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The Stonewall National Monument in New York City was the subject of some comments in the National Park Service campaign. EDUARDO MUNOZ/REUTERS FILE

Higher ed officials feel pressure to overhaul funding

Annelise Hanshaw
Missouri Independent

The Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development has until Dec. 1 to craft a new formula for distributing state aid among public colleges and universities — or risk lawmakers creating their own plan that “institutions quite likely will not like,” the state’s higher education commissioner said Wednesday, June 10.

Bennett Boggs, speaking during a meeting of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, urged college presidents to work with the department in “good faith” as it tries to balance competing interests.

“I hope ... that we can find a way to reach a consensus that we can present to the legislature, something that we can all agree on. We may not all love it, but it’s something that the legislature will understand,” he said. “Otherwise, I do believe we have some serious risks in front of us, and I don’t take that lightly.”

The deadline for the department to “develop and submit an objective, formula-driven” model that keeps funding flat was included in the state budget lawmakers passed in May. Gov. Mike Kehoe has until the end of June to approve or veto budget bills.

Lawmakers’ order to keep the amount of state aid at just over \$1.1 billion is the central challenge, said Leroy Wade, the department’s deputy commissioner of operations.

“That changes the approach of this entirely from what we would have expected otherwise,” he said.

Currently, the department uses a decades-old funding model that starts with the prior year’s appropriation and adds an inflationary factor. This lump sum is then divided between the universities, with each receiving a set percentage. Higher education officials have been working to overhaul this system for years. But any changes face opposition because a new formula could reduce state aid for some universities while increasing it for others.

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Park visitors mock administration’s campaign

Comments pour in over effort to rid ‘woke ideology’

Drew Pittcock
USA TODAY

The Trump administration asked visitors to federal parks to report any signs or displays that portray the nation in a negative light — and it got an earful.

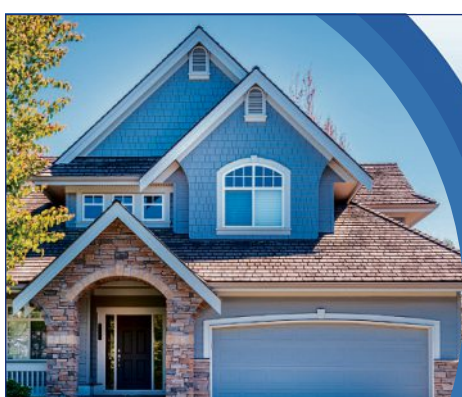
Some 35,000 comments poured in, and while a significant number of them were nonpolitical in nature — copy-paste duplicates, jokes, memes or submissions written by the same person — an overwhelming majority of the unique entries criticized the White House’s effort to rid the national parks of “woke ideology.”

The comments collected from June 4,

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An executive order from President Donald Trump called on federal officials to scour monuments, memorials and statues and remove language that may “inappropriately disparage Americans.” HANNAH BEIER/REUTERS FILE



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