



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

June 9, 2017

Competition increases to house MU freshmen

By Rudi Keller

The competition for students to fill beds is growing to include first-time freshmen as University of Missouri plans to crack down on students living off campus and the 10-story apartment house the Rise offers to pay off dorm contracts.

The budget plan approved last Friday by President Mun Choi included a proposal for the Division of Student Affairs to generate \$750,000 by “by more strictly enforcing the housing policy” that requires first-time college students to live in a campus residence hall.

On the Mizzou Class of 2021 unofficial Facebook page, the Rise is aiming for the same audience.

“A big thing a lot of people don’t know is that WE WILL PAY TO BREAK YOUR DORM CONTRACT. That’s right... living in the dorms is not a requirement,” the post states.

The Rise is a 10-story apartment tower under construction at Ninth and Locust streets with more than 430 beds. So far, a few freshmen have accepted the offer, leasing agent James Holloway said Tuesday.

“The goal to be filled by the time we are open,” he said.

There are exceptions but first-time college students are generally required to live in dorms, campus spokesman Christian Basi said.

“We have learned, over years and years of studies looking at our students and students across the country; that students are more successful, are retained at higher rates and have higher graduation rates when they live on campus at least during their first year,” Basi said.

Vice Chancellor for Operations Gary Ward will detail the reasons for tighter enforcement and how it will be accomplished at the UM Board of Curators meeting later this month, Basi said.

MU has closed seven residence halls because fall enrollment of first-time freshmen is expected to be more than 35 percent below the record set in fall 2015. The decline has occurred as hundreds of new student apartments, planned before the enrollment crash, are being completed. The decline had already generated fierce competition for upperclassmen, with off-campus landlords offering \$1,000 or more to prospective tenants.

The enrollment decline and reduced state support are forcing major cuts at the university as well as a scramble to find new revenue. The cuts, totaling \$59.8 million on the Columbia campus, are also intended to make \$23 million available for reallocation to priority programs.

Some details of the cut are in the MU budget plan presented last Friday and more are in a new document, called MU Rationale for Budgets by College and Division, posted Thursday morning on the MU website.

“That is a summary of the various actions being taken by each school and college and division, so that everyone has easy access to it and can understand the broader implications for each unit,” Basi said. “It also is an important document because it also discusses the investments each unit is making as well as what has been protected from the budget cuts.”

The report states the Division of Student Affairs, in addition to stricter enforcement, is also postponing or canceling plans for two new residence halls and a third floor expansion of the Memorial Union. It is also looking to convert empty residence halls into housing for foreign students, campus visitors – which would put the university into competition with area hotels — or temporary offices.

McDavid Hall will be used for international engineering students, Basi said. Excellence Hall will be used to house visiting scholars and others needing long-term housing and Discovery Hall will be used for conference guests, he said.

“We are, and have been for quite some time, looking for a way to repurpose residence halls we will not be using for their original purpose this coming fall,” Basi said.

Because the residence halls are closed, employment in the division will decline by the equivalent of 88 full-time employees in the coming fiscal year. The cuts, mostly to jobs in the budget but unfilled, include 46 positions in residence halls and 12.1 in dining halls.

MU charges \$6,790 to \$10,020 for dorm rent for a year and requires all students living in the dorms to have a meal plan priced from \$2,840 to \$3,760. Rent at the Rise lists for \$689 to \$1,499 per month but those rates are being discounted with signing bonuses to attract tenants, Holloway said.

The housing policy applies to all first-time students younger than 20 who are enrolled for more than six credit hours. To live off campus, students must ask for an exception. A married student, one with a dependent or living with parents, or a student who moves into a fraternity or sorority house can obtain an exception. Students who live outside Boone County or with a non-parent relative may request an exception.

To cancel a student housing contract before moving in, a student must pay a cancellation fee of up to \$325. To move out of a dorm, a student must pay 40 percent of the remaining charges.

The Rise is offering to pay the pre-move-in cancellation fee, Holloway said.

“Living at the Rise, it actually comes out a little bit cheaper,” he said. “Mizzou does have some more expensive, suite-style dorms and living at the Rise becomes the better option.”

MISSOURIAN

Graduate tuition waivers under review as MU examines budget

By Gabriela Velasquez and Madi Skahill

COLUMBIA — The severity of the sting of substantial budget cuts at MU became more clear Thursday when the campus released a detailed report of the cuts that were made.

The 40-page document, which also listed programs and efforts that were safeguarded as MU wrestled with an across-the-board budget cut of 12 percent, lists the details school by school and department by department.

While some of the schools and departments were quite precise in their descriptions of cuts or consolidations that were made, others used more of a broad-brush approach. Here are some of the highlights.

Graduate uncertainty

Christian Basi of the MU News Bureau confirmed that MU would keep its promise made last spring to increase stipends offered to graduate students.

Minimum stipends for doctoral and master's students were first raised in summer 2016, and the second step of those raises goes into effect on July 1.

The budget information released Thursday revealed few specifics, but it did say in which programs graduate students would be most affected.

- **The Trulaske College of Business** and **the Truman School of Public Affairs** are reviewing stipends awarded.
- **The College of Education** is eliminating tuition waivers for its Fellows graduate program and reducing student research assistantships.
- **The College of Human Environmental Sciences** expects to award fewer graduate assistantships to new students, but all current graduate students will have their commitments honored.
- **The International Center** has eliminated several graduate assistant positions.
- **The School of Journalism** will offer fewer graduate teaching assistantships.

- The Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist focus area has been "put on hiatus" because of low admissions.

Tuition waiver policy is under review campuswide. Basi wouldn't confirm whether students could expect to see cuts but said the review is looking at the "policy as a whole and determining what we need to do to remain competitive and attract the best graduate students to our campus, while at the same time being very mindful of the financial resources that we are entrusted to by the taxpayers of the state."

Graduate students are paid for their assistantships in monthly stipends, the equivalent of a paycheck for the research or teaching they do for MU. Some waivers are only partial. With full waivers, grad students only have to pay course fees, which drastically reduces the cost of their education.

Basi didn't say exactly whether graduate students could expect to be involved in the review process, but said he does expect "a variety of constituents across campus" to have input.

Maintenance delayed

Many maintenance projects across campus are being deferred.

MU's Athletics Department retained the full amount of scholarships being offered but said in the document that technology upgrades will have to wait. Desktop computer replacements, SEC Network enhancements and scoreboard upgrades are all being deferred, as is non-critical maintenance.

Water line and **parking structure maintenance** projects are on hold as well, and **Operations** warned that the campus can expect longer response times on "non-emergency maintenance calls."

Job cuts

Last week, the *Missourian* reported 343 positions would be eliminated from MU's general operating budget. A more detailed scope of these layoffs was provided Thursday.

Operations will eliminate 25 administrative positions, and **Student Affairs** will eliminate the equivalent of 83 full-time positions for fiscal 2018 by means of layoffs and attrition. This comes alongside an elimination of 115 full-time equivalent positions for FY 2017.

The School of Medicine will cut 16 positions. The eliminations will come from a variety of roles including non-tenure track positions, associate deans, post-doctoral fellows, graduate research assistants and other staff positions, according to the document.

The reorganization of two departments and two degree programs in the **College of Arts and Science** into a new **School of Visual Studies** will reduce the number of chairs and directors in the college by three.

The **School of Journalism** did not specify a number of positions to be cut, but stated in the document that it plans to forgo hiring adjuncts. The journalism school achieved much of its cut by deciding not to fill positions left by recent retirements and departures.

The Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity only stated, “we have reduced our operation base and staffing positions.”

The College of Education has eliminated nine administrative positions, as well as another four positions cut after restructuring its human resources and finance operations, according to the document. The College of Education will also eliminate four post-doctoral fellow positions.

Mizzou Advantage will cut the equivalent of two full-time positions.



[MU Faculty Seek Protection for NTT Faculty](#)

Watch story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=acfd7061-500c-41a0-8e12-b060d10a5342>



(AAU science news website; more than 1 million unique visitors per month)

To keep bees from disappearing, listen to their buzz

Posted by [Jeff Sossamon-U. Missouri](#) June 8th, 2017

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Bee Buzzes Could Help Determine How to Save their Decreasing Population](#)

An inexpensive acoustic listening system can monitor bees in flight using data from small microphones in the field. New research shows how farmers could use the technology to monitor pollination and increase food production.

According to recent studies, declines in wild and managed bee populations threaten the pollination of flowers in more than 85 percent of flowering plants and 75 percent of agricultural crops worldwide. Widespread and effective monitoring of bee populations could lead to better management; however, tracking bees is tricky and costly.

“Causes of pollinator decline are complex and include diminishing flower resources, habitat loss, climate change, increased disease incidence, and exposure to pesticides, so pinpointing the driving forces remains a challenge,” says Candace Galen, professor of biological science in the University of Missouri College of Arts and Science.

“For more than 100 years, scientists have used sonic vibrations to monitor birds, bats, frogs, and insects. We wanted to test the potential for remote monitoring programs that use acoustics to track bee flight activities.”

First, the team analyzed the characteristic frequencies—what musicians call the pitch—of bee buzzes in the lab. Then, they placed small microphones attached to data storage devices in the field and collected the acoustic survey data from three locations on Pennsylvania Mountain in Colorado to estimate bumble bee activity.

Using the data, they developed algorithms that identified and quantified the number of bee buzzes in each location and compared that data to visual surveys the team made in the field. In almost every instance, the acoustic surveys were more sensitive, picking up more buzzing bees.

“Eavesdropping on the acoustic signatures of bee flights tells the story of bee activity and pollination services,” Galen says.

“Farmers may be able to use the exact methods to monitor pollination of their orchards and vegetable crops and head off pollination deficits. Finally, global ‘citizen scientists’ could get involved, monitoring bees in their backyards.”

The study appears in *PLOS ONE*. The National Science Foundation funded the research. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the funding agency. Coauthors of the study are from Webster University, Lincoln University, and the University of Missouri.

Source: [University of Missouri](#)



[Eavesdropping on bees could help scientists save pollinators](#)

By Eli Chen

A buzzing bee may not sound like much to most people but to bee scientists, there’s a lot to learn from the noises bees make when they fly and pollinate flowers.

On Wednesday, researchers at Webster University, Lincoln University and the University of Missouri-Columbia released a study in the journal PLOS One that concludes that recording bees can help track pollinator activity. That could provide scientists with data to aid conservation of species that have experienced falling populations.

Declines in pollinating species have alarmed scientists, environmentalists and policymakers, since many crops depend on native wild bees.

Some specialize in particular flowers, such as those that come with squash and cherry tomatoes.

Recordings of bees can reveal physical characteristics that are connected to how well species can pollinate flowers in the area.

“You can actually hear a difference in pitch and frequency,” said Nicole Miller-Struttman, a biologist at Webster University. “It’s actually related to their body size and tongue length.”

To record the bees, researchers used an iPod mini and plugged in a microphone. They also developed an algorithm that helped isolate the sound of the buzzing from surrounding noises in the environment. They recorded two bee species, *bombus sylvicola*, the forest bumblebee and *bombus balteatus*, the golden-belted bumble bee.

Typically, scientists have to catch bees with nets and essentially remove them from the population in order to assess population levels. Taping the bees, Struttman said, is less costly and less damaging to bee numbers.

Gerardo Camilo, a pollinator biologist at Saint Louis University, has sampled bees at many community gardens in the St. Louis area. He said he’d like to see the recording method tested among a larger variety of bee species and environments.

“This paper is an excellent first step in the application of acoustics to bee diversity, and most impressively, to pollination services,” Camilo wrote in an email. “The applicability, and thus the success, depends on having a large ‘buzz’ library, developing a central repository of many bumble bee species recordings, each species under a range of conditions, [such as] prairie, farms, gardens, urban, etc.”

In the future, researchers hope to refine their method so they can distinguish what species was being recorded. They also plan to develop a smartphone app that records and snaps photos of bees so that farmers and gardeners can track pollinators.

“If [a farmer] knows for their blueberries they really need to have more bees than they currently have, then they might get some commercial bumblebees,” said Miller-Struttman.

MISSOURIAN

MU College of Engineering and Honeywell agree to new terms, continue collaboration

By Monique Woo

Generated from News Bureau press release: [MU College of Engineering, Honeywell to Collaborate on National Security Projects](#)

COLUMBIA — MU's College of Engineering announced a new agreement with Honeywell on Tuesday that will secure real-life experience for its students.

"Partnerships such as the one we are establishing now are invaluable to the future of the industry," Elizabeth Loba, dean of the MU College of Engineering, said in a statement. "At their most basic, industry partnerships provide institutions such as ours resources to train high-quality researchers, many of whom end up with their companies."

The Honeywell Master Collaboration Agreement will include the terms and conditions for paid research projects over the next five years. This will reduce the time it takes to initiate projects from up to six months to as little as two weeks, Honeywell Communications Director Shaunda Parks said.

The agreement will also allow MU professors to use equipment at the Department of Energy's Kansas City National Security Campus, and Honeywell's engineers will have access to the university's equipment as well, she said.

Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies manages the Kansas City National Security Campus for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration. It's part of an effort to reduce the country's nuclear stockpile by manufacturing cost-effective products and services for national security programs, according to its website.

MU has had an informal relationship with Honeywell for a long time, said Steven Devlin, MU Extension Business Development Program director and assistant dean for entrepreneurship in the MU College of Engineering. MU researchers have partnered with Honeywell on projects, and Honeywell has hired MU alumni. The collaboration has created channels for experiential learning for students, and provides them with opportunities to work with new materials and resources, he said.

"This is a great opportunity to bring a major Missouri employer of high-tech, high-science and high-engineering activity together with our college," Devlin said.

In the past 15 years, Honeywell and MU's collaborative projects have had a value of \$1.8 million, Parks said, and although there are no specific projects yet identified under the new agreement, MU researchers plan to assist Honeywell with national security monitoring applications, according to an MU news release.

Past collaborations between MU and Honeywell include neutron detection via chemiluminescence, fabrication of high-density, high-voltage capacitors and sponsored capstone projects with students.



[New autism resource to connect rural doctors with experts](#)

By [Brittany Hilderbrand](#)

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Telehealth Reduces Wait Time, Improves Care for Children with Autism Living in Remote Areas](#)

With the help of video conference training for health care providers, wait lists may soon be a thing of the past for autism patients in rural communities.

"If I am able to interpret what's going on with a patient and provide them service quicker, I've cut their journey in half," said Dr. Jasmine El Khatib, pediatrician at Community Health Center in Jefferson City. "Now they don't have to wait up to 18 months, and they don't have to leave the community."

The Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders on Thursday extended the invitation for health care providers across the state to sign up at no charge for ECHO Autism's first video conference clinic training model. The training model allows providers across the globe to provide expert knowledge and mentorship to other health care professionals who may have complex cases they are unfamiliar with. The virtual training clinic will be available twice a month for an hour and a half.

El Khatib recognized the need for autism resources in the Jefferson City community early on and has worked with ECHO Autism since 2015. She became certified to diagnose patients ages 14-48 months with autism this April.

[Dr. Kristin Sohl, associate professor of child care at the University of Missouri, launched ECHO Autism in 2015 as a resource tool for providers who are a part of the Thompson Center network.](#)

Sohl wants providers in rural communities especially to take advantage of the new networking resource so they can have the tools to help their patients without referring them to a provider outside of their community.

Prior to this model, Sohl explained, a patient may have to drive to Columbia, St. Louis or Kansas City and could wait as long as 18 months to see a specialist.

"We believe all children should have access to providers who can tend to their special needs," Sohl said. "This program is about moving knowledge, not patients."

Parent advocates like Alicia Curran recognize that transportation barriers coupled with wait times can delay intervention for patients with autism.

"Empowering primary care providers to help manage our children's conditions without having to travel is huge for families," Curran said.

A parent of a child with autism, Curran said she would rather visit her primary care physician, who they see more often and who knows her community.

"Knowledge is power. The more knowledge providers and parents have, the easier it makes our journey," Curran said.

El Khatib added, "ECHO Autism has given me the tools to be a advocate for patients in my community, helping patients with autism to become able to potentially function as independent adults."

KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS

Empowering women entrepreneurs can boost startup activity

June 6, 2017

By: Wendy Doyle

The Kauffman Foundation recently issued its annual report of startup activity around the country, and Missouri's rankings show there's room for improvement when it comes to cultivating a truly entrepreneurial economy. Among the 25 "large" states, Missouri ranked in the middle (10th) in startup creation but near the bottom in both established small business activity and entrepreneurial business growth. Missouri can do better, and Women's Foundation research can help.

Last year we teamed up with researchers at the University of Missouri's Truman School Institute of Public Policy to explore the challenges and barriers facing women entrepreneurs trying to start and grow a business. We discovered a bureaucratic thicket of occupational licensing regulations that make it harder for women to enter into professions ranging from architecture and real estate to hair braiding and cosmetology.

Many of Missouri's 40 occupational licensing boards and commissions have outdated or excessive requirements for licensure that aren't necessary to protect public health and safety. These boards are often controlled by industry insiders who have a vested interest in making it harder for competitors to enter the marketplace. For women who don't have the time or the money to cut through all this costly red tape, these regulations can be a real barrier -- limiting their ability to move up the economic ladder.

Reforming occupational licensing regulations in a responsible way can help working women boost their earning potential and reduce the income gap -- without compromising public health or safety.

That's why Women's Foundation is continuing to work with lawmakers to enact common sense measures, like conducting a cost-benefit analysis before any new licensure requirement is implemented, and requiring periodic reviews to determine whether they are still necessary. Missouri's boards and commissions also need a standardized system for collecting data to identify trends and measure performance.

Legislation including these reforms was filed but didn't make it across the finish line during the regular session, so it's important for lawmakers to make this a top priority when they return to the capitol next year.

We're also looking forward to working with Gov. Eric Greitens' Boards and Commissions Task Force to make sure more women are represented on state boards and commissions, and reforming these boards in a way that benefits women and their families.

Making it easier to start a business is a common-sense way for Missouri to expand economic opportunities for working women, reduce the pay gap, and move up the ranks of startup-friendly states.

For more information on Women's Foundation, visit: www.womens-foundation.org

Editor's note: Wendy Doyle is CEO and president of the Women's Foundation



Federal Bill Would Help Prevent Children from Being Left in Hot Cars

Features MU Health expert

Watch story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=b737b1c4-8c6a-4338-b2b2-04ffb41462a2>

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Why Conservative Lawmakers Are Turning to Free-Speech Bills as a Fix for Higher Ed

BY BETH MCMURTRIE JUNE 8, 2017

A few months ago, Patrick Colbeck, a Republican in Michigan's State Senate, picked up George Orwell's dystopian novel *1984*. What he read sounded familiar: oppressive oversight, restricted speech, and twisted interpretations of reality. But the government isn't creating this totalitarian atmosphere, he felt, colleges are.

"Instead of actual sources of truth that can only be found through free discourse that allows multiple world views, our college campuses are becoming more and more like the Ministry of Truth," [he wrote](#) last month, upon unveiling two campus free-speech bills. "'Newspeak' is becoming the language not only of our universities but our communities at large."

The critique that college campuses have become hostage to a limited worldview — specifically, a liberal one — is a common refrain among conservatives in state legislatures. And free-speech bills like his have become one of the main ways in which they are aiming to right the ship.

Michigan is one of about a dozen states in which such bills have been introduced, aimed at liberating college students from oppressive speech codes or preventing them from shutting down people whose views they oppose. Politicians point to disruptive protests against conservatives at the [University of California at Berkeley](#) and [Middlebury College](#), along with [safe spaces](#) and [trigger warnings](#) as signs that a liberal orthodoxy is impressing itself upon college students.

These legislative efforts are encouraged by a number of national organizations promoting campus free-speech laws. The Goldwater Institute, a conservative and libertarian public-policy think tank, came out with [model legislation](#) this year that includes penalties such as expulsion for students who shut down speakers and requires universities to report on campus-speech issues each year. Supporters say such legislation is necessary because colleges have failed to take threats seriously and fully promote the free flow of ideas.

Stanley Kurtz, co-author of the Goldwater model and a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, traces the problem back to a decades-long encroachment of radical orthodoxy. Today, the "intellectual monopoly of the Left" on college campuses has created a free-speech crisis, [he wrote in April](#) in the *National Review*, that is "locked-in and unchangeable in the absence of outside intervention."

A Culture Change

The recent flurry of statehouse action on free speech began about two years ago, sparked by a series of events that include a wave of campus protests around racism, the rising debate over safe spaces and trigger warnings, opposition to campus free-speech zones, and student disruptions of guest speakers.

College leaders and professors, too, worry that open debate is taking a backseat to harsh rhetoric and hostile demands, but they generally differ from the mostly Republican state lawmakers who have backed these bills over whether public-policy changes are needed. The American Association of University Professors, along with officials at a number of state higher-education systems facing these bills, have noted that [colleges already have policies](#) to address issues of free expression, protest, discipline, and the invitation of outside speakers. The wording of some campus-speech bills, they add, could interfere with institutional autonomy.

Two of the main groups promoting legislation have been the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, or FIRE, which [advocates for free speech](#) and due-process rights on campus, and the Goldwater Institute. FIRE has promoted legislation that [does away with speech codes](#), including limits on where students and others can speak on campus. It also supports parts of Goldwater's model bill, which was released in January.

That model policy prevents the disinvitation of speakers, establishes penalties for those who interfere with speech, enables legal recourse for those whose rights have been violated, requires colleges to stay neutral on controversial public-policy questions, and requires a yearly report on free-speech issues on campus, among other things.

In 2015, Mr. Kurtz, of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, published an article in the *National Review*, ["A Plan to Restore Free Speech on Campus,"](#) outlining elements that came to be part of the Goldwater plan. "The First Amendment doesn't protect itself. That's what citizens and their representatives have to do," he writes in an email, noting that he studied freedom-of-expression reports produced by Yale University in 1974 and the University of Chicago in 1967 [and 2015](#) for ideas. "And since administrators have failed to safeguard our most fundamental liberty, the legislature is obliged to do so."

More recently, the American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC, a network of legislators and corporations that [promotes conservative causes](#), weighed in with its own model for campus free-speech policy. ALEC recently created a [Center to Protect Free Speech](#) to focus on campus speech, donor privacy, and commercial speech. The public chair of the center is State Sen. Leah Vukmir of Wisconsin, a Republican who introduced [a free-speech bill](#) in her state this year. It requires colleges to remain neutral on controversial public-policy issues, prohibits protests designed to prevent speakers from appearing, and outlines penalties for those who inhibit free speech.

Shelby Emmett, director of the Center to Protect Free Speech, says the group's membership first became concerned about campus speech issues during the [University of Missouri student protests against racism on campus, in the fall of 2015.](#) In particular, she says, the video of a professor blocking a student journalist from covering one of the events was disturbing.

This year, when a protest against a planned speech by the conservative firebrand Milo Yiannopoulos at the University of California at Berkeley [grew violent](#), "I just thought, you know what, let's reach out to different groups and see what we can do." She has looked for ideas from organizations such as the Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative Christian group that promotes religious freedom on campus, as well as FIRE, where she was the legal and legislative policy advocate and strategic outreach officer. Both those groups, she says, are concerned with eliminating restrictions on students' First Amendment rights.

ALEC's [Forming Open and Robust University Minds Act](#) eliminates free-speech zones; affirms the right to free expression, including protest; protects belief-based organizations from discrimination; and requires colleges to talk to students about free-expression policies and to submit an annual compliance report, among other things.

Ms. Emmett differentiates it from Goldwater's proposal by saying that it's "purely educational" as it does not include disciplinary measures. "The legislature has a role to play because a public institution has an obligation to protect free speech," she says. "But there is an academic-freedom element to that, so we don't want a top-down approach."

Goldwater has helped shape bills in several states, including North Carolina, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, California, and Louisiana. It also helped create a model for a bill passed in Arizona in 2016 that [banned campus free-speech zones](#).

Joe Cohn, FIRE's legislative and policy director, says his organization is supportive of free-speech bills, but opposes legislation that sets specific penalties for violators. He also says some descriptions of infringements on speech are so vague that they could potentially limit protesters' rights. He has been talking to sponsors in Michigan and Wisconsin, for example, about using more precise language. "Not every legislator is a First Amendment scholar," he says. "We engage and talk to them as frequently as we can to do this carefully, and that's going to be difficult work."

Story [continues](#).

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Editorial: Enjoy this year's Missouri budget cuts? Wait'll next year

By the Editorial Board

NO MU MENTION

We hate to bring this up, particularly less than a month after the Missouri Legislature adjourned a 2017 session that required [more than a half-billion dollars in cuts](#) to balance next year's budget. But next year is shaping up to be worse. Maybe considerably worse.

The state [revenue report](#) for May showed collections had grown only 2.6 percent in the past 12 months. The Legislature had assumed a 3.4 percent growth rate when it put together its \$27.8 billion budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1. The general revenue portion of the budget — the part that's funded by tax dollars — amounted to about \$9.36 billion.

If that 2.6 percent growth rate holds through June — and that could be tough because a lot of tax refunds are due — the budget will fall \$72 million short of what the Legislature appropriated. Gov. Eric Greitens will have to withhold that much to meet the constitutional requirement of a balanced budget.

Though 2.6 percent is a disappointing growth rate, it was enough to trigger the first phase of a planned five-year, [\\$620 million income tax cut](#). Senate Bill 509, passed in 2014 when Missouri was trying to catch up with Kansas' 2012 tax cuts, will drop the 6 percent income tax rate by 0.1 percent a year in any year where revenue grows by at least \$150 million.

Kansas' tax cuts proved to be such a [disaster](#) that this year the Legislature there [reversed](#) most of them. On Tuesday, the state's Republican Legislature overrode Gov. Sam Brownback's veto of the reversal. Missouri's cuts were not as drastic, but they'll create a \$160 million hole for lawmakers to deal with next year. That will deepen the hole created by years of corporate tax giveaways.

That is, unless Greitens and legislative Republicans are right and Missouri's economy is about to enjoy a trickle-down boom. By passing lawsuit reforms and wage-busting right-to-work and prevailing-wage bills, Greitens says "Missouri is [back open for business](#)."

In fact, Missouri has been handing out business tax credits and [tax breaks](#) for more than a decade. The Missouri Budget Project, a progressive think tank, notes that [corporate tax revenue](#) has declined by 60 percent since 2015. Much of this was driven by a [mistake](#); the Legislature underestimated by a factor of 10 the impact of a tax break for multistate corporations.

The trend is continuing. The May revenue report showed modest increases in individual income tax and sales tax revenue but an 11.1 percent drop in corporate income tax payments.

There are ways for lawmakers to address this without further self-destructive cuts to higher education and programs for the poor, elderly and disabled. There's a limit to how much business friendliness this state can afford. Ask Kansas.