



**MU News Bureau**

*Daily Clips Packet*

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## Boone Hospital to lay off 50 workers

By **BRITTANY RUESS**

Boone Hospital Center is laying off 50 of its 1,700 employees and closing its inpatient pediatrics unit, citing trends in the health care industry.

However, leaders of the public hospital's board of trustees say decisions by the company that operates Boone have contributed to struggles that led to the layoffs.

The employees being laid off are mostly in managerial and support roles, according to a statement. When asked for more information on the layoffs, Boone Hospital and BJC HealthCare spokesman Ben Cornelius said in an email that the hospital is not commenting beyond its prepared statement.

Boone Hospital CEO Jim Sinek said in an interview late Monday that the employees being laid off are "farther away from the bedside." He declined to give specifics because some employees still needed to be informed they were being laid off. Doctors and nurses remain, he said.

Employees being laid off are connected to the hospital's inpatient services. Conversations with employees who were being laid off started at 7 a.m. and were scheduled to end Monday night.

### **Related content**

[Boone Hospital trustees' letter](#)

"We want to make sure that everybody has had an opportunity to have those conversations first before anyone else would find out or know — that's just our policy, we want to make sure we've fleshed all that out first," Sinek said.

Sinek said no more layoffs are planned. The hospital also laid off employees in 2012 and 2008, said Brian Neuner, chairman of the Boone Hospital Center Board of Trustees.

St. Louis-based BJC leases and operates Boone Hospital, Boone County's largest public asset, which is overseen by a board of trustees. **Trustees have been negotiating the details of a partnership with University of Missouri Health Care and the lease with BJC is scheduled to expire by 2020.** The hospital board and BJC must notify each other by 2018 whether they want to continue, change or terminate the lease.

The hospital blames the layoffs on declining patient volumes and more patients with high-deductible insurance plans avoiding hospitalization.

“As the government reduces spending to address the budget deficit, payments to hospitals, including Boone Hospital Center, are declining,” the hospital said in its statement.

Boone Hospital, like community hospitals across the country, is feeling the brunt of lower inpatient volumes, Sinek said. The hospital has also been serving more patients with Medicare and Medicaid, which pays less than employer-sponsored insurance, he said.

Boone Hospital has also seen insurance companies directing patients to use non-hospital facilities for imaging services because they offer those services at a lower price. The hospital’s finances are also affected by depreciation of its equipment and technology, Sinek said.

Before the layoffs, the hospital made attempts to combat its financial issues and “making reductions in areas that would not directly affect our valued employees,” the statement said.

Sinek said Boone Hospital has made cuts and used its position as part of a hospital network to lower supply costs.

Neuner said hospital leaders informed the trustees a couple of months ago that the hospital would need to lay off employees.

“I think this might help people understand why we are exploring other options,” Neuner said. “I think it may shine a little light on our discussions with MU ...”

In a letter given to the Tribune before Monday’s announcement, the trustees said they’re asked frequently why they would move away from a lease with BJC when Boone Hospital has been a “high performing, consistently profitable” hospital.

“The fact is that today Boone Hospital, like a number of hospitals throughout the nation, is not performing up to its historical standards,” the letter said.

A report released earlier this year by Stroudwater Associates, a Portland, Maine-based health care consulting firm, showed a 10 percent decrease in patient volume at Boone Hospital between 2012 and 2015 because of competition with University Hospital, which experienced a 14 percent increase in patient volume.

Boone Hospital saw the largest patient decreases in cardiology, neurosurgery, general surgery and obstetrics and delivery patients, according to the report.

The hospital is offering employees severance and help finding new jobs. Sinek said he did not have specifics about the severance packages.

“These are difficult times that now unfortunately impact our Boone Hospital family,” the hospital’s statement said. “But, we know that these decisions and actions are critically important as we continue our mission of improving the health of the people and communities we serve.”

The trustees’ letter also said the hospital’s needs no longer coincide with BJC’s needs. Trustees cited BJC being outside of the Anthem insurance network as an example.

“Not including Anthem might be an appropriate decision in a market like St. Louis, but it poses a significant challenge for Boone Hospital in its mid-Missouri service area,” the trustees’ letter said.

The trustees also noted in their letter that BJC’s corporate policy prevented the hospital from partnering with private physician groups.

“If BJC would allow us to partner with physicians, we would be in a different position today,” Neuner said.

Last year, five general surgeons with Columbia Surgical Associates stopped performing surgeries at Boone Hospital and exclusively used MU Health Care’s operating rooms for inpatient general surgeries. The surgical group had performed about 1,200 surgeries annually at Boone Hospital.

Columbia Family Medical Group also became affiliated with MU Health Care last year, after 20 years of considering affiliation with either MU Health or Boone Hospital Center.

# MISSOURIAN

## **Boone Hospital Center lays off 50, to close inpatient pediatrics nursing unit**

By MISSOURIAN STAFF

Boone Hospital Center laid off 50 employees Monday, citing declining numbers of patients and government payments as financial constraints that forced the move.

Boone Hospital spokesman Ben Cornelius issued a statement Monday announcing the layoffs, most affecting managerial and support staff. Staff were notified of the layoffs Monday morning.

The statement also indicated that the county-owned hospital will close its [inpatient pediatrics nursing unit](#). It was unclear exactly when that would happen or whether the move would mean additional layoffs.

Boone Hospital, with about 1,700 total workers, is the fifth largest employer in the five-county region that includes Boone, Cole, Callaway, Cooper and Audrain counties, according to the non-profit [Missouri CORE](#), an economic development group.

**The layoffs come as the Boone Hospital Center Board of Trustees continues negotiations with MU Health Care for a possible merger of operations. Boone Hospital is managed by St. Louis-based BJC Health Systems under a lease arrangement that expires in 2020.**

The trustees and BJC each have until December 2018 to notify the other entity whether they want to continue the lease or allow it to expire.

Several trustees said before their closed meeting Monday night that the staff cuts came from BJC, and that the trustees had no say in the matter.

“We’re the top ranked hospital in mid-Missouri and those 50 people that lost their jobs today, they’re a big part of that, and to no fault of their own they’re out of a job,” Board Chairman Brian Neuner said. “We are very disappointed. We communicated that to local administrations, and we went to St. Louis and said ‘can you find another way?’ So this is where we’re at and we’ve got to work together to move forward.”

Boone Hospital Center last year issued a request for proposals for new partnerships. After initially narrowing its options to five and soliciting public input at a handful of community meetings, the trustees decided to move forward on negotiations with MU Health Care.

The trustees over the past several weeks have held a series of closed meetings to discuss the potential merger. Another such meeting was scheduled for 6:30 Monday night in the hospital’s Conference Center, Room C.

The statement announcing the layoffs said affected employees would receive “comprehensive severance” and help finding new jobs. It included no details about the severance the employees would receive.

Cornelius said he had nothing to add to the statement. “With respect to those impacted by this decision, we will not be providing any additional information at this time.”

He declined to answer questions about:

- How much money the layoffs would save.
- What the hospital’s total personnel costs are.
- How affected employees were notified of the layoffs.
- What their severance packages would be.
- How much of a decline the hospital has seen in patient numbers and government payments.
- What would happen to any patients at the pediatric nursing unit, and how many patients that unit has.
- What else the hospital has done to reduce costs.
- Whether further layoffs should be anticipated.

Here's the full text of the hospital's statement:

“Across the nation, community hospitals are experiencing significant downturns in utilization. Similarly, at Boone Hospital Center, we are seeing lower inpatient volumes and more patients who are now insured with high deductible health insurance plans and consequently avoiding hospitalization. As the government reduces spending to address the budget deficit, payments to hospitals, including Boone Hospital Center, are declining. We must remain focused on ensuring Boone Hospital Center continues to stay financially strong to ensure we can deliver on our mission of improving the health of the people and communities we serve during this challenging time for the health care industry. In response to these realities, on Monday, October 2, Boone Hospital Center notified employees of a workforce reduction displacing approximately 50 members of our 1,700-member team.

Boone Hospital Center has taken a number of actions to address our financial challenges including making reductions in areas that would not directly affect our valued employees. The majority of impacted positions are in managerial and support roles. Our employees whose positions will be directly impacted will be supported through this transition with comprehensive severance, outplacement services and access to the Boone Hospital Center Employee Assistance Program. Boone Hospital Center will also be closing our inpatient pediatrics nursing unit.

These are difficult times that now unfortunately impact our Boone Hospital family. But, we know that these decisions and actions are critically important as we continue our mission of improving the health of the people and communities we serve.”



## **Board heard about possible Boone Hospital layoffs two months ago**

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/board-heard-about-possible-boone-hospital-layoffs-two-months-ago/630261366>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Before the Boone Hospital Board of Trustees went into an executive session Monday night, where they were expected to learn more about the facility's 50 layoffs, trustee chair Brian Neuner told reporters the board first heard about potential layoffs a couple months ago.

"I think administration was trying to figure out how they wanted to go about it, the areas that would be impacted" said Neuner. "(The board) reached out. We tried to give input, tried to give solutions."

Earlier on Monday, [ABC 17 News confirmed](#) at least 50 people will lose their jobs.

Neuner said the board was disappointed with the outcome.

"50 people lost their job today, and I don't know that anyone's taken time to thank them on behalf of Boone Hospital, but I'd like to say the trustees certainly appreciate everything they've done for Boone Hospital," said Neuner. "I mean, we're the top-ranked hospital in mid-Missouri and those 50 people lost their jobs today, they're a big part of that, and to no fault of their own, they're out of a job."

**Neuner went on to say Monday's announcement demonstrates one reason why alignment talks with University of Missouri Healthcare are in motion.**

"I think this might help people understand why we sent out an RFP (request for proposal) and why we were exploring other options," said Neuner. "I think it might shine a little light on our discussions with MU."

In August, Neuner told ABC 17 News the board hopes local control makes Boone Hospital stronger and keeps more patients in the area.

The hospital has a lease agreement with Barnes-Jewish Christian, or BJC, through 2020, but that can be changed. BJC must be informed of the change in the lease by the end of 2018.

**T** COLUMBIA DAILY  
**TRIBUNE**

## **Race at MU: Cartwright joins the fray**

By HJW III

**No doubt the new MU Chancellor, Alexander Cartwright, knew what he was in for when he joined the ranks of university administration.** Indeed, UM System President Mun Choi says one of the reasons he hired Cartwright was for the applicant's understanding and good intentions regarding diversity and inclusion issues, particularly on the Columbia campus.

As we all know by now, over the past two years these issues became more focused on the MU campus than anywhere else in the nation. In my view there was nothing unique about MU that brought on the trouble but university management then in place did not cope well. Student protests were non-violent but confrontational, quickly leading to decisions by UM President Tim Wolfe and MU Chancellor Bowen Loftin to resign.

These dramatic events, more than anything dramatic in the protests themselves, led to a period during which an interim president and chancellor did a good job containing the trouble. They faced a difficult political situation. Many conservatives railed mainly at university administrators and faculty for doing too little to punish the protestors. Protestors also were after administrators for not doing more to create a campus atmosphere friendlier to their minority sensibilities.

I thought then-Interim President Mike Middleton did an excellent job trying to reconcile the conflict. At the end of his day protestors seemed to believe the administration was listening and students had refrained from escalating the physical face-off. Middleton met with them, named diversity officers and taken other overt steps to prove the university was trying its best to hear their complaints.

Now a permanent system president and campus chancellor are on duty and their responsibilities remain essentially the same. They try to chase down a problem defined by divergent attitudes of individuals in the campus social realm. Over time, black students and faculty experience legitimate incidents of racial antagonism that quickly can coalesce when a catalyst like Concerned Student 1950 occurs. Having done nothing to promote racial intolerance as institutional policy – indeed, having sponsored programs to the contrary – incumbent officials were taken completely off-guard.

The new guard is in position to move forward from here. Choi and Cartwright swear they will do everything possible as institutional leaders to understand why the majority on campus feels comfortable and the minority does not. Cartwright wants to make sure “the things that are working work for everybody.”

This is the right goal but literally unrealistic when success depends on the diverse, subjective attitudes of thousands of individuals bumping against each other in the campus society.

All it takes is an objectionable comment from a boorish bigot to prove to the subject things are not “working for everybody.” I can say without fear of contraction no college campus in America bridges this gap. Some black students are racially aggrieved at primarily black colleges. Some female students gripe about sexism at women’s colleges.

Leaders like Choi and Cartwright can’t satisfy every student. Their job is to demonstrate to most they are trying hard to adopt and manage fair and equitable policies even though perfection is impossible.

During the past two years there was loose talk far and wide about how Mizzou was not a safe place for students. Parents who knew no better sent their children elsewhere. The resulting enrollment numbers are not a fair indictment of MU but hurtful, nonetheless.

The worm will turn. Choi, Cartwright & Co. will manage the resurrection with rhetoric and managerial gymnastics intended to prove they are doing everything they can to create a fair and

equitable atmosphere, when in fact the nature of the atmosphere will depend largely on the behavior (or misbehavior) of relatively few students on campus.



## **MUPD reminds public to be proactive, prepared in case of shooting situations**

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mupd-reminds-public-to-be-proactive-prepared-in-case-of-shooting-situations>

COLUMBIA - Over the past months, venues for recreation have been targets for large-scale attacks, many of them linked to terrorism. The most recent incident was Sunday night's shootings at a concert in Las Vegas, in which more than 50 people were killed and hundreds more wounded. The motive for the shootings, which hasn't been classified as terrorism, is under investigation.

Other recent attacks include one in Manchester, England at an Ariana Grande concert; pedestrian attacks at tourist sites like Las Ramblas in Barcelona; the London Bridge attacks; and terrorist attacks in Stockholm and Paris.

As the nation mourns the most recent tragedy in Nevada, local police organizations encourage preparedness and education to remain safe in the unlikely event of a terrorism or active shooter incident.

**“We all hope that this type of situation never happens at our university, but preparing our campus community for such an emergency will help keep this from happening or minimize the impact of an active shooter if it does happen,” MUPD Police Chief Doug Schwandt said in an MUPD news release.**

“Community policing is a powerful tool, and we want to ensure that everyone who comes to our campus has the tools to remain safe,” Schwandt said.

Last fall, MUPD launched its “Run, Hide, Fight” campaign in conjunction with the FBI to educate students and faculty on what to do in case of a campus emergency. They also distributed a safety [video](#) detailing the steps to take during an emergency.

MUPD Operations and Public Information Officer Brian Weimer said this slogan is simple, but important to remember.

"Every situation is unique, but there are some universal strategies that are crucial to remember. Keep calm and follow these three important steps: run, hide, fight," he said in the instructional video.

The video suggests to alert others who are confused, move quickly to a safer area if possible, keep distance from a shooter and use your instincts. Weimer said, "don't compromise your safety to run, but if you're able to get out of the building - do it."

If running away or hiding aren't options, Weimer said the last resort is to fight.

“Fighting back should be a last resort, and we hope you don’t ever find yourself in that situation. But if it comes to that, it’s between you and the shooter and you can survive,” Weimer said.

MUPD also offers a range of [community resources](#) on how to survive an active shooter situation. MUPD offers self-defense courses, personal safety presentations and a free course called Citizens’ Response to Active Threats (C.R.A.T.) with strategies to stay safe in the workplace, school or public settings.

During emergencies, MUPD releases official University of Missouri alerts to student and faculty cell phones and emails. MUPD also releases updates on the official Twitter account [@MUAAlert](#). In the event of an emergency, the department suggests to call and alert your family you are safe, but to not call MUPD unless there is a direct emergency. During these situations, dispatchers receive a high volume of calls which can slow down the response process.

To report a threat, contact MUPD’s non-emergency line at 573-882-7201 or in an emergency dial 9-1-1. To report suspicious activity or terrorism visit the Missouri Information Analysis Center [website](#).



## **MU completes \$1.2 million partnership with branding company**

**COLUMBIA – The University of Missouri has agreed to partner with a Philadelphia-based branding agency to head rebranding efforts for their flagship-Columbia campus.**

The partnership with 160over90 and the University of Missouri includes a three-year deal that totals to just over \$1.2 million. Christian Basi, director of the MU News Bureau, said the university does not have a history of outsourcing for large projects.

“We have in the past used outside firms to help us with ad buys,” Basi noted. “What we haven’t done is partnered with a firm for a complete rebranding campaign.”

Basi added that 160over90’s brand expertise, resources and time pushed the university to outsource for a project of this magnitude.

Representatives of 160over90 visited the flagship campus to familiarize themselves with the campus environment and brand. Basi noted that the decision to partner with an outside agency, though uncommon for the university, was an opportunity to partner with brand experts to target specific audiences.

“We are definitely suffering from a perception problem, and we wanted to put good messages out to prospective students and parents,” Basi said. “We wanted to make sure that we went out there and found the right experts that could market the university.”

Normally, the process of developing a brand can take up to a year, but Basi says MU is urging their new partners to move a bit faster than usual. Basi said MU hopes to have plans in place by the end of fall semester or early spring semester.

MU is currently working with their new partners on a short-term marketing goal, but look forward to developing a master plan before the year’s end.

# MISSOURIAN

## MU composer wins 2018 Sinquefield Composition Prize

By NIAMH CREMIN

**After the stress of the fall semester had subsided, MU junior Aaron Mencher settled back into his childhood home in Georgia last winter, where he took to his clarinet and began composing “Bluish Orange.”**

His piece was announced as the winner of the 2018 Sinquefield Composition Prize Monday, one of the most prestigious composition awards given at MU.

“I imagine the colors of a painting when listening to my music, and what would be inside of it,” Mencher said on how he decided the title of his piece.

Originally commissioned to write the piece for his former high school clarinet teacher in Georgia, Mencher said he pulled inspiration from 20th century American classical music and jazz.

When it came to the rhythmic portion of the piece, Mencher said he was influenced by his girlfriend, Erin Hoerschler, also a composer and singer.

With Hoerschler spending the holidays in her hometown of Jefferson City, Mencher began to reminisce back to his fondest memories with her earlier that fall, as he worked on his piece in Georgia.

“When we had nothing to say, we would hum or sing to fill empty time,” Mencher said.

He attempted to imitate this sort of humming in “Bluish Orange.” One instrument would introduce an idea, Mencher said, then the next would recite the same harmony but add to it, and create a sort of layering effect.

As part of his prize, Mencher was commissioned to write an original piece for the 2018 premiere of the Chancellor’s Art Showcase in April. For the production of “Bluish Orange,” Mencher also received a cash prize and the opportunity to have his work recorded professionally.

The contest, now in its 13th year, is held exclusively for MU students, and Jacob Gotlib, the managing director of New Music Initiative, said the contest is primarily for composition students. The New Music Initiative administers the contest.

During the first round this year, 10 contestants were reviewed and ranked by a panel of MU music composition faculty members. The top five selected then moved on to the final round,

where judges gave feedback about work, improvements to be made and comments about the panel's likes and dislikes.

Contestants were asked to submit a piece of past original work that is representative of their style and individual music taste, Gotlib said.

For the second round of outside judges, Gotlib said he tried to pick a group that was diverse in terms of ethnicity, gender and personal music aesthetic. He wanted people who had not judged an MU music composition competition before. However, he still wanted at least one of the judges to be from Missouri.



## University of Missouri Sigma Phi Epsilon chapter closed

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

**The national Sigma Phi Epsilon organization has closed its chapter at the University of Missouri after several violations of alcohol and other policies.**

In the spring 2017 semester, the fraternity at 405 Kentucky Blvd. was found to have violated earlier probationary limits on events with alcohol and its probation, scheduled to end in May, was extended until May 2018, MU spokesman Christian Basi wrote in an email.

The extended probation banned all events with alcohol until chapter leaders went through a training program and met with Greek Life administrators to discuss a program on responsible decision-making called the Balanced Man program, Basi wrote.

The fraternity had been disciplined in three of the four semesters immediately preceding the spring 2017 violations.

There are no current campus disciplinary actions pending against the organization, Basi said.

"We very much appreciated the national organization and local alumni for taking this step that is consistent with our values," Basi said.

Chapter president John Tocco declined to comment on the national organization's action.

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

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## Change can be good

By MARK S. WRIGHTON

The greater St. Louis area is home to the highest concentration of plant scientists in the world. These creative, innovative scientists in companies, universities and research institutes are addressing one of the world's greatest challenges: How do we provide the nutritious food needed to sustain a growing global population?

St. Louis-headquartered Monsanto has emerged as the world's leading agricultural biotechnology company, and represents a premier example of the development of a highly successful commercial enterprise based on innovative science. The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center is the largest independent plant science research center in the world, another great St. Louis asset.

**The University of Missouri-Columbia and -St. Louis, Washington University and the Missouri Botanical Garden have leading programs in plant science that add new knowledge in the field and contribute to the development of the next generation of scientists. The St. Louis ecosystem for plant science is unique and world-class, in quality, scale and impact.**

Our region has emerged as a spawning ground for innovations in agriculture, a strength upon which to build. It should be no surprise that a company like Germany's Bayer would be interested in our region to enhance its impact on meeting global challenges in agriculture. The combination of Monsanto and Bayer is a major change for our region, and this change can be good — both for our region and for humankind.

Together, Monsanto and Bayer will build upon the impact of the St. Louis region, because the combined research and development investments will broaden our region's connections with scientists and institutions around the world. With a larger research program being executed in St. Louis, we will attract even more of the innovators needed to strengthen our region's economy.

At the global level, the combined efforts of Bayer and Monsanto will strengthen the endeavor to benefit the approximately 13 million farmers around the world who are using agricultural biotechnology to increase crop yields, to protect their crops from pests, and to efficiently produce food with constrained fresh water resources in many parts of the world.

Bayer brings something else very important to St. Louis: It is a major consumer health care and pharmaceutical company, in addition to its business related to agriculture. Thus, by attracting Bayer to the St. Louis region, we have the opportunity to expand our region's world-class efforts in advancing human health through leading-edge biomedical research. Washington University, St. Louis University and the University of Missouri all have academic medical centers, and each has a large number of talented biomedical scientists engaged in fundamental and clinical research that can benefit our region, the nation and the world.

Bayer's interests in human health will increase the range of relationships for moving research to benefiting patients. Washington University alone is spending about \$600 million per year on research, an overwhelming amount of that in health and life science fields. There are many examples of the impact of our research, including recent and exciting fundamental developments in approaches to treating cancer and diseases of an aging population such as Alzheimer's disease. These and other areas can provide opportunities for collaboration between academic institutions in our region and a global corporation.

Major corporations like Monsanto and Bayer make large contributions to their communities. Bayer and Monsanto have pledged to continue the long-standing tradition of investing in the St. Louis community. Many of our region's cultural and educational institutions, including Washington University, have benefited from Monsanto's generosity, and the combined Bayer-Monsanto enterprise will certainly continue to bring enormous benefits to our region through philanthropic contributions.

The region's robust startup environment has been aided by companies like Monsanto, and we now enjoy three areas of significant start up activity: T-Rex in downtown St. Louis; the Cortex Innovation Community between St. Louis University and Washington University's School of Medicine; and 39 North, located around the area occupied by Monsanto and the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center. These innovation zones are adding high-quality jobs to our region, and enhancing the positive image of St. Louis as a region where talented, creative young people want to build their lives and careers.

The Bayer-Monsanto combination holds the potential to accelerate our region's progress and contribute to the growing visibility of our region nationally and internationally as a global leader in life sciences.

*Mark S. Wrighton is the chancellor and a professor of chemistry at Washington University.*

# the maneater

## MSA to cut auxiliary budgets

By JACOB ROBINSON

**Enrollment cutbacks continue to haunt MU this year as the Missouri Students Association recommends \$103,000 in cuts for fiscal year 2019.**

The budget for the current academic year was decided upon based on the small freshman classes the university has enrolled. Freshman enrollment has shrunk from 7,600 to 4,134 since 2015, according to the Missourian and MU News Bureau statistics. Although MSA cut a significant amount of its budget last year, according to Jake Eovaldi, chair of the MSA Budget Committee, it was not enough.

“Last year we trimmed most of the fat off of the budget and that left us with the skeleton of the MSA budget,” Eovaldi said. “We came up on this year and, lo and behold, we had another small freshman class and there isn't much fat to trim anymore.”

MSA gets most of its funding from the [Student Service Enhancement Fee](#). With less students enrolled this year than expected, this led to a budget deficit rather than the surplus MSA had anticipated.

“We’re trying to compensate for that now and make the additional cuts as we go on during the semester,” Eovaldi said.

As the next fiscal year approaches, MSA is working to come up with a recommendation for cuts by Oct. 1 to plan ahead for the March 2018 deadline. With little left in the budget to work with, MSA is turning to the only expenditures remaining to cut: its auxiliaries.

“If we waited until the end of the fiscal year, June 30, and then told whoever that their auxiliary is no longer going to exist, it is going to be impossible for them to adapt to that change,” Eovaldi said. “We are giving them several months in advance so that they can seek out alternative streams of revenue.”

MSA funds and sponsors a variety of student organization auxiliaries on campus, including [MUTV](#), [KCOU](#) and [STRIPES](#). The idea of auxiliary cuts is not a surprise, however, as taking away from auxiliary budget has always been an option.

“We brought the auxiliaries in and we told them to plan for the worst,” Eovaldi said. “Everybody has the idea that money is short right now, so auxiliaries know that we are going to be meeting with them and looking to cut funds and cut the auxiliary.”

Cuts from previous budgets have already affected auxiliaries. Organizations like STRIPES have had to minimize resources to manage the reduced budgets, like reducing the number of cars it runs on weekends from 14 in 2015 to 12 this year.

STRIPES also no longer operates on weeknights due to previous budget cuts, but STRIPES Director Alexandra Deck mentioned that it does still operate on “special nights” downtown.

Although the organization has been able to stay productive, Deck worries about what the result of further cuts would be.

“Our budget is the limiting factor of how many cars we can run each night,” Deck said. “With regards to nightly operations, running fewer cars means that STRIPES cannot provide as many safe rides home. Our goal is to reach a quarter million rides by 2020. Any further decreases in our budget would make this goal simply unachievable.”

Another organization, the Craft Studio, already “suspended its operations” on August 11, according to its website, which allotted MSA \$53,000 towards the budget.

“The bulk of that \$53,000 that came from the Craft Studio was from the director,” Eovaldi said. “She elected not to come back for this year, so she made that sacrifice and saved some money out of the budget.”

Other organizations are also sponsored but are partly self-sufficient in funding through donations, like Tiger Pantry and Truman's Closet, which is what the MSA wants to push its other auxiliaries to start doing in the coming years.

"It's mainly going to come down to donations," Eovaldi said. "The auxiliary that you see currently that's self-sustaining is based off of donations. It's going to be a tough transition, but that's what it's going to come down to."

The recommendation for cuts comes at the beginning of next month. In the coming weeks, MSA will be meeting with each of the auxiliaries to determine the best course of action for cuts.

"Nothing is definite," Eovaldi said. "But this is the most practical solution we can come up with right now."

## THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

### [The Trump Administration Says Colleges Are Suppressing Free Speech. How Should They Respond?](#)

#### NO MU MENTION

By SARAH BROWN

When officials at the University of Utah learned in late August that a student group had invited Ben Shapiro, a fiery conservative commentator, to speak on campus, they had to grapple with an increasingly thorny question: how to ensure that everyone's free speech rights — both Mr. Shapiro's and those of the student protesters — would be protected.

The university's administrators from the public safety, communications, and student affairs units started meeting a month in advance. They even sent a team to the University of California at Berkeley, so officials could see how that institution handled the controversial speakers who were invited to campus this spring. When Mr. Shapiro spoke last week, hundreds of students protested, two people were arrested, and several others were briefly detained. The university spent about \$25,000 on security costs.

Utah is trying to be more proactive about protecting free speech as a narrative is gaining traction among the general public that colleges are full of students who shout down speakers and demand protection from ideological views they disagree with.

That's a view shared by several Trump administration officials, including Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who [spoke last week](#) at Georgetown University about how "freedom of thought and speech on the American campus are under attack." He didn't explicitly condemn colleges for being hostile to conservatives, which is how most critics frame the problem, though he did [denounce institutions](#) for being "an echo chamber of political correctness."

Many college officials say that a substantial portion of Mr. Sessions' remarks were misguided and one-sided. He suggested that most free-speech threats on campus come from students when the reality is more complicated. He cited a small number of incidents to make sweeping statements about the state of expression at all colleges. And he decried institutions for being anti-free speech but did not support the right of football players to kneel during the national anthem.

With the federal government taking aim at campuses' handling of free speech, many college leaders are walking a fine line: They want to protect both free discourse and students' safety. A few even acknowledge that they could be better champions of expression but also don't accept at face value the harshest — and often misleading — language of their critics.

Colleges have often taken a defensive stance when faced with such criticisms, stressing that they have always been committed to preserving free speech and academic freedom. Some officials have punished professors for their provocative statements, hoping it will satisfy off-campus critics, while others have avoided weighing in on individual controversies in a bid to avoid a frenzy that they believe is propagated largely by right-wing media personalities.

Now, some administrators and experts say, higher-education leaders shouldn't sit idly by. Many of Mr. Sessions' criticisms were overblown, they say, but a few of the broad themes — such as the need for university officials and faculty members to "defend free expression boldly and unequivocally" — were legitimate.

Higher-education leaders should do two things in response, these observers say. They should try to reframe the public discussion about free speech on their own terms. This means acknowledging that colleges have room for improvement, but also not accepting language about "coddled students." It also means promoting practical solutions for educating students about free speech.

The other thing leaders should do is jump-start frank discussions about what free speech means and how to support it on their campuses.

Even institutions that haven't recently had to deal with speech controversies should prioritize these efforts, officials and experts say. Every college is one controversial speaker, protest, email, or social-media comment away from dealing with a First Amendment nightmare.

[\*Story continues.\*](#)