Universities still mulling deal to restore budget cuts

By Kurt Erickson St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON CITY • Public colleges and universities in Missouri are not on board with a plan to stave off state spending cuts.

As a House budget committee moved forward Wednesday with its version of a $27.8 billion spending plan, the restoration of $68 million in proposed cuts to the state’s four- and two-year institutions of higher learning remained in limbo.

House Budget Committee Chairman Scott Fitzpatrick wants to restore the reduction floated by Gov. Eric Greitens, but he also wants a guarantee from the universities that they will not raise tuition.

Under Fitzpatrick’s plan, $38 million will go toward filling the cut outlined by Greitens in his budget proposal. Another $30 million would go into a need-based scholarship program.

But, if universities agree to the tuition freeze, the $30 million would be released to the institutions.

“So far that deal has not been agreed to,” Fitzpatrick earlier said.

“My goal is to help the institutions out but I also want that to translate into the cost of college being held down,” Fitzpatrick, R-Shell Knob, told the committee last week.

Under state law, tuition for Missouri residents cannot be raised higher than the rate of inflation. This year, that cap is set at 2.1 percent. Separate legislation sponsored by Sen. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, would remove that limit in order to give universities more flexibility when it comes to addressing funding shortfalls from the state.

Universities, including the University of Missouri System, say they are still talking with their respective boards and cannot yet commit to Fitzpatrick’s plan.

“We are having discussions with legislative officials, with administrative officials at the four campuses and with the curators,” said UM spokesman Christian Basi.

Although the House committee is moving forward with its spending blueprint, there is time to resolve the tuition question. A vote in the full House isn’t expected until early April.
The Senate is also working on its budget proposal, with an eye on resolving any differences with the House by early May and sending it to Greitens’s desk for final approval.

Basi said the university is grateful for the attention the Legislature is giving to funding issues.

“They understand that higher education impacts the entire state,” Basi said.

Along with rejecting Greitens’ reductions to higher education, the House version of the budget restores $98 million that the embattled governor had sought to cut from elementary and secondary education.

With Greitens facing felony invasion of privacy charges, the House and Senate have been crafting a budget **without several key pieces of the proposed budget** he unveiled in January.

For example, lawmakers **are poised to reject Greitens’** call for a $25 million fund to help local communities pay for infrastructure improvements designed to bring jobs to the state.

They also have panned the governor’s plan for a $250 million loan fund that would help the state pay income tax returns faster.

The governor also had sought more than $700,000 to launch a fellowship program for people wanting paid internships in his administration. The program is similar to the White House program Greitens participated in before he was governor.

Rep. Michael Butler, D-St. Louis, failed to convince the committee to divert $250,000 from a state computer upgrade to help fund neighborhood watch programs in St. Louis.

“It’s just good sense for our state,” Butler said.

“We’re talking about anything that can help us maintain low crime rates,” added Rep. Karla May, D-St. Louis.

But, Fitzpatrick told his colleagues that he was uncomfortable diverting money from the Missouri Department of Revenue

“Unfortunately, I can’t support the amendment,” said Fitzpatrick.

Rep. Kathie Conway, R-St. Charles, also was unable to convince the committee to support her plan to earmark $499,999 for drunk driving checkpoints.

She said publicizing the checkpoints helps decrease drunk driving by keeping motorists off the street.

“Public safety is always in the forefront of most things I do,” Conway said.
But, Rep. Justin Hill, R-Lake Saint Louis, who is a former O’Fallon police officer, argued against the checkpoints, saying they allow police to stop motorists without probable cause.

“It’s just not effective anymore,” Hill said.

“I think we can still address drunk driving by leaving the money where it is,” added Rep. Phil Christofanelli, R-St. Peters.

Fitzpatrick said police departments can continue to have local checkpoints if they choose.

House lawmakers carve out funding for Springfield medical campus, pharmacy school

By Will Schmitt

JEFFERSON CITY — A collaborative effort to train doctors in Springfield is a little more likely to succeed thanks to a budget deal reached Wednesday between lawmakers and school officials.

State representatives tweaked and twisted Missouri's $28.8 billion budget Wednesday afternoon during the annual mark-up process, which allows lawmakers to change funding on a line-by-line basis.

Lawmakers have been eyeing details of Missouri's spending plan for the fiscal year starting in July since Gov. Eric Greitens released his recommendations in January.

Dozens of amendments and the discussions they spurred were overseen by Rep. Scott Fitzpatrick, R-Shell Knob, who chairs the House Budget Committee. Fitzpatrick was the author of the amendment that secured millions for the University of Missouri School of Medicine’s Springfield Clinical Campus in core college funding.

The agreement between budget leaders and the universities protects the collaborative programs, making them less vulnerable to being cut during budget negotiations with the Senate or as a line-item veto by Greitens, who recommended cutting numerous higher education initiatives in addition to core funding reductions.
"Hopefully, once that money's in the core, it won't be as easy to withhold," said Ryan DeBoef, chief of staff to MSU President Clif Smart. DeBoef testified in favor of the deal alongside University of Missouri System President Mun Choi.

The amendment from Fitzpatrick to fund collaborative higher-education programs involving the University of Missouri was approved without opposition.

The deal includes Mizzou's Springfield medical campus, a University of Missouri-Kansas City pharmacy program in Springfield and a collaboration to expand engineering education between MSU and Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla.

However, the deal comes at a cost — the proposed funding for the collaborative programs includes only about 60 percent of what had been expected, $10.2 million instead of $17 million.

The budget still needs majority approval from the full House before it goes to the Senate. After the Senate makes its own recommendations, the House and the Senate will hash out the differences and send their compromise to Greitens. The Missouri Constitution requires lawmakers to pass a balanced budget.

**Lawmakers want survey data**

Another of Greitens' consulting recommendations, to study how best to reward state workers, was targeted by Rep. Ingrid Burnett, D-Kansas City, who wanted to put the money toward juvenile legal cases handled by the state public defender's office.

Commissioner of Administration Sarah Steelman defended the recommendation. Steelman, a member of Greitens' cabinet, said the state currently didn't have the means to examine best practices for rewarding state employees.

However, there was almost no discussion of Burnett's amendment. Instead, lawmakers wanted survey data the executive branch has kept secret for months.

Fitzpatrick, Rep. Peter Merideth, D-St. Louis, and a bipartisan coalition of other curious state representatives asked Steelman about a free workforce survey conducted by a consulting firm that previously employed the state's chief operating officer.

Many lawmakers wondered why they had not seen the results of the survey, which were obtained by the News-Leader last week.

Steelman said she could not provide lawmakers with unredacted results because the data is proprietary and could not be disclosed without violating the state's contract with the survey consultant.

Fitzpatrick said that if the budget committee were to fund the performance study, state lawmakers would have to have access to all of the information.
"Don't enter a contract that we're paying for on this performance compensation study that would preclude the members of the General Assembly from seeing any of the information," Fitzpatrick told Steelman, adding that most everyone else on the committee wanted to cut her department's request.

Eventually, after grilling Steelman over the results, the budget committee returned to Burnett's amendment and defeated her proposal.

Merideth proposed a separate amendment to take away money for the performance compensation study and allocate it to state libraries, which also failed.

Rep. Crystal Quade, D-Springfield, wondered what the difference was between the goal of the study and the job description of the state's chief operating officer.

Fitzpatrick later said he thought it was "in the best interest of the state" to allow the study to go forward but instructed Steelman to provide Quade with more information about the COO's job.

**Numerous debates**

Lawmakers also had a heated discussion about whether to limit Missouri's ability to contract with entities that refuse to serve people on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation.

The sponsor, Merideth, said his amendment would prohibit taxpayer dollars being spent on contractors who discriminate against LGBTQ individuals, noting that entities who do business with Missouri already have to attest they do not discriminate on the basis of race or sex.

The committee defeated the amendment.

"I think that the language could be operationally problematic," said Fitzpatrick, who objected to the wording without opposing the amendment's anti-discrimination sentiments.

Rep. Kurt Bahr, R-St. Charles, recommended moving $15 million in subsidies for rural schools to fund Medicaid services for people with disabilities in an apparent bid to force tiny school districts to consolidate.

Bahr's amendment touched off a discussion that included the state's difficult choice between funding both its education and its health care obligations and the role of schools in rural communities.

"These small school districts are the entertainment of these areas," said Rep. Donna Lichtenegger, R-Jackson, referring to sporting events and concerts. "As much as I would love to consolidate, I know what happens to these small-town areas if you do that."

Sensing staunch opposition, Bahr withdrew his amendment before a vote could be taken.
Another relatively large education amendment was proposed by Rep. Bart Korman, R-High Hill, who suggested moving $10 million from the state K-12 aid formula to pay for transportation costs like school busing. This, too, was withdrawn prior to voting.

Fitzpatrick's budget includes a version of the pay increase Greitens recommended, increasing pay by several hundred dollars for thousands of state workers.

The ranking Democrat on the budget committee, Rep. Kip Kendrick of Columbia, was rebuffed in his efforts to allow money in the pay plan to offset premium increases for public employees covered by the Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan.

Fitzpatrick acknowledged the need to fund the state health care plan and also pledged more money for the Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan next year, but said Kendrick's amendment wasn't the way to do so.

Last year, lawmakers eliminated funding for sobriety checkpoints by allocating the money to saturation patrols instead. House budget writers considered and rejected Wednesday a partial reversal of that decision.

After a lengthy discussion, Fitzpatrick noted that local police departments could still perform checkpoints; they just can't use state funding to do so. The amendment to partially restore funding for checkpoints failed.

Rep. Justin Alferman, vice-chair of the House Budget Committee, followed through on his threat to try to strip money from the office of director of the Department of Health and Senior Services. Alferman, R-Hermann, had proposed a cut of at least 10 percent to Director Randall Williams' office because the state health department has not disclosed the number of positive tests for the Bourbon virus. A state park worker died in 2017 after being bitten by ticks thought to carry the rare, uncurable and occasionally fatal virus.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

No deal on tuition freeze as House panel reviews budget

By Rudi Keller

JEFFERSON CITY — State colleges and universities haven’t agreed to a tuition freeze and the House Budget Committee on Wednesday didn’t give the schools the money that would hold state support steady in the coming year.
Committee Chairman Scott Fitzpatrick put $30 million on the table last week as an incentive for the tuition freeze he sought in the coming fiscal year. When he set the money aside, he said all public colleges and universities had to agree not to hike tuition for resident undergraduate students or none would get the funds.

There is still time before the House floor debate, scheduled for later this month, to reach an agreement, Fitzpatrick, R-Shell Knob, said during a break in the committee’s work.

“They are still kind of working together on trying to come back to me with something,” Fitzpatrick said. “They need a little more time to process the options.”

For the coming fiscal year, public colleges and universities may increase tuition by up to 2.1 percent without violating the state law capping hikes. Schools that go above the cap must receive a waiver from Commissioner of Higher Education Zora Mulligan or face losing a portion of their state appropriation.

With another drop in enrollment looming for the University of Missouri’s Columbia campus and the uncertainty of state funding, President Mun Choi has been trying to get Fitzpatrick and others to see that the UM System is committed to holding down student costs. In an interview after the committee finished the higher education portion of its business, Choi listed lower dorm and meal plan rates and a new program to cover tuition for students receiving Pell grants as important steps to controlling student costs.

“We are all very committed to the goals” Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Dan Brown “has as well as Rep. Fitzpatrick that we need to provide affordable education for our students,” Choi said.

Brown, R-Rolla, has not called for a tuition freeze.

A precipitous drop in enrollment since the November 2015 campus protests and declining state support since Gov. Eric Greitens took office have forced significant cuts in the UM System. On the Columbia campus, an 8 percent cut in 2016 because of enrollment losses was followed by withholdings when Greitens took office in January 2017.

All state colleges and universities were cut by 9 percent in the current year from fiscal 2017 levels and Greitens sought an additional cut of 10 percent for the coming year. The cut proposed for the coming year would shave another $68 million off the $884.8 million in actual spending for colleges and universities in the current year. Greitens’s proposed cut, and another expected drop in enrollment, has the Columbia campus facing a $60 million shortfall in the coming year.

Fitzpatrick last week proposed a budget plan that restored $38 million of that amount and increased funding for the need-based Access Missouri scholarship program by $30 million. He said that if he could reach a deal on tuition, the money would be shifted from the scholarship programs to institution budgets.
Brown, however, has said he feels higher education has been cut enough and wants to restore the full amount.

State Rep. Kip Kendrick, D-Columbia and ranking Democratic member of the budget committee, said his understanding is that community colleges have agreed to Fitzpatrick’s proposal but that some four-year universities have resisted it.

The universities might think they will get a better deal in the end by waiting for Brown’s version of the budget and hope it prevails in the final version, but that could be a mistake, Kendrick said.

The committee followed through on Fitzpatrick’s plan to take $10.2 million for four UM collaborative programs and include it in the base allocation. Fitzpatrick’s deal is to give UM and its partner institutions, Missouri State University and Missouri Southern State University, 60 percent of the money requested if they will agree to find the remainder from internal sources.

One of those programs, a medical education partnership in Springfield, will allow MU to increase the number of doctors in training each year to 128 from the current 100 to 105, Choi told the committee.

“We have every intention of meeting the obligations of this program because it is very important to the state,” Choi said.

Greitens did not recommend any funding for the programs. If he vetoes or withholds the money and lawmakers do not override his actions the programs will close or be cancelled, Choi said.

A constitutional amendment passed in 2014 enhanced legislative authority to alter a governor’s decisions on spending. Along with the power to override vetoed appropriations, lawmakers can now override a governor’s withholding actions.

Both Kendrick and Fitzpatrick said they would support overrides if Greitens cuts appropriations without being able to show there is a revenue shortage.

“If we are above the consensus revenue estimate and he chooses to withhold, I think there will be a strong preference for overrides if that is the case,” Fitzpatrick said.
House committee finalizes first draft of 2019 budget

TYLER WORNELL

JEFFERSON CITY — The first iteration of the House's 2019 budget has been approved. It included restoration of higher education cuts, fully funding the K-12 foundation formula and additional funds for the Department of Transportation.

During a marathon meeting Wednesday, members of the committee debated and offered dozens of amendments to the original $28 billion proposal that was unveiled last week. It includes several key differences from the governor's recommendations.

Using money it set aside in 2017 because of uncertainties about the federal reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program, the committee gave $68 million back to universities that Gov. Eric Greitens cut in his proposal. Only $38 million will go directly to the schools. The other $30 million will go to the Access Missouri scholarship fund and will be given to the universities if they agree to freeze tuition next year.

Budget Chairman, Rep. Scott Fitzpatrick, R-Shell Knob, said last week the purpose of doing that is to ensure colleges are keeping themselves affordable. Schools haven't agreed to that deal yet, Fitzpatrick said Wednesday.

University of Missouri System Spokesman Christian Basi said Wednesday the system is still having discussions with administrators at each of the four campuses, the board of curators, public higher education leaders and legislators on the tuition deal. He reiterated that the UM System has been "extremely appreciative" of the efforts of legislators to restore funding cuts and said public higher education institutions remain committed to keeping college affordable.
The budget will also fund four cooperative programs at 60 percent of the level universities requested for the programs, and the funding will be rolled into universities' core budgets. Previously, these programs were separate "line items," meaning they were funded outside of core budgets.

One of those programs is the MU School of Medicine's cooperative program in Springfield. UM System President Mun Choi told the budget committee Wednesday that the program, when fully funded, will have 128 students annually who focus on providing primary care in rural Missouri.

"In order for us to meet the full obligation of these programs, we're going to have to find efficiencies, and also we're going to have to find some subsidies from other parts of the university," Choi said. "Because of the lower funding, it will take us additional time to ramp up in terms of getting facilities available, as well as hiring faculty members, but we have every intention of meeting that obligation."

The committee also chose to fill a $50 million gap that will fully fund the foundation formula for K-12 education. The foundation formula is used to augment state aid to public schools. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education had requested about $100 million to fully fund the formula, but Greitens' budget only provided half that.

The $50 million gap was created when the General Assembly fully funded the formula last year, kicking in a provision that pre-K students would count toward the formula this year.

Rep. Kurt Bahr, R-St. Charles, proposed moving $15 million in subsidies to rural schools to Medicaid services, but that was met with much opposition. As the committee digressed to a debate about the foundation formula, Bahr said the foundation formula is flawed and shouldn't be treated as a "sacred cow."

"When you don't fully fund the formula, you create distortions among school districts... and I don't like that," Fitzpatrick said. "If you want to fix the formula, great. But until you do that, my plan is to fully fund it."
The committee managed to add $250,000 to the K-12 transportation fund, which has declined over the past few years. Greitens claimed to add $2 million to the fund in his proposal, but it was through a reallocation of funds that he had withheld this year, meaning that his total was still less than last year's original allocation.

The $250,000 was cut from a division within the Department of Agriculture. Rep. Bart Korman, R-High Hill, offered an amendment that would have taken $10 million from the foundation formula and put it toward transportation funding, but he withdrew it after discussion indicated little support.

In an attempt to help fix Missouri's crumbling infrastructure, the budget also includes an additional $160 million for the Department of Transportation to use on construction projects. The committee's original proposal last week included only half that, but an amendment Wednesday added the other half.

The state is sorely lacking in funds for roads and bridges, and MoDOT estimates it needs more than $800 million for repairs. Some legislators are trying to get the additional funds by raising taxes. A bill moving through the Senate would raise the gas tax by 2 percent, while a tax bill that passed out of a House committee Monday would instead increase vehicle-use taxes.

The budget still needs approval from the full House before it will move to the Senate, where further changes can be made.
House committee offers to restore funding to higher education

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 7:49:00 PM CDT in News

By: Lindsey Fafoglia, KOMU 8 Reporter

JEFFERSON CITY - The House budget committee is offering to restore funding to higher education, so long as state colleges and universities refrain from increasing tuition.

"At this point, $38 million of the proposed $68 million in cuts has been restored to the core," Rep. Kip Kendrick D-Columbia said.

He said the house budget committee would officially vote on it by the end of Wednesday.

"And I fully expect it will pass," Kendrick said.

This restored funding comes from House Budget Committee Chairman Scott Fitzpatrick's state spending plan, which was presented last week. It will restore funding to higher education after Gov. Eric Greiten's proposed budget cuts of at least $68 million to higher education.

"At this point, there is still $30 million dollars that's hanging out there. It's currently parked in the Missouri Access Program, a needs-based program," he said.
Kendrick said the chair's intent is to reach an agreement on holding tuition as flat as possible, before that money would be completely restored.

"This is still very early on in the process, this is the House's attempt to restore the funding," he said. "Hopefully by the time we get the bills passed out of the House in late March to early April we have some type of agreement, and are able to restore that money."

If there is no agreement, Kendrick said they will look to the Senate for additional funding for what has been recommended to be cut from higher education.

There is no word from colleges and universities on whether they will reach an agreement to not increase tuition.

KOMU 8 News reached out to MU News Bureau Director Christian Basi for comment, but did not receive a response.

"I think at this point, there are a few hold-outs on reaching a full agreement, and I think all the four-year institutions, before any of them move forward individually, they want to come together as a group and make sure they're all on the same page on this," Kendrick said.

If the universities don't reach an agreement on the house side, then the $30 million will stay in the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program, which is the only needs-based scholarship program in the state. Kendrick said he is happy that the money is in this line item, but he hopes to restore that money to the institutions, as well.

"To make sure that we are making college affordable and accessible for middle income, low income individuals, but then also making sure that the institutions are in the least worst situation possible, heading into the FY19 budget year."

He said there is also special initiative line items, such as the University of Missouri partnership, expansion of the medical school program in Springfield, the dental school expansion, and a few others.
The funding for these items was restored to the 60 percent level, and that money will be moved from line items to the core funding, in order to protect them from future budget cuts, Kendrick said.

**MISSOURIAN**

**Mizzou Giving Day fundraising far outpacing last year's**

BY ELENA K. CRUZ

An hour and a half into MU’s 24-hour fundraiser called Mizzou Giving Day, the university had received over $1.7 million in donations.

Four hours later, that number grew to about $5 million, all from private funds.

By 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Mizzou Giving Day had already raised over half the $8.3 million it received in 2017. At that time, more than 18 hours remained in the campaign.

The second annual Mizzou Giving Day began at noon Wednesday, and members of the MU Advancement Team and Mizzou Alumni Association have been inviting students, alumni and community members to donate money during the 24-hour-long event.

“Our main goal is just to get as many people involved as possible,” said Eric Ferguson, MU associate director of advancement creative services. “We don’t really have a dollar goal, but we just want to get as many people interested, involved and invested if they so choose to make a gift.”

The event holds extra weight since Gov. Eric Greitens proposed over $98 million in state budget cuts to higher education in the 2019 fiscal year, Ferguson said. He said private donations can’t make up for all the money at stake, but they can help bring money to the school after outside funds have been cut.
“Private support is always important, but especially in times where we can’t do everything we would want because our funding isn’t what it used to be,” Ferguson said.

Donors can give money to individual colleges, funds, programs and campus locations through the event, which are listed on Mizzou Giving Day’s website alongside their running totals. People can also donate to Rally Mizzou, which directs scholarship money to students who owe $2,000 or less to the university.

“One of the core messages of Giving Day is that if it’s $10 or it’s more than $10, every gift matters,” Ferguson said.

The Mizzou Alumni Association added in its Scholarship Challenge this year, where 41 alumni chapters or affiliated organizations around the country are each matching up to $2,500 in donations. The money will then be given as scholarships to local students enrolling in MU.

“It’s kind of fun; it’s a way to double the money a little bit,” said association’s Executive Director Todd McCubbin. “All those groups love to raise money to send local students to Mizzou.”

The event is also keeping its online focus, allowing donors to give money online and inviting people to participate in social media challenges. The winner receives extra money, which can be donated to any school, college or program on Giving Day.

One challenge, appropriately titled “Draw Your Logo,” asked people to draw a replica of the MU tiger logo. While many replicated the logo on paper, some became more creative.

“The engineering’s 3-D printing program, they tweeted out a picture of the 3-D tiger logo, and like OK, that’s pretty hard to beat,” Ferguson said. “The one that actually did win was a pie crust with the Mizzou logo in icing or whatever – we were having a debate about what it was – but they won, because you know, it’s Pi Day.”

McCubbin said he also gave money to six organizations during the fundraiser: the Mizzou Alumni Association, the Boone County Mizzou Alumni Association chapter, the College of Education, the School of Health Professions, the Tiger Scholarship Fund and Rally Mizzou.
“I think it’s very important that if you work here, you’ve got to be part of that process,” McCubbin said.
“So, I made our gifts today – my wife’s and my gifts – and I’m very proud of that and happy to support different places on campus.”

Mailed donations will also be accepted through March 16. Donors can call 866-267-7568 for further instructions.

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**Mizzou scheduled to host annual Spring Safety Fair**

**Story generated by MU News Bureau media advisory:**  
MU to host Spring Safety Fair

By Elizabeth Duesenberg

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri will host its annual Spring Safety Fair on Thursday.

During the fair, students are taught how to properly secure their residence and stay safe over spring break.

University police are asking students to make sure all doors and window are locked and to stop the mail.

When traveling, students are advised to secure important documents, not to carry large amounts of cash and monitor their alcohol intake.

The MU Sustainability Office is asking students to unplug the electronics that are not in use, turn the air conditioning up and the heat down, and to purchase and use light timers to control when the lights are on and off at their house.

The event will take place at the Student Center. It starts at 11 a.m. and goes until 2 p.m.
Frat Life On Hold At KU And MU Campuses

By Steve Kraske and Claire Verbeck

Accusations and investigations result in new rounds of discipline at both universities.

After allegations of hazing and sexual assault, 24 of the 28 fraternities at the University of Kansas and all 29 at the University of Missouri - Columbia have temporarily suspended a number of activities. Today, we asked what led to these decisions and whether it is indicative of a attitude change in fraternity culture nationwide.

- Sara Shepherd, reporter, Lawrence Journal-World
- Sarah Brown, reporter, Chronicle of Higher Education
- Claire Mitzel, University of Missouri junior and reporter, The Missourian
- Nathan Lawrence, digital content director, KBIA
As MU fraternity house closes, fate of historical site is unclear

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 3:05:00 PM CDT in Top Stories

By: Ian Nickens, KOMU 8 Reporter

COLUMBIA – The University of Missouri chapter of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity is closing, which will leave its house, a registered historic landmark, empty for at least four years.

SAE is closing at MU after its national chapter determined it had violated multiple health and safety violations and failed to follow the national guidelines. National SAE doesn't clarify what those violations were, but it was the one that decided to close the fraternity.

Director of the MU News Bureau Chrisian Basi said the information that led to SAE's closing went through the national branch. The university had no part in it, but it thinks the closure is necessary.

"The university supports the decision," Basi said.

The reason why the fraternity will be closed for at least four years is to ensure all of its current members will have left MU by then.

SAE Communications Director Johnny Sao said, in a statement, SAE hope to return to campus in the future.
The SAE house is considered historically significant because it's served multiple functions, including a military academy and a women's dormitory.

Anything registered as a historical site in the National Register is considered historically significant to a local community, the state, or the country.

Registered historic sites get consideration whenever federal projects are under construction in their area. It also receives tax credits and eligibility for federal grants.

Something becomes a registered landmark with the Missouri State Historical Society when someone fills out a form to nominate it for that status. The application is extensive and asks for location, owner names, materials, geographic locations, photographs, and a documented history of the location.

However, being registered as a historical site doesn't guarantee safety for buildings or landmarks. The federal government lets private owners do whatever they please with their property. They can sell it, lease it, or even destroy it.

The preservation laws vary from state to state and city to city, so one city may prevent an owner from changing a historical location while another may not care.

SAE won't be back at MU for at least four years, but when it comes back, its old house may be gone.

"A local house corporation owns and operates the house," SAE Communications Director Johnny Sao said. "They will determine what will happen with the house."

The owners of the house declined to comment.
Hear the Tigers roar

By Columbia Daily Tribune

The following editorial was written by the Columbia Daily Tribune’s Editorial Board:

It’s been a good year for University of Missouri athletes and sports fans.

Not only did the Tigers football team reach a bowl game for the first time in years, but the men’s and women’s basketball teams made it to the big dance. It’s the first time both programs have been swept up in March Madness since 2001.

The women’s basketball team, a five seed, are poised for a deep run in the NCAA tourney when they begin play Saturday against Florida Gulf Coast. The eighth-seeded men’s team will head to Nashville with its star attraction, Michael Porter Jr., laced up and ready to play against Florida State on Friday.

Few were surprised that the women’s team (24-7, 11-5) was among the best in the nation behind the stellar play of Sophie Cunningham and Co. More surprising was that the men’s team (20-12, 10-8) reached 20 wins despite only getting a few minutes of play from one of the most high-profile recruits in school history. Imagine if Porter Jr. had been healthy all year. Senior guard Kassius Robertson stepped up in a big way, leading the team with 16 points per game and being named to the All-Southeastern Conference first team.

Mizzou’s athletic excellence isn’t relegated to the gridiron and hardwood, however. The gymnastics team, ranked 21st in the nation, defeated No. 5 Florida earlier this month at the Hearnes Center. It was the first time in 23 contests that the Tigers defeated the Gators.

Mizzou’s wrestling team finished a perfect 19-0 season and is ranked third in the nation heading into the NCAA Tournament on Thursday. The Tigers are sending nine wrestlers to the tournament, making it the fourth-straight time at least nine grapplers have made the tournament.

Most recently on Tuesday, track and field standout Karissa Schweizer was named the Women’s National Track Athlete of the Year by the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. This came after Schweizer won her fourth and fifth national titles, the most in Mizzou program history. Her two most recent titles, in the 3,000 meters and 5,000 meters, was just the fifth time in NCAA history that a female runner had won national titles in both events at the same meet.
Our hats go off to these coaches and athletes, and to MU Athletic Director Jim Sterk, for an amazing year thus far. We’re excited to see what Mizzou’s baseball and softball teams have in store for us next.

**BUSINESS INSIDER**

The sex politics roiling the GOP are coming to a head in Missouri this week as Trump rallies for a Senate candidate

By Eliza Relman

President Donald Trump is making his third trip to Missouri as president on Wednesday, where he'll promote GOP tax cuts and campaign for Republican Senate candidate Josh Hawley, whose race offers one of the GOP's best chances to turn a blue Senate seat red in November.

But Trump's visit, amid the president's latest sex scandal involving a porn star, might draw the wrong kind of attention to a candidate who's attempting to distance himself from some messy sex scandals plaguing his allies.

In just the last few months, Missouri's Republican governor, Eric Greitens, has admitted to having an extramarital affair with his hair stylist and has been indicted on felony charges of threatening to blackmail her with a nude photo; Courtland Sykes, a far-right candidate for Senate, called feminists "career-obsessed banshees" with "nasty, snake-filled heads"; and Hawley himself made national headlines after attributing the problem of sex trafficking to the sexual revolution of the 1960s and 1970s.

"We're living now with the terrible after-effects of this so-called revolution, which was in fact I think a great step back. And one of them is, one of those effects, is a crisis in our country that goes by the name of human trafficking," [Hawley said in an audio recording](https://www.politico.com/story/2018/05/15/josh-hawley-senate-core-values-024341) of his speech at a meeting of Christian conservatives in which he urged the audience to "preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Incumbent Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill jumped at the chance to hit back at her opponent on an issue he championed as attorney general.

"I didn't go to one of those fancy private schools, but the history I learned in public schools & Mizzou taught me that the evidence of trafficking of women for sex goes back to before 2000 BC," she tweeted. "It didn't begin with women's rights and the birth control pill."
Brooke Goren, the communications director for Missouri's Democratic party, told Business Insider that Hawley's comments show his "disdain for the progress that women have made toward gaining equal rights."

Missouri Republican strategist James Harris says Hawley's comments were taken out of context and will have little impact on the race. He added that the attorney general’s work on sex trafficking appeals to moderate GOP women.

"He's the most thoughtful person, the most respectful of all citizens," Harris told Business Insider. "Suburban women will feel very comfortable voting with him."

But recent history suggests that Missouri voters do, in fact, care when their politicians make controversial comments about women.

It was GOP Senate candidate Todd Akin's famous argument that "legitimate rape" rarely results in pregnancy that paved the way to McCaskill's 2012 victory.

Peverill Squire, a political scientist at the University of Missouri, says Hawley's comments likely raised alarm bells among Republican donors and party leaders because it "raised the specter of the Akin debacle."

And John Messmer, a political scientist running for a US House seat from Missouri, said that general "chaos" in the Missouri GOP may well discourage voters from supporting Hawley.

"Hanging over the head of every Missouri Republican is this sense of chaos. First Greitens (and to a lesser extent, Trump) and now the stuff clinging to Hawley," Messmer, a Democrat, told Business Insider in an email. "My sense is that even the most conservative Missouri Republican is disappointed with how chaotic and dysfunctional the party leadership appears. It won't cause them to vote for McCaskill, of course, but it might cause some of them to just not vote at all."

Some Republicans agree that the Greitens's and Trump's sex scandals are liabilities for Hawley and others in the party.

"Unfortunately, for Missouri Republicans, all of our Republicans are going to have to answer questions about President Trump, about Governor Greitens," Scott Dieckhaus, a Missouri Republican strategist, told Business Insider. "It's going to be a choice for Republicans if they want to stay at arm's-length from those folks and try to differentiate themselves or if they want to embrace the president and the governor and the possible risks that come with that."

**Suburban women are the battleground**

Hawley's support among college-educated suburban women will be key to a victory over McCaskill in the competitive contest in November, but this is precisely the group whose votes may be most affected by allegations of sexism or mistreatment of women.

"Missouri's senate race is likely to be decided in the St. Louis and Kansas City suburbs," Squire told Business Insider. "Hawley can ill afford to get tagged with any sort of sexist label, whether through association or from his own comments."
The Washington Post interviewed a range of Republican-voting women in Missouri last month who say they are increasingly unhappy with the president's treatment of women and the GOP's sexist undertones.

"It's frustrating knowing that the person that's leading our country doesn't necessarily prioritize or have respect for women the way that I think that the president should," Audrey Smithe, a 29-year-old recruiter who described herself as a Republican-leaning independent, told The Post.

But Missourians are, overall, more supportive of Trump than voters in most other parts of the country. A January Gallup poll found the president's approval in the state at 47% (with 48% disapproval), and Republicans argue that the majority of voters are supportive of Trump's policy agenda, if not his rhetoric.

So the party hopes a visit from Trump will steer the debate to national policy issues like tax cuts and job growth.

"The economy's improving, wages are going up, there's more job growth. And those are the issues that matter," Harris said. "The vast majority of Missouri voters are thankful we have President Trump."

Editorial: Former MSA candidates’ past tweets are telling of MU’s current struggles

By The Maneater Editorial Board

After platforms were announced March 5 for Missouri Students Association president and vice president, KCOU journalists Brett Stover and Cassie Florido uncovered tweets from candidates on each of the three slates that contained racist, homophobic and sexist remarks. The content of the tweets ranged from the use of racial slurs to a photo of what appears to be one of the candidates posing in front of a Confederate flag. After apologies were released by the individuals involved, MSA Student Court decided March 6 to suspend the election.

The actions by the former candidates come at a time when MU is still trying to heal the wounds from the 2015 protests. The language that was used by these former candidates was in poor taste and incredibly harmful. It should come as no surprise that individuals who seek power must be held responsible for their prior actions and beliefs. We acknowledge the fact that people change, however, and as journalists, our job is not to represent individuals based purely off of their positive actions.

Rhetoric used by former presidential candidate Claire Jacobs in her apology said that Stover was using the tweets as his “journalistic golden ticket.” This statement deflects from the issue at hand.
and attempts to dismiss his dedication to journalistic ethics. Stover was simply doing his job, not searching for his “golden ticket,” and the candidate’s statement should not detract from that.

After the 2016 U.S. presidential election, a period in which Twitter was so heavily used by candidates and political commentators, it should come as no surprise that people who could potentially gain positions of power face increased scrutiny based on their electronic footprint. Everything that an individual puts on their social media, private or not, can be used in the future. People in power need to have an especially clean social media presence.

In this case, that kind of behavior was not reflected by the former MSA candidates. It is concerning that individuals with these kinds of pasts feel they should represent the MU student body. The BEC could have more than likely prevented this from happening by enforcing some sort of screening process for candidates. The more worrisome possibility is that if Stover had not investigated the candidates, these truths could have come to light after the election. The situation could have been much worse — one of these candidates could have been elected.

The information that came to light is telling of MSA. Something is wrong if these people are deemed as the best candidates to lead our student government and garner so much support without hundreds of students actually researching who they were supporting. The student body should look into past tweets and other online statements made by members of all forms of student-run governments at MU. The university should take time to further examine those in positions of power in order to continue to heal and learn from prior mistakes.

Letter to the Editor: Title IX needs to change
May 18, 2017. My day started as a day filled with friends, drinking and fun. That night, however, is fuzzy in every sense of the word. I remember going in and out of consciousness in an apartment that was not mine while repeating, “I don’t want to make out.” The next morning, I woke up naked. My rapist told me he had had sex with me. I thought this was the most devastating thing that could happen to me, but the level of trauma associated with my Title IX case proved me wrong.

My Title IX hearing had arrived after months of hearing the things my rapist had said about me: “She’s only doing this because I didn’t want to date her,” “I feel she is using her status as a woman to claim that I mistreated her and sexually assaulted her,” “I don’t believe that if you got sexually assaulted you would communicate with someone about getting belongings back” and “She filed the report because I’m black.” I came to Title IX terrified of the process but wanting justice for myself. In spite of the anxiety leading up to the hearing, I stood up to my rapist and had told my truth. Then, to even better news, I received the news that the panel had found him responsible, 2-1, for sexual misconduct, underage drinking and failure to comply with directions of university officials. His sanctions were expulsion from all four UM System schools, meaning he was not allowed to step foot on these campuses unless it was for medical care. I had gotten
justice, and I was heard and supported. I could finally heal from the depression, self-harm and lack of self-worth I experienced after my rape. I finally felt some relief. Just a few months later, however, that relief was taken away from me by the Office for Civil Rights & Title IX.

Dec. 7, 2017. I was sitting on my couch with my friends before work, feeling genuinely happy and well. I had celebrated my victory; I was starting to feel safe again and I wasn’t feeling so empty anymore. Then, I received an email that sent my body into panic. In my inbox was an email saying that my hearing was completely appealed. I was informed I was going to have to go through an entirely new hearing. The Title IX office made a mistake in including the rapist’s past Title IX misconduct, earning him a completely new case. I was devastated. Title IX is meant to support me as a survivor, but instead they made a mistake large enough to result in me having to relive the hardest three hours of my life over again. To read that all the strength you had put into something and all the trauma you had faced was not enough is a feeling I struggle to put into words. It was like reliving the trauma all over again. I felt betrayed by a system made to help me. That is not fair.

Before my second hearing, I felt powerless. Title IX had given my rapist weeks to prepare for a hearing, meaning he could prepare exactly what to say. He made up new information that was never mentioned in the first hearing. However, I could not make any mention of the first hearing or that he was changing his story. I could not offer new information about my experience because I was completely incapacitated and in a blackout state at the time of the rape. This man could say anything he wanted about that night and could frame it how he wanted without any repercussions. He rambled on for over an hour, repeating that he’s “not a rapist” over and over again. I was grilled about my Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner exam because they did not understand how to read one. SANE is an exam that should be thoroughly understood by a Title IX hearing panel. I was asked questions that suggested they already had decided that they believed my rapist, ignoring any of my accounts of what happened.

3-0. After all of this additional trauma, the panel found him not responsible for sexual misconduct. He was found responsible for underage drinking and failure to comply with directions of university officials. Despite him being found not responsible for sexual misconduct, he was conveniently suspended from campus until the semester after my graduation. My rapist appealed the finding and stated that the sanctions were too strong considering what he had been found responsible for. He was denied this appeal, and the process is now officially final. His sanctions still stand. While I am elated that my rapist no longer attends the university, he was not expelled for raping me. His expulsion was degraded to a suspension, all because of the mistakes made during the first hearing.

I cannot change what happened to me. The trauma associated with losing any sense of bodily autonomy is done. But what I can do is speak up. I cannot sit idly by while the Office for Civil Rights & Title IX makes mistakes like these. The office is supposed to support victims. No victim deserves to be put through this psychological abuse because of mistakes made by this office. So here I am, writing this in order to start a conversation at MU that will fuel change. We cannot let these mistakes slip through the cracks. Future victims are in danger. No one should feel this kind of pain. Please help me make change, because victims should always be supported.

Thank you for your time,
The latest MU theater department production expands discussion on domestic violence

By Hannah McFadden

Between 1912 and 1914, three women in Great Britain drowned in their bathtubs. It first seemed like a coincidence, until authorities realized that all three women had been married to the same man, George Joseph Smith. In one of the earliest forensic court cases, it was discovered that Smith had murdered three of his wives for their life insurance. His murder victims became known as the “Brides in the Bath.”

Now, the MU theater department is bringing the dark and scandalous tale to life in its production of *The Drowning Girls*, which runs from March 14-18.

*The Drowning Girls* is a dramatic retelling of Smith’s trial from the point of view of his three late wives. By giving the power of the narrative to Smith’s victims, the women regain control over their story and are provided a space to discuss the violence they’ve encountered.

The play will be followed by a talk-back session that will allow the audience to be included in a discussion on gender and power-based violence. The talk backs will include a panel of representatives from the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center, the Counseling Center and the Office for Civil Rights & Title IX. The panel will also include Heather Carver, chair of the theater department and co-founder of the Troubling Violence Performance Project, and English Ph.D. student Trisha Henderson-Brown.

“These are people who have both expertise in the subject area and experience in this kind of community education,” Director Sarah Senff said. “I really want to hear from the audience what the play brought up for them, what they believe is the same and what has changed since the time that the play is talking about and what is it in culture that still leaves women inclusively considered vulnerable to power-based violence.”

*The Drowning Girls* was chosen for the theater department’s 2017-18 season last spring, months before the #MeToo movement and national conversation about sexual violence started. Now, the show’s message is more relevant than ever.

“I think the fact that we’re in the midst of a national conversation about gendered violence and the fact that it’s Women’s History Month make it a little more present than it would be
otherwise,” Senff said. “I suspect that the audience will bring bits of that into their experience of the show.”

Senff stressed the importance of staging the show and monitoring the discussion so that it wouldn’t be triggering for the actors or audience members with personal histories of domestic violence.

“I find it really empowering to both provide support to people who are dealing with that and to those who want to better understand how to be supportive bystanders, but you want to be able to have a conversation about these issues without really triggering any histories,” Senff said.

Senff is doing this for her cast by incorporating body-based acting exercises rather than emotion-based ones. She’s also included different self-care practices in rehearsals such as stretching, guided breathing and mindfulness.

Additionally, after each show, the actors have a chance to “derole.” They state out loud that they are not their character and that they are themselves. This allows the actors to detach from the characters and engage in the discussion.

Senff hopes these measures will help both the cast of the show and the audience members ease into the discussion.

“We’ve gotten a little bit better at talking about sexual assault, partially because of what’s happening nationally,” Senff said. “But we still really don’t know how to talk about domestic and intimate partner violence. They’re both kinds of power-based personal violence, so they’re connected but not the same.”

Senff wants the audience to reflect upon the ways women have become more independent yet differently vulnerable with time. Women have become less financially dependent and therefore are less likely to overlook warning signs in relationships. However, new technology has made people vulnerable to harassment and stalking in new venues, Senff said.

“We need to learn to navigate that,” Senff said. “I think it’s important to talk about the ways culture is making us vulnerable and not let the conversation shift to actions of individuals, which can quickly turn to victim blaming.”
Women’s Leadership Conference aims to educate and empower local women

By Siena Debolt

With Women’s History Month in progress, students, staff and local businesswomen are preparing for the Women’s Leadership Conference, an annual event held by MU to educate and empower women. This year, the conference is also celebrating 150 years since the first woman was admitted to the school.

Jennifer Fowler, the conference’s executive director and a junior at MU, said the conference is built around four pillars: networking, education, diversity and empowerment.

“So basically what we do is we come together and look to past years and what was important in past years,” Fowler said. “We paid attention to big issues and movements going around right now, like the ‘me too.’ and ‘TIME’S UP’ movements. We look at what’s important in women’s empowerment right now because we think that’s the best thing that will stick with and inspire the women who come.”

This year, the conference will focus on the “YOUnity” motto.

“Aside from just being a play on words, what ‘YOUnity’ means to us is we want to be a conference that represents all forms of women and representations of women, and even if they go against what is traditionally viewed as a woman, there is so much more to that and there’s a bigger picture,” said Clare Gannon, a marketing chair for the conference. “We wanted ‘YOUnity’ to be whatever your version of a woman is — if you are a woman, then this is for you.”

At the Women’s Leadership Conference, attendees will start off by sharing breakfast and then going into two breakout sessions. Once they return, they will eat lunch and listen to a keynote speaker, attend another breakout session and then come back for another speaker and a networking reception.

The two keynote speakers at this year’s conference are Lauren Ash and Nadya Okamoto. Ash is a wellness guru and podcaster who created Black Girl In Om, a website and podcast built around black women’s beauty and health. Okamoto is a sophomore at Harvard University who founded the Period Movement, which aims to educate women about their menstrual cycles and provides sanitary menstrual products to women in need.

“We kind of based [the keynote speakers] on the focus of the conference, and we all submitted five women who we thought would be good keynote speakers and representations of women as a
whole,” Gannon said. “From there, we narrowed it down and voted as a team for who was going to be the best for the conference.”

The conference’s executive board hopes the conference will help unite women on campus and within the community.

“I’m a senior, and what made me want to get involved during my last year is kind of letting people know that we have this amazing event,” Gannon said. “I really wanted all women to know that they have this opportunity, too. Hopefully I was able to reach other corners of campus that didn’t know we had this event as well.”

The Women’s Leadership Conference will be held at the Tiger Hotel on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. Tickets are available through March 14 at the MSA/GPC Box Office.

Ousted Mizzou softball coach hired as hometown high school AD

By Cam Smith

Longtime University of Missouri softball coach Ehren Earleywine took the road less traveled when looking for his next job: He went back to high school.

Earleywine was ousted as the head softball coach for the Tigers just days before the start of the 2018 season. Missouri reached eight super regionals and three Women’s College World Series under his watch. Now he’s out of coaching altogether, after accepting a job as the director of athletics for his hometown district, Jefferson City Public Schools.

“Ehren brings a wealth of experience as a collegiate coach, a parent, an athlete and a former Jaybird,” Gary Verslues, assistant superintendent of secondary education for Jefferson City Public Schools, said in a statement that was captured by the Kansas City Star. “He has many professional connections at the regional, state and national levels that will be extremely beneficial to our district. He is a winner.”

Earleywine’s winning record is beyond dispute, but he does not arrive without controversy.
As noted by the Star, Earlywine was pushed out in January by Missouri athletic director Jim Sherk, who cited issues with Earlywine’s leadership style and effectiveness. He immediately clapped back in a bristling public statement that concluded, “but now it’s someone else’s problem.”

That it is. Soon enough, Earlywine will have new problems of his own, all focused on the Jefferson City school district.