



# Associated Students of the UNIVERSITY of MISSOURI

Board of Directors, Regular Session  
January 29, 2018 | 3:00pm – 4:30pm

*Called by* Steven Chaffin, Board Chair & Executive Director  
*Recorded by* Jordan Lucas, Board Vice Chair

- 3:00pm: Welcome – meeting begins with a quorum present
  - The board members introduced themselves
  - Chelsea Spence notified board members that she will accept Venmo transfers to donate to a scholarship fund in memory of Emily Ross's brother
  - Legislative Update:
    - Consent Education is moving along nicely and has been referred to committees in both houses as SB 788 and HB 2234. The legislative team will be taking suggestions for students that can testify in support of these bills
    - Mental Health has been filed as SB 785, but is awaiting filing on the House side
    - STEM may be unconstitutional in its current form, but the legislative team is exploring other options to move it forward
    - Affordability took a hit with the release of the governor's budget proposal, but several key legislators have signaled that the proposed cuts won't be left entirely intact
  - Chapter Reports
    - MU – several members attended the Boone County Legislative Forum where the budget was discussed; student government is organizing a "call day" to encourage legislators to fully fund higher education
    - STL – a similar "call day" effort will be taking place throughout the semester that will be coordinated in conjunction with monthly voter registration tabling; campus constitution is almost finalized
    - S&T – campus constitution is being updated; tabling for voter registration monthly or biweekly; lunch and learn events
    - KC – the chapter will continue sponsoring several student veteran programs this semester; student government symposium
  - Tuition Cap
    - Jordan reviews the issue with tuition caps; currently UM System universities are only allowed by law to increase tuition at the same pace as price inflation from one year to the next. Due to recurring budget cuts to higher education, the UM System was expected to lobby for the repeal of the tuition cap. At the previous meeting, the board discussed what



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position the students should take. Some board members were opposed to the repeal of tuition caps, but ultimately the board decided to take a “wait and see” approach to determine if the UM System would indeed lobby for the repeal of the tuition caps

- Steven informs the board that there are two bills that address this issue:
  - SB 912 is moving quickly and is being supported by the UM System. This bill increases the cap by 10% (CPI+10%) and removes the waiver process
  - SB 759 may be sidelined. This locks in tuition for any particular student for the duration of that student’s degree program. A violation of this cap results in a 5% reduction in that campus’s budget
- Steven says the “locked in” tuition could result in greater increases in tuition for incoming students than would have otherwise taken place
- Chris Dade tells the board that he has read research indicating that tuition caps likely result in fee increases and aren’t very effective in controlling the cost of higher education
- Jordan expresses disapproval for SB 759 because of the punishment for violating the cap and the “locked in” tuition because this can disproportionately hurt incoming students, but says he is generally supportive of CPI+10%
- Nathan Willett says the MU “locked in” library fee hurt incoming students
- Paul Black points out that a “locked in” tuition could be even worse during enrollment drops. The survey question about tuition increases and education quality were basically split
- Steven says the issue boils down to two questions: where does the board stand on tuition caps and what’s our role?
- Chris points out that graduates depend on the UM System to provide quality education because the value of a UM System degree is dependent upon this. Tuition increase may be necessary to achieve this
- Adam Mire says SB 912 doesn’t seem too bad because something has to give eventually
- Connor Toth agrees that SB 912 isn’t bad and says he likes incorporating fees into the definition of tuition
- Natalie Butler agrees with Connor
- Kavyasri Jampuram believes that tuition and fees should be separate for transparency purposes
- Steven lays out the options for a vote that will be sent out in electronic form over the next 24 hours or so:



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- Support SB 912
- Support SB 912 with an amendment that includes fees in the definition of tuition
- Oppose SB 912
- Neutral
- Advocacy Day
  - Is 9am-1pm best?
    - Jordan says maybe 9am-2pm would be marginally better
    - Chelsea suggests 11am-3pm
    - A consensus is reached that 11am-3pm will be better
  - Are there any requests for topics at the next meeting?
    - Jordan says he will have proposed changes to the ASUM System constitution
    - Paul would like to discuss the issue with selecting a student curator from S&T
    - Connor says he will also have proposed changes to the ASUM System constitution
- 4:25pm: Meeting is adjourned