



Office of the Chancellor

August 29, 2017

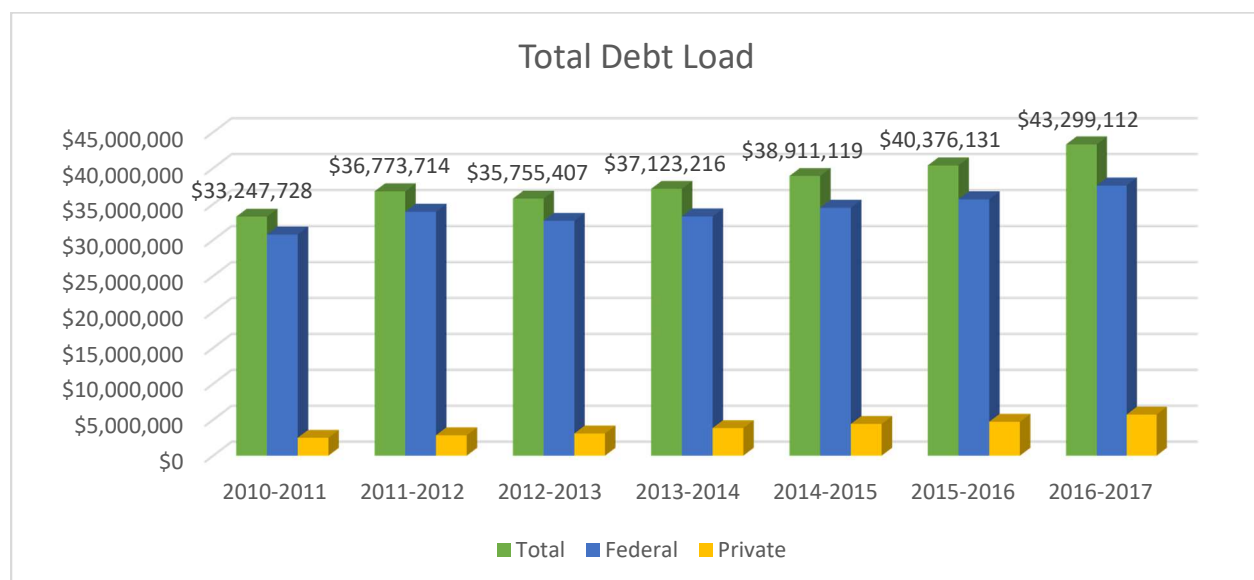
The Honorable Allen Andrews
 Missouri House of Representatives, District 1
 State Capitol – Room 406 B
 201 Capitol Avenue
 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Representative Andrews;

Thank you for your question about student debt. This is an issue we take very seriously at Missouri S&T. We are aware that students today are graduating with a tremendous amount of debt. Our institution works diligently to provide an education for which our students will realize a significant return on investment. Missouri S&T graduates have among the highest starting salaries in the United States at over \$61,000 for Undergraduates and over \$76,000 for Graduates. In addition, we work to counsel students on debt and optimal class sequence.

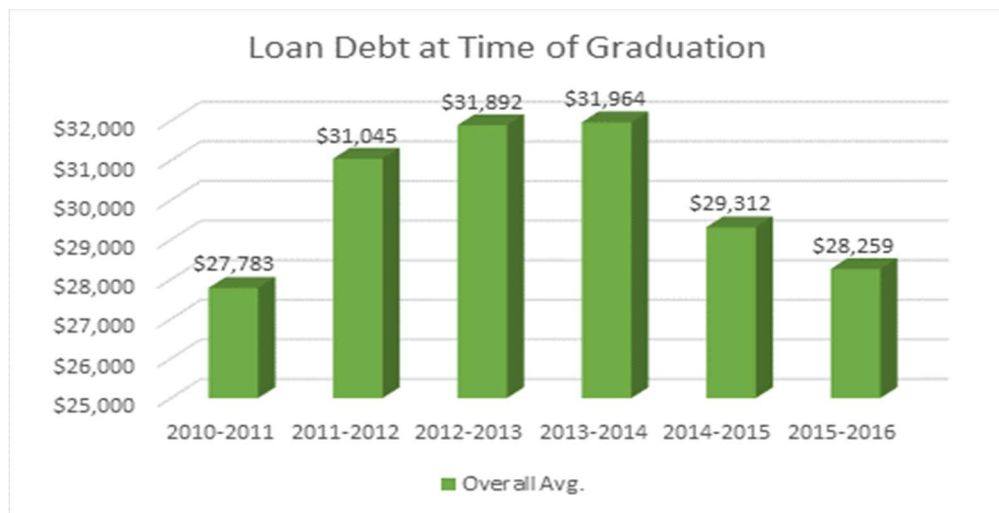
In response to your questions:

Current Total Debt Load and Percent of Federal vs. Private Loan



As Missouri S&T's enrollment has grown, the total student loan debt load has increased to a total of **\$43 Million** in the last completed aid year. The largest portion of the loan debt continues to be federal student loans which represents roughly **87%** of all student loan debt.

Average Debt Per Student And Increase/Decrease in Student Debt



The average debt per student at the time of graduation has decreased in recent years. The latest calculation shows that the average debt at the time of graduation is now **\$28,259** (including all loans: private, institutional, and federal). This is less than the average over the last six aid years.

Percent of average loan used to fund lifestyle, rather than tuition

There is no clear way to answer the “lifestyle” question. Certainly students use some of their student loan money to pay for things other than tuition, but “lifestyle” is not defined in normal statistics that are collected.

Default Rate Figures

	FY2013	FY2012	FY2011
Default Rate	4.2	3.1	3.8
No. in Default	53	38	49
No. in Repay	1,234	1,191	1,276
Enrollment figures	8,315	8,086	7,615
Percentage Calculation	14.8	14.7	16.7

Missouri S&T's most recent, official, cohort default rate (from FY13) is at a **4.2%** which has risen slightly over the last couple of aid years, however, it is still significantly lower than the national average of **11.3%** or even the national average for public 4-year institutions which is **7.3%**.

Ideas for decreasing student debt

Missouri S&T has had success in educating the student body about using loans appropriately as a part of the grant received by the Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE Default Prevention Grant).

Students who attend the financial literacy events on campus have indicated that they are more likely to reduce their loan debt to avoid over-borrowing. Programs such as these could be expanded.

Thank you, again, for your interest. We are happy to answer any additional questions you may have.

Please feel free to contact me, or my Chief of Staff, Elizabeth Smith anytime.

Elizabeth will follow up to be certain that you have everything you need.

Sincerely,

Christopher G. Maples