

Welcome Back Tigers!

As the school year starts, I wanted to thank all of you again for giving me the opportunity to serve as your student body president. I hope that each of your summers were rewarding in the ways that you had hoped. Class of 2017, welcome to Mizzou! This place is truly something special; and your time here will be 'the best years of your life'. If you're looking to make an impact on your fellow students and the university, come to our [info session](#) tonight at 5pm in Jesse Wrench Auditorium. MSA's purpose is to serve your best interests at all times. Currently, we are working hard on an issue that you all need to be aware of.

Last Spring, Missouri politicians passed House Bill 253 and sent their legislation to Governor Nixon's desk. In June Governor Nixon vetoed the bill, citing among other factors the bill's disastrous effect on higher education funding. Yet this September, politicians will convene a special session and attempt to override Governor Nixon's veto, forcing Missouri to balance its budget once again on the backs of her students.

What is House Bill 253?

House Bill 253 is a tax cut bill. Although Missouri's budget is already balanced and stable for the foreseeable future, HB253 would slash approximately \$900 million from Missouri's revenue. As one of the few areas of the budget unprotected by law, higher education in Missouri is the inevitable loser in this new equation. Funding to the University of Missouri, ultimately an investment in our state's future, is under dire threat.

Why does this affect you?

Faced with intolerable cuts as a result of this bill, the leadership of this University has only a single option: To raise tuition on its students. UM System President Tim Wolfe has announced that **passage of this bill will necessitate a 16% hike in tuition for students**. And that's not all: HB 253 also ends the tax exemption on college textbooks, raising prices for your books by 4%. Altogether, HB 253 poses an incredible challenge to all of us here at Mizzou.

How can you make your voice heard?

On [September 5th at 5PM on the main floor of the Student Center](#), President Tim Wolfe, Chancellor Brady Deaton, and myself will be speaking to students, faculty, and press about what HB253 means for Mizzou and what we, as students, can do about it. State politicians from Boone County will be present, and all students will have a chance to ask questions of their leaders. Dinner and ticket giveaways to upcoming concerts will also be provided. A strong student presence at this event will send a clear message across the state that we are paying attention to this bill and its impact on our school, our education, and our future.

What else can you do?

Call your state representative and Mizzou Alum Caleb Rowden at 573-751-1169 and let him know what Mizzou means to you. You can also send him an email at Caleb.Rowden@house.mo.gov. Also, be on the lookout for a tent in the Student Center next Wednesday!

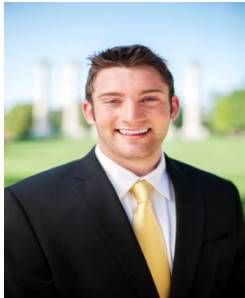
I sincerely hope to see you on September 5th as we make a stand for our education.

Now's the time to Stand Up For Mizzou.

Go Tigers!

Nick Droege

Missouri Students Association President



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