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Columbia College esports team member RJ Bohnak, above, oversees Dean Wood, center, as he plays "League of Legends" during a March practice at the game hut. The team finished its inaugural regular season undefeated and ranked within the top 16 college esports teams.

UM SYSTEM Nontenure-track faculty more at risk for layoffs

Most MU nontenure-track staff are on one-year contracts that have to be renewed each year

BY ANDREW KESSEL
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The University of Missouri System's fiscal crisis could be especially difficult for nontenure-track faculty members.

In a system-wide email sent on Monday, UM System President Mun Choi announced that the system needed to cut its budget by about 8 to 12 percent for fiscal year 2018 and that layoffs of staff and NTT faculty may be necessary to get there.

Choi's email, which put NTT faculty with staff rather than tenured and tenure-track faculty, was frustrating, said Nicole Monnier, co-chair of the MU Nontenure Track Faculty Committee.

"The system president's message almost implies that NTTs are add-on faculty," she said.

What's more, staff members who have completed an initial probationary period are eligible for benefits in the event of layoffs while NTT faculty are not.

The problem with Choi's email, Monnier said, is that NTT faculty make up an indispensable piece of MU. NTT faculty made up 43.6 percent of MU faculty in 2016, and that number has steadily risen, up from 30 percent in 2007.

A big difference between the types of faculty is contracts. Nontenure-track faculty are hired on one- to three-year contracts without the possibility of tenure, which carries long-term job security.

Many NTT faculty at MU are on one-year contracts that have to be renewed annually, Monnier said. If they aren't renewed, administration is only required to offer three months' notice.

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Hospital faces management decision before lease expires

By Missourian staff

Boone Hospital Center trustees have identified five options for how the hospital might be managed when its lease agreement with St. Louis-based BJC HealthCare expires at the end of 2020.

The options include forming a partnership with MU Health Care or operating the county-owned hospital on "a stand-alone basis." The latter would involve a new lease arrangement with a not-for-profit hospital board comprised of local leaders, the trustees said in a Thursday news release.

The other alternatives are:

- Entering another lease agreement with BJC.
- Entering a new lease agreement with Duke LifePoint Healthcare, which is a joint venture between Duke University Health System in Durham, North Carolina, and LifePoint Health in Brentwood, Tennessee.
- Entering a lease agreement with Saint Luke's Health System in Kansas City.

The trustees last year issued a request for proposals from 17 entities it thought would be interested in partnering with the hospital. It has since been reviewing responses and refining proposals with the help of advisers and the Boone County Commission, the news release said.

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BECOMING A LEGEND

Columbia College students level up their education through competitive scholarships for the esports game 'League of Legends'

BY DANIEL KONSTANTINOVIC
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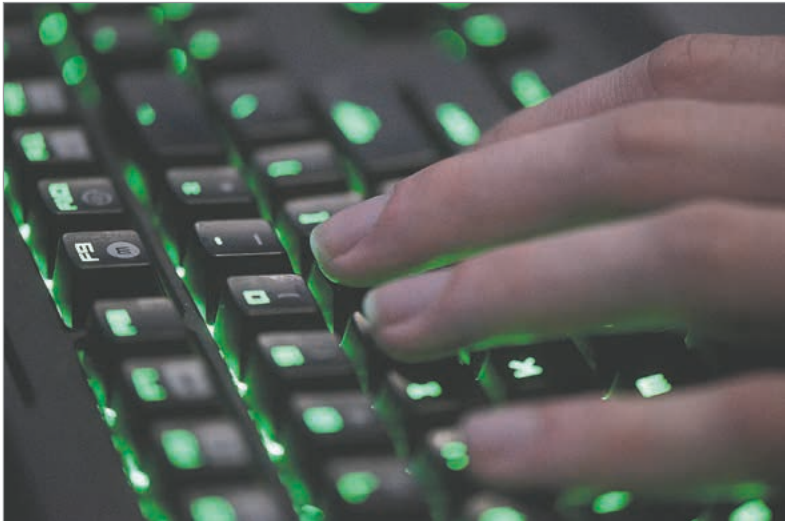
Connor Doyle has a straightforward dream: to go pro.

He doesn't envision himself on the field, in the dugout or on the court. Rather, Doyle, a junior, and his four teammates at Columbia College are part of a small but increasing number of students attending college on a scholarship for esports, or competitive gaming, playing the video game "League of Legends."

"The feeling of besting somebody in 'League of Legends' is akin to the feeling I got while wrestling in high school," Doyle said. "You get that feeling of actually being better than somebody, head to head. There are no other things in the way. It's pure competition."

All it takes is a few hours in Columbia College's "game hut," a soccer locker room-turned-gaming center on campus, to see that the Cougars playing "League of Legends" have camaraderie and deep respect for each other's skills. They behave like any successful sports team.

"I think we've come far enough



A Columbia College esports player's fingers glide across the keyboard during a December practice. Each member of the team has a personal mechanical keyboard.

that we can call each other friends," Doyle said. "We have a good understanding of what it means to be a team and what it means to be a teammate. Even if you don't like somebody on a personal level, you can always respect their sacrifice — and all five of us have sacrificed so much."

They hope their commitment to the game results in a chance to play professionally or have a career in the gaming industry.

Esports refers to any video game played competitively in a professional setting, the most popular of which is Riot Games' "League of Legends," an online multiplayer game where two

teams of five face off to overtake the opposing team's base.

The program at Columbia College is rare, being the fifth university in the country to offer a scholarship for students to play "League of Legends." In its first year, the Cougars managed to establish themselves as one of the top collegiate teams in the country and made it all the way to the semifinals where the team lost to long-time collegiate esports powerhouse Robert Morris University in suburban Pittsburgh.

This Saturday, the team will host the first Midwest Campus Clash, a tournament in which eight collegiate "League of Legends" programs will compete for a prize pool of \$25,000 in scholarship money.

Esports and 'League of Legends'

Esports are also expected to surpass \$1 billion in profits by 2019, and the global audience is expected to grow to 385 million in 2017, according to digital games market research firm Newzoo. Major "League of Legends"

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3 UM System curators approved

BY ISABELLA ALVES
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JEFFERSON CITY — Almost two months after the names were announced by Gov. Eric Greitens, the Missouri Senate confirmed three appointments to the University of Missouri System Board of Curators on Thursday.

Darryl Chatman, Jamie Farmer and Jeffery Layman will fill three vacant seats on the board in time for an April 27-28 meeting at Missouri State and Technical College in Rolla.

Chatman, an MU graduate and a linebacker for Missouri football in the 1990s, said he is excited and glad to "get back to



DARRYL CHATMAN



JAMIE FARMER



JEFFERY LAYMAN

the university that gave so much to me."

As an attorney and the former deputy director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Chatman hopes to promote the agriculture school and make sure MU is "living the land-grant mission."

Farmer is the president of Capital Sand Proppants. She has an MBA from Washington University in

St. Louis and a bachelor's degree in marketing, finance and real estate from MU. Layman is a senior vice president at Morgan Stanley in Springfield and earned his bachelor's degree in business administration and management from Missouri State University. He also studied business at MU.

Farmer, Layman and UM System spokesman John Fougere weren't able to be reached for comment.

The Senate also approved other appointments.

James Bean was appointed as the state fire marshal, while Carol Silvey and Craig Frazier were appointed to the Missouri State Board of Governors. The Senate also approved three members to the state's Clean Water Commission.

The appointments come after three weeks of delay and a private meeting Wednesday between the governor and the Senate Republican caucus over the governor's decision to grant paid leave to executive branch employees.

The Associated Press contributed to this report. Supervising editor is Mark Horvit: horvitm@missouri.edu.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

A committee approved a drug monitoring program proposal. It will now go on to the state Senate. **Page 8A**

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