Editorial: At UM, cuts are unfortunate, but necessary

By Columbia Daily Tribune

The University of Missouri System is headed for a fiscal cliff. Whether the drop on the Columbia campus is in the sum of $40 million, $60 million, or more likely somewhere in between, is still to be decided.

Even though UM officials have had a year to prepare for a 10 percent cut in state aid next fiscal year, it doesn’t make the decisions ahead any more palatable. Even under the best-case scenario programs and people will be lost, and only a few months remain to decide which and how many.

Those with something at stake, in this case everyone associated with UM, can be expected to dig in their heels and fight to protect what’s theirs. From here on every decision will be criticized and countered, and every report denounced as flawed or incomplete.

While we don’t envy the decisions before President Mun Choi, Chancellor Alexander Cartwright and others, to a degree we can empathize. Picking from a series of bad options is like choosing between a black eye or bloody nose. Both hurt and do little to improve your public image.

“We have some tough decisions ahead of us, some very difficult decisions,” Cartwright admitted recently.

We have faith that UM leadership is prepared for the difficult choices ahead, and agree with the strategy presented. Instead of reducing each department’s budget, the university will instead hone in on areas where it can excel and grow.

Doing less of everything is not the key to success. Rarely is it ever. Still, it’s unfortunate things have come to this. For those looking to cast blame, we recommend starting with Gov. Eric Greitens and the General Assembly, which hamstrung UM’s budget last year and likely will do so again in 2018.

When Greitens took office in January 2017, he ordered budget withholdings that reduced funding for the UM System by $31 million and withheld appropriations in June 2017 to reduce spending by an additional 9 percent this year.

Greitens’ budget called for reducing funding for two- and four-year state institutions by $68 million below actual spending in the current year.
House Budget Committee Chairman Scott Fitzpatrick this week offered a solution that would restore some of the lost state support, if state-run universities forego tuition increases. Tuition at these state-run institutions can increase by 2.1 percent this year to keep up with inflation. The problem is the money returned to the budget would replace the extra revenue captured by raising tuition, placing the university more or less in the same situation it was already in.

In the months ahead we should expect to see a lot of moving targets, as the legislature finalizes its budget plans and the UM Board of Curators weigh options.

These decision before UM officials are as difficult as they are unavoidable.

MU reacts to proposal restoration to help with budget cuts

By: Kelsey Kernstine


COLUMBIA, Mo. - Missouri colleges and universities could still face a budget cut, but it might not be as bad as they were thinking.

A new proposal could help restore the money, but there are guidelines to receive the full restoration.

**Mizzou told ABC 17 they are grateful for the new proposal, "we've been really appreciative of support that we've received from legislatures and they have been working so hard to make higher education affordable,"** said MU spokesperson, Christian Basi.

The entire UM system, Mizzou included, are working closely with lawmakers.

The House Budget Chairman Scott Fitzpatrick has proposed a plan to indefinitely restore $38 million of the budget cut proposed by Governor Greiten.

However, they plan will fully restore the $68 million, if institutions cap tuition.

Fitzpatrick said he has two goals, "One goal is affordability and higher education. I think Missouri's been a leader in that, but we want to continue to be a leader in that."
The money would come from unused funding from the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Columbia Representative Kip Kendrick said it's a step in the right direction. "Unfortunately, it's not going to be making the institutions whole, there's still going to be obviously major cuts that happened last year, that were not going to be able to make up completely. But at least if we can undue what is proposed by the Governor this year."

Mizzou told ABC 17 that they made 300 position eliminations last year and this year no matter what will be hard financially.

The Committee will vote next week on the proposal.

The employment picture at MU: More departures than hires
By: Sten Spinella and Brandon Hill

Since June 1, a total of 1,582 positions have been added at MU, but 2,661 university employees have departed, which includes fewer than 10 non-tenure-track faculty told Feb. 28 they would not be reappointed.

The departures since June 1, either from termination, layoffs, retirement or resignation include:

- 949 faculty
- 1,688 staff
- 24 administrators

The hires during the same period include:

- 541 faculty
- 1,031 staff
- 10 administrators
The overall net loss is 1,079 positions, including 13 full-time administrators. MU currently has 324 open job listings, including 192 faculty positions, 131 staff positions and one executive position.

Cost savings over the last 12 months add up to $13 million in reduced spending on salaries and benefits, according to MU spokesman Christian Basi. That number is expected to increase through the end of the fiscal year.

The handful of non-tenure-track or NTT faculty cuts was the most recent response to a possible $43 million funding reduction for the UM System, proposed by Gov. Eric Greitens in his fiscal budget.

And while such cuts are still being debated in the General Assembly, the heads of MU colleges, offices and divisions are responsible for mapping out 10 percent, 12.5 percent and 15 percent budget cut scenarios, Basi said.

These percentages translate into potential $48.6 million, $59.1 million and $69.6 million cuts in the budget. Because deans and other department heads are able to target the cuts at their discretion, many may have chosen not to terminate NTT faculty, according to Basi.

The handful of NTT faculty whose positions were vacated is less than what university administrators expected, after a 90-day deadline made those decisions immediate. University regulations require faculty to receive a 90-day notice before they are terminated. For faculty with nine-month appointments, that date was Feb. 28.

That day, MU Interim Provost Jim Spain sent an email to the campus community announcing that more than 800 NTT faculty were in jeopardy of contract non-renewal unless budget circumstances change. The announcement was the latest in the university’s efforts to tighten its budget because of decreasing enrollment and anticipated funding cuts by the state.

NTT faculty are hired on one- to three-year renewable agreements with no potential for tenure. Last year, 846 of 1,969 of faculty — 43 percent — were NTT.
They also may be rehired, if the budget situation improves. If it doesn’t, NTT faculty on 12-month contracts whose contracts expire in August may also be in jeopardy. The deadline for notification will be in May, when budget issues may be resolved.

The wave of layoffs began in June, when UM System President Mun Choi and university administrators took a major step in tightening the system’s budget.

The initial phase involved eliminating 307 staff, faculty and administrative positions to reduce MU’s budget by $60 million in response to a 9 percent cut for fiscal 2018 in state funding for higher education.

Staff, faculty and even high-ranking administrators are bearing the consequences of smaller tuition sums and a legislative battle to temper the effects of budget cuts. Currently, many in the university workforce are caught in the middle of what looks to be a long-term restructuring of the university’s finances.

In December, accounting firm PriceWaterhouseCoopers warned the UM System of a possible $160 million deficit in five years if the proper cuts aren’t implemented.

Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said other actions, such as combination or closure of graduate programs, will be publicized by this semester’s end.

**COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE**

**MU Chancellor Cartwright sets deadline for programs decision**

By Columbia Daily Tribune

University of Missouri Chancellor Alexander Cartwright set deadlines Wednesday for his decision about the future of 27 graduate programs identified for closing by a campus task force.
In response to a resolution passed Monday at a special faculty meeting, Cartwright wrote in a campus email addressed “Dear Colleagues” that he would allow the submission of clarifying or supplemental information about the 27 programs until April 9. His decisions will be made by May 16, he wrote.

The faculty members present on Monday voted overwhelmingly to request “ample opportunity to correct inaccurate and misleading data,” a transparent timeline for decisions and budget justification for each program action.

“I respect the passion demonstrated at the meeting and know that we are all trying to do our best to make Mizzou a great institution,” Cartwright wrote.

University of Missouri Will Decide on Graduate Program Closures by May 16

By: Beatriz Costa Lima

Listen to the story: http://kbia.org/post/university-missouri-will-decide-graduate-program-closures-may-16#stream/0

University of Missouri faculty and staff now have a specific timeline for decisions on whether to close more than a dozen graduate programs.

In an email Wednesday, Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said final decisions on the closures and consolidations will be made by May 16.

A report released February 15 recommended the closing, consolidation or review of several graduate programs in response to budget and enrollment challenges. It cited reasons such as low numbers of graduates and research productivity.
But several faculty members present at a meeting Monday said the report’s results focused on quantity instead of quality.

Charles Presberg is an MU Spanish professor. The Romance Languages doctoral program is one of the recommended closures. He says he is glad the chancellor is open to talking directly with faculty about the decisions.

“The task force report is something like an aerial view from 6,000 feet of the university,” Presberg said. “Well now it’s time to speak in real conversations, substantive dialogue, with people on the ground.”

MU English professor Andrew Hoberek said that most faculty understand that tough decisions will have to be made, but he also wants some accountability with them.

“To the best of the administration’s ability to provide this information,” Hoberek said, “we’d like to know how the changes that they make will actually help with the budget crisis.”

Additional data and updates will be made public as they become available, according to the email. Cartwright will continue to work with members of the university community, and faculty can provide input until April 9.

Two MU freshmen sue fraternity, students for assault

By: Lucas Gesler

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Two freshmen at the University of Missouri sued a fraternity and its members for an alleged assault by two of the fraternity's members.
The two plaintiffs, Sean Freihaut and Benjamin Poss, both of St. Louis, claim Sigma Phi Epsilon and its chapter at MU did little to stop its members from breaking rules regarding alcohol, drugs and hazing. The lawsuit blames the Sept. 22 assault outside the fraternity house on its national headquarters, which the suit claims did not properly punish the chapter earlier.

ABC 17 News uncovered emails and documents used in MU’s investigation of Sigma Phi Epsilon. At one point in spring 2017, the national organization "seriously entertained" shutting its local chapter down after repeated conduct violations. National leaders instead conducted a membership review, which led to more than half of the members being suspended.

The lawsuit details an alleged assault on the two freshmen by Nikolas Childress and Zachary Barabasz. Around 1:45 a.m., Childress and Barabasz rushed from the porch of the fraternity house and chased the two freshmen, who were walking nearby. The two eventually caught up to Freihaut and Poss near South Hall, where the new fraternity members "attacked, punched, kicked and/or struck" the victims, according to the lawsuit. One of the victims, the lawsuit claims, suffered a traumatic brain injury and "hardware used in the surgical reconstruction" of his face and jaw "is permanent."

A probable cause statement from the University of Missouri Police Department said a security camera at South Hall captured Barabasz hitting one of the victims.

Boone County prosecutors charged both men with third-degree assault, a felony, on Oct. 17. William Tackett, the attorney for both men in the criminal matter, declined to comment on their pending cases.

Sigma Phi Epsilon's MU chapter is at least the second fraternity facing a lawsuit in Boone County. Brandon Zingale, a former pledge at Kappa Alpha Order, sued the fraternity for failing to get proper medical care for him after he became intoxicated at the house. Members of the fraternity left Zingale in a room overnight after he had chugged vodka, and Zingale went to the hospital with a 0.41 blood alcohol content the next morning. That lawsuit claims Kappa Alpha Order broke state hazing laws, as well.

MU's fraternities and Greek Life system have come under scrutiny in the last several years. Consulting firm Dyad Strategies highlighted a lack of trust between Greek organizations and the school's Office of Greek Life. The report made several recommendations for change, including a ban on freshmen living in fraternity houses.
Interfraternity Council suspends new member activities

By Rudi Keller

With 11 Greek organizations on campus under investigation by the University of Missouri’s Office of Student Accountability and Support, the Interfraternity Council announced that all 29 of its chapters will suspend new member activities for two weeks.

The news release from the council cited “several allegations of hazing in the fraternity community” as the reason for its action, which it said is supported by all 29 chapter presidents.

“No specific fraternities will be named because this is an active investigation being handled as a collaborative effort between fraternity national headquarters and the Office of Student Accountability and Support,” Matthew Oxenhandler, vice president of public relations for the council, wrote in an email.

Two council fraternities, Beta Theta Pi and Farmhouse, have been sanctioned this semester for hazing for incidents that occurred in the fall and both have been placed on disciplinary probation through Feb. 1, 2019, according to a report released through the MU News Bureau. MU cannot release details of the open investigations and some might not be related to the hazing allegations cited by the council, said MU spokesman Christian Basi.

The outcome of investigations and some of the evidence collected becomes public when organizations receive sanctions but no information about individual students can be made public, he said.

The university appreciates the action taken by the council to police its members, Basi said.

“We’re very pleased to see the student leaders of these Greek organizations taking these immediate steps as soon as they became aware of these allegations,” he said. “It definitely shows that they have the safety of students as a top priority.”

The Interfraternity Council is one of four governing bodies for fraternities and sororities on campus. It includes most of the long-established fraternities that have been on campus since before it was desegregated. The Panhellenic Association governs sororities that also trace their history on campus to its all-white past.
The National Pan-Hellenic Council governs traditionally black fraternities and sororities and the Multicultural Greek Council governs organizations founded primarily to serve people with other ethnic backgrounds.

The council’s action is the latest indication that Greek organizations, especially fraternities, are concerned about the way organizations are operating and viewed outside the campus.

In the fall semester, 12 Greek organizations were found responsible for violations of student conduct rules. The worst sanction imposed was disciplinary probation and the longest term was handed out to Phi Gamma Delta, a fraternity that will be on probation until Sept. 1.

The most common violation was alcohol use without proper oversight.

Also in the fall, the university received a scathing report from consultant Dyad Strategies that found coerced alcohol use as one of the most common hazing activities on campus. The report made more than 50 recommendations for stronger discipline and a better Greek experience for students.

The consultants found that fraternities and sororities on campus operate in a free-for-all atmosphere with little oversight or guidance from an Office of Greek Life that has no “overarching goals, objectives or priorities.”

In 2016 and 2017, the university or national fraternal organizations acted to suspend or otherwise end the activities of four Interfraternity Council fraternities.

Kappa Alpha was banned for five years after a freshman, Brandon Zingale, was required to drink so much vodka in a Sept. 27, 2016, hazing that he nearly died of alcohol poisoning. Zingale, who no longer attends MU, is suing the fraternity and the university.

Sigma Pi and Delta Upsilon were suspended for two years after several incidents, including one where a woman fell and hit her head at her dorm after leaving the Delta Upsilon house. The national Sigma Phi Epsilon organization closed its chapter in the fall after several years of violations.

The Dyad Strategies recommendations included banning freshmen from living in fraternity houses, stricter enforcement of alcohol policies and increased security at social events to prevent rapes and hazing.

The ban announced Wednesday only applies to events specifically targeted to new members, Oxendale wrote. Each organization has its own new member processes specified by national organizations, he wrote.

“During the two week timeframe, we ask all international offices and chapter advisors to work with undergraduate leadership to evaluate their new member processes,” Oxendale wrote.

The restrictions on new member activities ends March 19, he wrote.
“Hazing has no place in fraternities, and we encourage anyone with knowledge about hazing in our communities to report it via the Office of Student Accountability and Support,” the council news release stated.

MU student body president elections scrapped after offensive tweets uncovered

By: Laura Miserez

The Missouri Students Association presidential election has been canceled after three candidates dropped out and the MSA Board of Elections Commissioners disqualified their slates. A special election will be held before the end of the semester, but the MSA Senate has not set a date.

After offensive tweets surfaced from candidates’ personal Twitter accounts, former presidential candidates Blaine Thomas and Claire Jacobs dropped out of the race Tuesday evening and vice-presidential candidate Caius Gillen quit Wednesday morning.

Their running mates, Chad Johnson, Thomas Cater and Julia Wopata, respectively, originally intended to continue seeking the presidency alone until the MSA Student Court recommended the board invalidate the slates. To run for MSA president and vice-president, each pair needed to collect 500 student signatures for their slate. The court reasoned the students who signed were supporting the pair, not just one member.

“By changing the names on the ballot, they have nullified this support as these students did not sign on to an individual candidate,” according to the court’s decision statement.

Johnson, Cater and Wopata will be allowed to run in the special election, board chair Joseph Sell said Thursday.
MU junior Brett Stover, an editor and anchor at campus radio station KCOU, shared screenshots Monday evening of racist, homophobic and sexist tweets Thomas, Jacobs and Gillen had posted between 2012 and 2016.

Stover said this is the fourth MSA election where he has combed through candidates’ profiles as part of his election coverage, and this is the first time he has found “anything to this extent.”

He said the candidates “put (themselves) in the public eye by running a campaign for a paid position at a state university.”

After the offensive tweets were shared this week, the former candidates each released apology statements.

“There’s no excuse for what I tweeted. I’m deeply sorry for those words and images,” Thomas said in his statement. He also asked for forgiveness from anyone he had offended.

In Jacobs’ statement, she said she has sought out “diversified experiences and historical understanding” since her original tweets were posted. However, the statement was criticized by several in the MU community, including journalism students, for including an indirect criticism of Stover’s reporting.

Although Johnson, Cater and Wopata have not formally announced plans to run in the special election, they all expressed interest in continuing to run before their slates were disqualified.

Cater and Wopata spoke out on Twitter after their running mates’ resignations.

“For too long, MSA as an organization has not catered to all of its students and it’s time for a change. I share that frustration and it is my unwavering goal to improve the state of student government and to put students first,” Cater said.

The official campaign account of Wopata and Gillen tweeted that Wopata “will not stop fighting to make this campus the best it can be.”
The Missouri Students Association Student Court ruled Thursday morning to suspend the current election and call for a special election to be held sometime in the near future.

The court decided to expel the election because each of the three MSA presidential slates had a candidate resign. The ruling defines a slate as a president and a vice president.

This ruling comes following the passage of Resolution 57-45 in full senate last night, which recommends that the Board of Elections Commissioners disqualify all current slates and hold a special election after spring break. The resolution was authored by Senate Communications Director Jake Addington.

“MSA Senate calls for the expulsion of all current individuals from the MSA President and Vice President Election,” the resolution states. “Therefore, be it further resolved by the Missouri Students’ Association that Senate encourages the BEC to hold a special election.”

MSA has yet to pass an act determining the dates of the special election, as the ruling of the court means that the current election dates and slates are no longer valid. Current slates can refile for the special election when the time comes.

Addington wrote a petition before proposing the resolution on the floor. The petition received 88 student signatures in the six hours of asking. 84 of these signatures were non-MSA affiliated students, Addington said.

Addington suggested postponing the election by three weeks. He also recommended a similar campaigning period of two weeks with a one-week voting period.

Since the court ruled in favor of the special election, MSA will also have to pass a new handbook in accordance with the bylaws. The election process will continue from there.

“Even if the court were to accept an individual as a slate, they would still not have proper qualification,” according to MSA Student Court’s decision. “The original slates were supported by 500 student signatures in order to file. By changing the names on the ballot, they have nullified this support as these students did not sign on to an individual candidate.”
Campus abortion foes, MU dispute reason for poster removal

By Rudi Keller

An anti-abortion group at the University of Missouri is claiming victory after a poster celebrating Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood, was removed from a display at Ellis Library after they threatened to petition for it to be taken down and to bring national pressure against the school.

MU, however, is disputing that claim. The threat had nothing to do with the change in displays, which was already slated for replacement after several years of hanging on a wall near the library check-out desk, spokeswoman for MU’s libraries Shannon Cary said in an interview Thursday.

Mizzou Students for Life sent a message addressed “Hello Ellis Library” and objecting to the poster of Sanger being displayed between posters of civil rights leaders Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcom X. Sanger was a racist and a eugenicist, the proposed petition, which is posted on the group’s Facebook page, states.

“Our parent organization, Students for Life America, is providing us with resources and access to media so that we can take this petition national if we see that it becomes necessary,” the group wrote in the message. It was sent Feb. 27 and gave the library until last Friday to respond.

The petition includes several quotes from Sanger, highlighting her views that birth control should be practiced by parents at risk of having a disabled child or to improve “the better racial elements in our society.”

“Sanger’s work was detrimental to a healthy society,” the petition states. “It was unfair and certainly not consistent with American principles, which is why her picture should not be hanging in the honorary manor (sic) that it is on our campus.”

All the posters in the display that included Sanger have been removed and replaced by posters celebrating diversity, featuring unnamed individuals who have overcome obstacles in life. Cary said she answered the initial email from the group.

“I did respond to them and told them the library values diversity and free speech and we did not remove materials because someone found them offensive,” Cary said. “I also told them it just happened we are in the process of redoing posters throughout the library. They had been there forever, they are old, and it was just to change things up.”
Cary said she expected the changes to be made at the end of the semester but the work started earlier. Posters on nutrition near the library’s café have also been removed and new ones displayed, she said.

The explanation for the sudden speed-up is suspect, said Kristen Wood, president of Mizzou Students for Life.

“I think they are saying that to save face,” Wood said. “Just coincidentally they happened to take it down a day or two after we said that we would start the petition. If they would have just taken down the one poster in that area it would have been obvious they were doing it for us.”

Attacking Sanger’s more controversial views is a tactic used by anti-abortion groups to discredit Planned Parenthood, the largest provider of abortions in the United States. Planned Parenthood Great Plains, which operates a women’s health and abortion clinic in Columbia, did not respond to an email seeking comment.

The group did not mention Planned Parenthood in its petition because it wanted the focus to be on Sanger, who should not be honored, Wood said.

“Why we are against her is something that everyone should get behind,” Wood said. “There are people from all movements who shouldn’t be celebrated.”

**Posters removed in Ellis Library not related to student group's petition**
By: Nicole Schroeder

Contrary to a recent report, a University of Missouri Libraries spokeswoman said Thursday the removal of a poster of birth-control activist Margaret Sanger was not a response to an anti-abortion protest.

Mizzou Students for Life, an anti-abortion group, asked the library on Feb. 27 to remove the poster of Sanger. Sanger often is credited with opening the first birth control clinic in the United States and serving as the first president of the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

The poster was taken down last weekend, and in a local news report, the student-led organization took credit for the move. On Thursday, Shannon Cary, communications officer for University
Libraries, said the poster’s removal was not in response to the group’s petition, but was part of the rotation of posters and displays in Ellis Library. Other posters also were taken down, including several nutrition posters and images of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X.

**Poster’s removal requested**

In the petition submitted late last month, the organization said they viewed Sanger as a supporter of “preventing the ‘working class’ from reproducing” and “targeting specific groups” for birth control and abortion.

“She targeted her birth-control movement toward people who she claimed were defective,” said the group’s public relations chair Ceci Haberdash, who spearheaded the campaign to have the poster removed.

“We just thought those values were really inconsistent with American principles. We live in a society where you should be allowed to have kids if you want to have kids.”

Haberdash said the organization has been working on the petition since the beginning of the semester after a member of the group brought the poster to their attention. After spending much of January and February researching Sanger’s viewpoints and reading her publications, the group decided to ask for the poster’s removal.

“While we did want the poster removed from the library, another goal we had for doing the petition was just educating people,” Haberdash said. “This opened up a conversation about Margaret Sanger’s eugenic motivations behind her birth-control movement, and if we would’ve had to educate the entire student body on this before the poster was removed, we were fully prepared to do so.”

The group sent their petition to library officials on Feb. 27, Haberdash said, and received an email reply from Cary last Friday saying that the library supports free speech and equality and would not remove the posters because of the petitions.
Cary also said in her email that there were plans to remove and replace posters throughout the libraries in the coming months, and that the poster of Sanger would probably be removed at the end of the semester. However, it did not specify an exact time by which the posters would be removed.

The following Tuesday, Haberdash said she noticed the poster had been removed from the hallway, along with two other posters in the display depicting civil rights activists Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X.

The posters’ removal was not in response to the group’s petition, Cary said, but was part of the regular rotation of posters and displays in Ellis Library.

“We’re in the process of a more long-term plan for posters and not keeping things up as long and rotating things in and out, maybe yearly — we’re not sure, we’re still deciding that,” Cary said.

Last Sunday, Haberdash said she received another email in the original email chain concerning the petition, in which someone asked, “So can I have these posters put back up?”

Cary said, although she didn’t write this email, it was probably someone confused about why replacement posters hadn’t been hung yet. “Facilities is in charge of when the posters are taken down,” she said.

**Changes to library exhibits**

Cary said the posters in Ellis Library haven’t been cycled out in a while, but that a space-planning committee recently has looked at replacing art exhibits and posters throughout the library. The posters that were taken down at the beginning of the month were all on the ground floor of the library near the main elevators and Bookmark Café, and had been up for many years. The nutrition posters taken down had been up for so long they were “pastel and faded,” Cary said.
Cary said the library has a group of posters of famous authors that will most likely replace the posters of Sanger, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. No final decisions have been made about any replacements for the nutrition posters that were removed.

“We like the posters that show diverse thought and diverse authors similar to the ones we had down there, so I imagine those types of posters will also remain — similar themes,” Cary said.

Haberdash said, even though the poster of Sanger is no longer hanging in the library, the organization still wants to work toward educating the student body about Sanger and her actions.

“The whole reason why we even did this petition to begin with was because I did a presentation at our meeting about Margaret Sanger, about her eugenics beliefs and values and her birth control movement, and that’s when a lot of people in my organization first learned about stuff like that,” Haberdash said. “It was shortly after that we noticed the picture in the library, but we would definitely like to continue to have this conversation.”

MU medical school trains students to be responsible in face of opioid crisis
Story resulted from MU Health Care release:
COLUMBIA, Mo. -- The University of Missouri's medical school is working to make sure students train to be responsible doctors in the face of the nationwide opioid crisis.

Lucas Buffaloe is an assistant professor of clinical family and community medicine at the MU School of Medicine. He lectures on opioids, their effects on the brain and how patients develop addictions, the Columbia Missourian reported.

"What we've tried to do in response to the current opioid epidemic is be much more thoughtful about how students are trained," Buffaloe said.

New training involves making sure doctors prescribe responsibly and all students receive a formal education on how to properly prescribe opioids and watch for signs of addiction, Buffaloe said.

"We've had an opiate lecture every eight weeks since halfway through our second year," said Spencer Lambdin, a third-year medical student. "Every rotation, it seems, has had an opiate talk."

The increased attention to how medical students are trained stems from the rise in opioid-related deaths. Opioid overdoses in the Midwest increased by 70 percent from July 2016 to September 2017, according to a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More than 900 people in Missouri alone died from an opioid overdose in 2016, according to the state Department of Health and Senior Services.

The only training medical students previously received in opioid prescription came from watching other doctors, Buffaloe said. But because prescription practices varied for each doctor, there was little consistency in what students learned.

"I think what we're doing now at the medical school is really going to make an impact in terms of future prescribing practices," he said. "It's a big improvement to how students learned about pain medications in the past."

College of Education research finds principals’ teacher evaluations accurate after completing professional training

Story generated by MU News Bureau release: Additional training can help principals have high overall accuracy in teacher observation evaluations, MU researcher finds
By Lauren Bishop

Upon completion of MU’s Network for Educator Effectiveness training, high school principals were found to have high accuracy in completing teacher evaluations, according to research from the College of Education.

NEE was created in 2011 by members of the College of Education. The training program provides multiple ways to gauge educator effectiveness, including student surveys, professional development plans and classroom observations of teachers. NEE then provides professional development trainings for teacher evaluators. The in-person training sessions are held in multiple locations throughout Missouri.

1,324 principals in Missouri were sampled to rate six teaching practices after completing NEE training. Though the study found there was high overall accuracy in principal evaluation ratings, individual accuracy varied substantially.

The study also found that different teaching practices within the classroom were more difficult to accurately assess than others. Formative assessments were found to be most difficult to evaluate, and critical thinking practices were easiest.

Christi Bergin, research professor in the College of Education, is a co-founder of NEE and an author of the study on teacher evaluations that used data from NEE. Bergin said this online resource allows evaluators to assess qualities of teachers in various aspects of strengths and areas for improvement.

“Every professional has room to grow and improve, so this is an opportunity for principals to identify what areas that the teachers in their building are particularly strong on, [and] what areas they need to grow in,” Bergin said. “That’s only useful insofar as the principals are actually accurate.”

More than 30,000 teachers and around 1,500 principals in Missouri use NEE as an evaluation resource, Bergin said. About half of Missouri, 267 school districts, uses NEE.

Hickman High School’s Principal Tony Gragnani and his four assistant principals were trained using NEE in summer 2017. This is the first school year that the Columbia School District has used NEE. The Hickman administration’s goal is to visit each teacher at least four times per year. Gragnani said this increase in visibility can help make teachers more comfortable with evaluations.

“The more [teachers] can see [the administration], the more they get comfortable with us,” Gragnani said. “I think it opens up a venue or a pathway for us to give good feedback where a teacher doesn’t have to worry about their job, and more just see us as instructional coaches.”

The next topic of research for Bergin will be how accurate principals are when evaluating teachers once they return from training. This data will be obtained through NEE and then compared to evaluator accuracy measurements after they complete NEE training.
“Principals are governed by motives besides just strict accuracy, like keeping their teachers motivated and building trust and positive relationships,” Bergin said.

Bergin said NEE benefits MU by accomplishing the school’s research-based mission. MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright announced on Feb. 27 that the university plans to double research funding to “boost MU’s impact on the state, nation and world,” according to a [Columbia Missourian article](http://columbia-missourian.com).

NEE data has been helpful in creating multiple published studies. Additionally, Bergin said NEE satisfies MU’s goal of public service by improving evaluations for the entire education system.

“One of the other goals of MU is to provide community service and outreach to strengthen the community, to share our research and [improve] the well-being of students and teachers and principals across the state and the country,” Bergin said. “NEE helps to do that. It strengthens our schools, it strengthens our principal’s capacities to be instructional leaders and it improves the quality of teaching.”

**Computer science and coding classes spreading across mid-Missouri**

By: Eric Graves

FAYETTE - Coding and computer science is coming to more mid-Missouri high schools.

Code HS is a San Francisco based computer science teaching platform that is seeking to expand computer science programs in rural school districts of Missouri with a program called Code Missouri.

Code Missouri released a list of 19 school districts it would be offering professional development classes in coding to teachers.

Code Missouri will be instructing teachers on how to code so they can teach their students.
Fayette R-III School District is the location of Code Missouri’s pilot program.

Jill Wiseman, the curriculum director at Fayette School District, said it has had a very positive response to the class.

“We have had a good size enrollment for our size school,” she said. "Kids are really positive about the class."

**Shawn Moore, a University of Missouri instructor, said the earlier someone can learn how to code the better. He believes the Fayette students will greatly benefit.**

“There will always be coding jobs. There will always be a need to understand computers and coding allows us to do that,” Moore said.

Moore said that coding jobs can range from an I.T. guy to developing the next big app or social media site.

Moore said another benefit to coding is it's portability, becausea coder can do it anywhere, as long as they have a computer and internet access.

He said the more experience a coding student can take into college, the better.

Wiseman said Fayette High School is getting its students ready.

“We plan to add a second class next year so students can advance to the next level,” she said.
MU law professor says closed-door Greitens committee is legal

By: Olivia Gerling

JEFFERSON CITY – A University of Missouri law professor says the committee investigating Governor Eric Greitens can be closed to the public.

On Wednesday Committee Chair Jay Barnes, R-Jefferson City, refused to respond to reporters’ questions.
“Guys, you’re wasting your time asking questions,” he said. “You’re wasting my time asking questions. There will be a point in time in which you will know what you need to know.”

According to Professor Sandy Davidson, there is no law stating Barnes cannot choose to provide no response to the media.

The committee also voted to have a closed-door meeting.

Davidson said this is legal as long as the committee follows certain guidelines.

“The presumption in Missouri is openness of meetings and records,” she said.

This means the “burden of showing a meeting is closed under Missouri law falls on those who want to close the meeting.

There are two steps that have to be taken:

1. A public vote to close the meeting
2. The people wanting to close the meeting have to point to a law that permits closure

KOMU 8 News contacted the committee and got an emailed response from Trevor Fox, Media Director of the Missouri House Communications.
“The sessions of each house shall be held with open doors, except in cases which may require secrecy but not including the final vote on bills, resolutions and confirmations,” he said.

Fox cited Article III, section 20 of Missouri’s Constitution. According to Davidson, this fulfills both requirements for the committee to have a closed-door meeting.

‘Vagina Monologues’: a call to empower and take action

By Charly Buchanan

The MU community put on a performance of “The Vagina Monologues,” a show where women perform a collection of other women’s experiences written by Eve Ensler.

The 16th annual performance of the Vagina Monologues embodied the theme of rise, resist and unite with vulnerable performances that illustrated the strength and perseverance of women at the Missouri Theatre on Feb. 24.

A reflection of current and past trials and successes that women have experienced, the Vagina Monologues held audience members captive through stories of comedy, tragedy and resistance. With prevailing themes of intersectionality and inclusivity, the women demonstrated that there is no one way to be a woman but that they are all linked by the common thread of bravery.

Each performance impacted the audience uniquely. Some inspired rage against mistreatment, some left few audience members with dry eyes and some elicited laughter and bountiful cheers. One such performance that brought laughter and preached self-love was Jalen Stackhouse’s performance of “Because He Liked to Look At It,” in which she tells a story of learning to love her vagina after a man shows her its beauty. Though Stackhouse did not share that experience with her character, she did find familiarity with the idea of learning to love yourself.

“I felt that pressure of feeling like you’re not good enough or something’s wrong, so I could definitely relate to it in that way,” Stackhouse said. “I also related to her [in that I] ended up loving my vagina because I love my pussy now.”

Stackhouse also commented on the bravery of her fellow performers and what performing alongside them meant to her.

“I feel like most women want to be empowered, but not a lot of women have the courage to speak up, come out there and scream ‘c***’ on a stage or be in lingerie,” she said. “It was really empowering to know I’m on a campus with women like this.”
Yet, *The Vagina Monologues* have not always been empowering for all women. The performance “They/Them” by Sophia Faiella spoke directly to Eve Ensler, the creator of *The Vagina Monologues*, about how transgender women were excluded from the narrative.

“Eve Ensler didn’t think my story deserved to be told,” Faiella said. “My monologue is my battle cry, my battle cry is my resistance.”

For many, the monologues resonated with them as their personal experiences aligned with the stories being told. For some, the show was eye-opening. MU senior Ben Cosgrove discussed the way he felt as a male audience member.

“[It was] more uncomfortable in the fact that I was kind of a grievance rather than this was weird or uncomfortable, more just that I couldn’t empathize or I hadn’t thought of that or considered that,” Cosgrove said.

MU graduate student Madelyne Maag, a first-time audience member and two-time *Vagina Monologues* performer, discussed the educational value of the performances.

“It’s not only a fun, very entertaining, empowering show; it’s about education and it’s about empowering women specifically about their bodies, no matter what their bodies look like,” Maag said.

She also described what it felt like performing some of the more intense pieces.

“We got really, really emotional, and we would break down sometimes just even performing this, and it’s like, look, we’re doing this for a purpose of getting out the message of this has happened,” she said.

While the majority of the performances were from Ensler’s *The Vagina Monologues*, three of the performances were written and performed by community members, showing great courage on their part. One performance in particular told the terror of the Franco regime in Spain and the pain mothers experienced after finding out their children they once thought dead had actually been stolen for the purpose of the regime. The shock during this performance was heard through the deafening silence of the crowd.

This and many other performances demonstrated a common voice opposing injustice against women. Director of Academic Retention Services and Assistant Vice Chancellor of the Division of Inclusion, Diversity & Equity Donell Young elaborated on the circumstances women often face.

“The reality is on a college campus women are actually outperforming men on so many different levels, but then when you go to outside of college, the disparity in pay just kind of blows my mind,” Young said.

Though Young offered his perspective, he did so reluctantly in fear of taking any of the spotlight away from the most important people of the night: the women who performed.
The monologues addressed more than just injustice in the sectors of opportunity and pay. “Coconut Oil” by Ayesha Vishnani, another community spotlight piece, addressed race. Vishnani questioned how she can learn to love her vagina if she has yet to learn how to love the color of her skin.

One of the most timely and grave issues stressed in the monologues was sexual assault, and in keeping with this theme, the proceeds from the show benefited the MU Stop the Violence Fund. Women broke apart on stage and put themselves together with words of empowerment and defiance, vowing to end the culture that perpetuates the allowance of rape and sexual violence.

“Until the violence stops, we will continue to do this,” said Justine Durham, who performed in “The Wear and Say Lists” and the “Not-So-Happy Fact.”