Reid said.

Cochran said, going forward, he anticipates a decrease in student housing projects.

"Smaller projects, when they are built. Maybe more mixed use projects. Ones that are not so dependent on students, because that market, like we've talked about, is maybe shrinking or stagnating," he said.

MISSOURIAN

Eating disorder resources missing key piece with closing of McCallum Place

ROSEMARY SIEFERT, Apr 28, 2017

COLUMBIA — Lauren Meyer, 16, puts it pretty bluntly: There's no place in Columbia for people like her — people with eating disorders.

And it doesn't appear to be an overstatement.

With the closing on March 3 of McCallum Place Eating Disorder Center, the first specialized treatment center of its kind in mid-Missouri, Columbia remains without a place people can go for in-patient, outpatient and extended partial hospitalization for an eating disorder. The clinic also offered group counseling.

One person dies every 62 minutes as a result of eating disorder complications, according to the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders. Eating disorders are the leading cause of death from mental illness.

Women ages 15 to 24 are the most vulnerable, according to the National Eating Disorders Association. Men do develop eating disorders but, historically, they have made up a smaller number of the total.

Young adults make up about 24 percent of Boone County's population, yet, the closest treatment facilities to Columbia — Castlewood and McCallum Place — are in St. Louis, said Kayan Phoebe Wan, a psychologist at the MU Student Health Center.

The importance of the specialized care these facilities offer is not only the treatment of eating disorders but also the management of complications that often result from eating disorders such as depression, anxiety disorders and substance abuse, according to the American Psychological Association.

While a psychologist can "identify important issues that need attention and develop a treatment plan," according to the American Psychological Association, "for children and adolescents, the recommended treatment model is the team approach."

Not only are there no treatment centers available for this team approach, but support groups are a scarcity. Meyer, who participated in the [partial hospitalization program](#) at McCallum Place for seven months, attended the facility's alumni support group after her intensive treatment until the center closed its doors.

"I started getting really bad and my family started noticing," Meyer said. She used track and field as a cover for what started as compulsive exercise and then turned into restrictive eating. Anorexia nervosa binge-purge type was her official diagnosis. After receiving treatment, McCallum Place offered support group sessions.

"That support was much needed," Meyer said. "When you have an eating disorder, it's so easy to slip back into behaviors when you don't have constant support."

The danger of not having group support, Meyer said, is that two people can begin to rely on each other without the oversight of a professional. There's a risk of a negative co-dependency developing.

One national organization that focuses on eating disorders does have a presence in Columbia: [Overeaters Anonymous](#).

Overeaters Anonymous has adapted its treatment program from the 12-step recovery process used in Alcoholics Anonymous programs.

"People with an eating disorder tend to be secretive about their illness, so it is difficult to form a group," Wan said in reference to the lack of additional group support in Columbia.

There are other ways of getting help, however, which include seeing a psychologist or therapist or to meet with a psychiatrist or primary care physician, she said. People with eating disorders might prefer long-term, weekly psychotherapy. "It really depends on the severity of their eating disorders," Wan said.

Other places to get help include:

- MU Health Care, where Aneesh Tosh specializes in adolescent medicine and eating disorders, said Mary Jenkins, the public relations manager at MU Health. However, MU Health Care doesn't have an eating disorders clinic.
- The MU Student Health Center, which partners with "[Body U](#)," a program that offers online, evidence-based help for eating disorders. When demand is high enough, the Health Center also offers an eating disorder support program based on an enhanced form of cognitive behavioral therapy.

Both the MU Counseling Center and Columbia College Counseling Services have licensed professional counselors who specialize in eating disorders.

Stephens College did not return calls about its eating disorder services.

MISSOURIAN

Goal of Drug Take-Back Day is to prevent drug abuse, protect water and soil

ALLYSON VASILOPULOS, Apr 28, 2017

COLUMBIA — National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is Saturday.

But why turn your prescription drugs in when you can just dump them into the toilet or garbage the way people do on TV? Why not just leave them in the back of the medicine chest?

Because the compounds are bad for the environment. Left lying around, they also pose a potential risk of drug abuse in your home.

Keeping prescription drugs around for longer than needed could lead to someone abusing the drugs, said Indra Cidambi, addiction medicine expert from the [Center for Network Therapy in New Jersey](#).

“I strongly recommend safely disposing of prescription medications as soon as the need has been extinguished,” she said.

Medication can and does get into groundwater or soil and is absorbed by vegetation, Cidambi said.

The contaminated water is hurting aquatic life and ending up in drinking water, according to the MU Environmental Leadership Office. That results in longterm negative health effects and can ultimately compromise the immune systems of fetuses, children and pregnant women, according to a flier distributed by the organization.

The most abused prescription medications are opioid medications, followed by anti-anxiety drugs and stimulants, Cidambi said. Because of the high these drugs produce, they're addictive and should only be used short-term during treatment, she said.

Fifty-five percent of Americans who used pain medication without a prescription got it from a friend or family member, Cidambi said. One percent bought them from a friend and 5 percent stole them, she said, citing data from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

"It is not uncommon to see people addicted to pain pills or even benzodiazepines and stimulants start their habit by obtaining them (often without asking) from a loved one," Cidambi said.

This happened to MU Wellness Center Coordinator Tiffany Bowman, whose grandmother had received pain medication to use after a knee surgery. The grandmother's caretaker stole the medication, leaving Bowman and her grandmother unsure of what to do.

"You never know who that's going to appeal to or if it might fall into the wrong hands," Bowman said.

All of the medications collected will be picked up by the Drug Enforcement Administration and then incinerated, said Major Tom Reddin with the Boone County Sheriff's Department.

The average amount collected in each takeback event is 500 pounds, but a record of 895 pounds was collected in spring 2016, Reddin said. The last collection, in fall 2016, brought in 462 pounds.

"Over the years, we've collected at least a few tons of medication," he said.

If someone is unable to make it to any of the locations, there are other ways to dispose of medications properly.

The [Missouri Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal program](#) is one of them. It allows people to bag up and drop off their unused medicines at secure collection boxes in local police stations.

The Columbia Police Department used to accept people's unwanted and unused prescription drugs but now sends people to the [Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility](#).

Reddin said another option is to put the medication in a container like an empty detergent bottle and mix it with any liquid that would cause the medication to dissolve. That renders it useless. The bottle can then be thrown into the garbage safely. Because Columbia's landfill is lined, the toxins in the medication can't escape into the soil, he said.

The MU Wellness Resource Center also offers [Deterra Drug Deactivation System packages](#), which render the medication useless by dissolving it in water and then throwing it away.

"These are small, they're discreet, and they're very easy to use," Bowman said.

Bowman said students shouldn't worry about getting into trouble for the prescriptions they drop off. Although a police officer will be present at the campus drop-off location, that's only to legally take charge of the medication at the end of the event.

The MU Student Center location will also have a place for people to recycle their empty prescription bottles and containers.

"It's reassuring to know that you're doing the right thing by your fellow Tigers and by the environment," Bowman said.

The drop-off event has taken place two times each year since 2010.



[Pet lodging program looks to build new facility](#)

Watch story: <http://www.komu.com/news/pet-lodging-program-looks-to-build-new-facility>

By Daniel Litwin

COLUMBIA - Families and pets met Sunday at Stephens Lake Park for the Mutt Strut, a benefit serving MU's Barkley House.

Barkley House is a temporary shelter program that provides lodging for people whose pets are receiving treatment at the Missouri Veterinary Health Center.

Founder Carolyn Henry, an oncologist at the VHC, knows the struggles of having to leave a pet behind during a trip to the veterinarian.

"I felt that sense of, not quite panic, but just concern when you have to hand them over to someone else. Just wondering how are they reacting to the fact that I've left them there," Henry said. "It's been shown over and over again stress levels really go down in both people and in dogs when they're interacting."

Henry thought of the idea for Barkley House after seeing clients at the veterinary school sitting in the waiting room for long periods of time and getting upset about having to leave their pets.

"We've got a lot of pets that we'd feel comfortable sending across the street but not necessarily across town," Henry said.

Barkley House Advancement Associate Susan Ritter had a similar experience with her dog which motivated her to get involved with the program.

"I spent a lot of time in the waiting room and trying to sleep in the waiting room... it's a very helpless feeling. When you do find a hotel room, they're usually stark and not very homelike," Ritter said.

Currently, the program operates out of the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, with two retrofitted rooms providing a homelike setting for families and their dogs.

Barkley House is also open to cats, cows and horses.

"If you have equine or bovine that you're interested in, we will support the lodging for that as well," Ritter said. "Obviously your horses and cows can't go inside the room with you, but we will have facilities for dogs and cats."

Henry said the two suites are filled about five times a week. The next step for Barkley House is to build its own facility.

"There are hospitals that will sometimes allow folks to stay nearby, but nothing through an academic health center. We could be the first vet school to have this kind of facility," Henry said.

With several fundraising events scheduled over the next few months, Henry projects the facility could be completed for next year.

The benefit sported a relaxed, pet-friendly walk around Stephens Lake, with concessions, prizes and Barkley House merchandise.

Though turnout was smaller than expected because of the rain, Ritter said the cause was worth keeping the event going.

"Pets still get sick when it rains," Ritter said.

All money donated at Sunday's event will go towards funding the new Barkley House facility. You can also donate at barkleyhouse.missouri.edu, or by dropping off a cash gift at the Veterinary Health Center. All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law.

The logo for the New York Post, featuring the words "NEW YORK POST" in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font with a black outline and a slight shadow effect.

[The only way to stop the college revolt against free speech](#)

By Naomi Riley

Ok, Moms and Dads, listen up. You're our last hope. The only way to save higher education, and the next generation, is for you to stop paying tuition.

It's been two years since University of Missouri students went on a hunger strike and set up a tent city to force the president's resignation; since Yale students shouted down a professor who dared to suggest students should be able to decide on their own Halloween costumes without guidance from the administration; and since Princeton students occupied the president's office in order to demand the removal of Woodrow Wilson's name from its public-affairs school because he was deemed a racist.

Things have only gotten worse. Last year, Cornell students held a "cry-in" when Donald Trump was elected, and University of Virginia students insisted that the president of the school stop quoting its founder, Thomas Jefferson.

This year we have seen the riots at Berkeley over Milo Yiannopoulos, the attack on Charles Murray at Middlebury and protesters blocking Heather MacDonal from speaking at Claremont. Just this week, Ann Coulter had to cancel her speech because the Berkeley administration could not protect her from violent mobs.

Despite their lifetime job security, the faculty at these universities have done next to nothing to stop this nonsense. Sure, a few of them have signed petitions expressing the importance of the free exchange of ideas on campus. But they have spent decades telling students that political correctness is the highest virtue and the feelings of students matter more than any ideas adults have to get across. (Five years ago when I wrote a piece in the Chronicle of Higher Education criticizing black studies, 6,000 professors demanded that I be fired because they were "offended.")

Faculty members are sometimes even complicit in the campus takeover. Professors signed the letter regarding Jefferson's racism. A Middlebury faculty member actually apologized this week for inviting Murray to campus in the first place. A Missouri professor grabbed the camera of a journalist covering the school's protests and asked for "some muscle" to keep him away — in order to protect the protesters from public scrutiny.

Administrators, meanwhile, are just spineless. Princeton caved to protesters' demands, offering to remove Wilson from the school's name and promising to consider racially affiliated housing. The University of Missouri's president complied with student demands and resigned. Berkeley says it is only trying to protect students by cancelling Coulter's speech. NYU's vice provost wrote a piece in The New York Times arguing "the parameters of public speech must be continually redrawn to accommodate those who previously had no standing."

So where are the grown-ups in all this?

They're at home working hard to write tuition checks. Yes, that's right. Parents are the last line of defense against this chaos, and it's time they woke up and smelled the burning flags (or the "sh-t-in" at the University of Massachusetts). So, Moms and Dads, ask yourselves: Is your child making good use of the \$60,000 a year you are spending? Are they devoting most of their time to classroom lectures, reading important books or participating in productive extracurricular activities? Or is most of their time spent crying about Trump and demanding more gender-neutral bathrooms?

Are they learning something that might earn them employment after graduation, or are they going to be community organizing from the couch in your basement in a few years? Will they understand the demands that real bosses will place on them, or will they break down in tears every time a supervisor criticizes them?

During the original campus protests of the 1960s, many of the participants could have continued their activities without their parents' help and probably did. College was much cheaper — in 1968, tuition at the University of California was \$320 per year. And 18-year-olds were more likely to be seen as adults. After all, many among their cohort were actually going off to war. Sixties radicals did not need much of a cash infusion from Mom and Dad, except maybe to pay for drugs.

No one had a monthly cellphone bill or a \$3,000 laptop from which to send out radical missives. Parents today are not only paying exorbitant amounts to send their kids to school, they are funding spring breaks on the beach, summers of activism (or at least unemployment) and gap years for finding oneself.

Parents will say their children need this credential in order to make it in the world, that even if students learn nothing in their four years on campus, they will at least have a diploma with which to find gainful employment. Perhaps. Or perhaps by enabling them to stay on these campuses for years with no purpose besides getting offended and spewing anger, parents are letting their kids become less prepared for real life.

If we really want college to go back to being an educational experience where students hear the free exchange of ideas and are prepared for the real world, parents need to turn off the spigot.