Mum's the word on ultimatum

Reports indicate MU, Nebraska told to pick a league.

By Dave Matter

Monday, June 7, 2010

Missouri Athletic Director Mike Alden will not comment on the latest reports that the Big 12 Conference has issued an ultimatum to Missouri and Nebraska, amounting to neither a confirmation nor denial that the conference is strong-arming the two North Division schools to prove their loyalty to the league.

Multiple media outlets in Texas reported Saturday night that the Big 12 board of directors decided during last week's league meetings in Kansas City to deliver the ultimatum. Citing anonymous Big 12 school officials, the Austin American-Statesman and Orangebloods.com reported that half the Big 12 schools threatened an exodus to the Pac-10 Conference if MU and Nebraska do not commit to the Big 12, with this Friday as the earliest deadline.

Missouri athletic department spokesman Chad Moller was in touch with Alden yesterday and said the athletic director would not waver from MU’s stance that it will not comment on any conference realignment matters. Officials from Missouri and Nebraska have consistently declined to address any interest from the Big Ten Conference.

“There’s nothing we have that’s different than anything we’ve said previously,” Moller said.

The office of University of Missouri System President Gary Forsee also declined comment on the ultimatum reports as Forsee's chief of staff, David Russell, deferred comment to Chancellor Brady Deaton, who also isn’t addressing the topic. The UM System Board of Curators is scheduled to meet Thursday and Friday in Columbia, but Russell could not confirm if conference affiliation will be discussed.

“We do not customarily comment on the precise topics to be taken up by the board in closed session,” Russell wrote in an e-mail.

Contacted by the Lincoln Journal Star on Saturday, Nebraska Athletic Director Tom Osborne said he was unaware of any deadlines.

“I really don’t know what the final parameters are,” Osborne told the newspaper. “I really can’t comment. The agreement when I left the Big 12 meetings “Thursday was that” Big 12 Commissioner “Dan Beebe and” Texas President “William Powers would do the speaking.”
Beebe indeed spoke Friday, saying the process the Big 12's board decided to enact would be handled privately, a plan that lasted all of 24 hours before school officials shared the deadline with outlets in Austin. Powers, however, was not on hand at Friday's news conference.

Nebraska's Board of Regents has a public meeting scheduled for Friday in Lincoln, Neb.

Meanwhile, in separate meetings yesterday in San Francisco and Park Ridge, Ill., the conference realignment issue might have turned into a high-stakes game of poker between Pac-10 Commissioner Larry Scott and his counterpart in the Big Ten, Jim Delany. The Pac-10 concluded its meetings yesterday in the Bay Area with Scott announcing he had been given permission to pursue expansion. Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, plus either Baylor or Colorado, have been mentioned as possible exiles to the Pac-10, perhaps depending on Missouri's and Nebraska's commitment to the Big 12.

At the Big Ten meetings, Delany and Michigan State President Lou Anna K. Simon told reporters that no schools have formally applied for admission into the conference, but based on recent developments — the Pac-10's expansion itch — the Big Ten might have to accelerate its timetable. In December, Delany said the league would spend 12 to 18 months studying expansion.

"We wouldn't have announced the study in December if there wasn't an interest in expansion by a significant number of the members of the Big Ten," said Simon, the chair of the Big Ten Council of Presidents/Chancellors, The Associated Press reported. "We're not presumptuous enough to believe that" expansion "was only our choosing. It has to be a two-way street."

The fate of the Big 12 could hinge on Notre Dame. Should Notre Dame give up its independent status in football and join the Big Ten, the conference could cut off further expansion and settle on 12 members, leaving Missouri and Nebraska little choice but to stay in the Big 12 — and perhaps keep the Texas schools from fleeing to the Pac-10.

"One of our options was not to act, the other option was to act with a single member and another option would be acting on multiple members," Delany said. "There could be a decision not to act. That's always been on the table."

Reach Dave Matter at 573-815-1781 or e-mail dmatter@columbiatribune.com.
No confirmation of ultimatum placed on MU

By Christie Megura, Matthew Schur
June 7, 2010 | 8:50 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Big 12 university administrators contacted Monday would neither confirm or deny reports that the conference has given MU and Nebraska a deadline for deciding whether they will leave the conference for the Big Ten.

The Missourian tried to contact the presidents of every school in the Big 12 — both by phone and by e-mail — but was either rejected or given no comment. An article published Saturday in the Austin American-Statesman reported that the Big 12 directed the two schools to declare soon whether they want to stay in the Big 12.

The Austin newspaper cited two anonymous sources. One said the deadline for deciding is Friday; the other said the deadline might not be for two more weeks.

The Austin report caught fire among bloggers. But there was little other evidence to suggest whether the Big 12 actually made the deadline. The office of Big 12 Commissioner Dan Beebe declined to comment.

Regarding the potential deadline, the chancellor's office at MU issued the same response it has given since talks first started about switching conferences: "The University of Missouri is receiving numerous inquiries related to public speculation about conference membership. MU is a member of the Big 12 Conference and will not respond to speculation about conference realignment. Mizzou continues to be grateful for all the interest shown in and support for the university."

Big 12 spokesman Bob Burda declined to elaborate on the speculation, saying he had no comment at this time in regard to a Big 12 decision deadline.

Other news sources reporting on this topic include:
• USA Today

• The Columbia Daily Tribune

• CBS Sports

• KBIA 91.3 "Intersection" a talk show hosted by Reuben Stern, featured a discussion with Columbia Missourian Sports Editor Greg Bowers and KBIA Sports Director Darren Hellwege.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

KU chancellor urges Nebraska to stay in Big 12

By DOUG TUCKER/The Associated Press
June 7, 2010 | 5:06 p.m. CDT

KANSAS CITY — Kansas chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little urged her Nebraska counterpart Monday to remain in the Big 12 and help avoid a potential calamity for the Jayhawks.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Gray-Little said she got no indication of what Harvey Perlman might recommend when he meets with Nebraska regents on Friday. She said she also planned to call Missouri chancellor Brady J. Deaton with the same message.

In a rapidly developing story that's strained institutional relationships more than 100 years old, Nebraska and Missouri have both said they are interested in moving to the Big Ten. If they leave, that might prompt six other Big 12 members, including Texas and Oklahoma, to consider a possible linkup with the Pac-10. The death of the Big 12 could put Kansas, Kansas State and Iowa State in danger of being left out of any major conference.

Kansas State and Kansas, even with its historically prominent basketball program, would have difficulty maintaining their status as major players in college athletics.

"There are some universities that survive and thrive without a large athletic program," said Gray-Little. "I hope we don't have to test that out."

Not being in a BCS school could hurt Kansas in several ways.

"Obviously, that would be a serious disappointment to our community, whether you're talking about students or alumni or other supporters of athletics," said Gray-Little. "Athletics are important to a university. Athletics helps develop friendships and allegiances to the university."
Gray-Little was in Europe last week when Big 12 officials failed to resolve the difficulties facing the league. She said she has been fully briefed by Kansas officials who represented her at the meetings and was aware of reports that Missouri and Nebraska have been given until Friday to declare their intentions.

"If those things happen by Friday, we should know next week where we stand with regard to the conference and who’s going to be in and who’s not," she said. "I’m sure that for (Perlman) and for others, the conversation will involve a great number of issues. I did not get an indication from him on which way things were going to go."

Kansas and Nebraska have been members of the same conference for decades. Kansas and Missouri have a spirited, colorful football rivalry that began in 1891 and is the second-longest in the country. Their game has been played every year since 1919.

Gray-Little said she made sure that Perlman knew where she stood.

"I have not finished my conversations for the day. I intend if not today in the next two days to talk to the presidents and chancellors of other institutions as well," she said.

Led by athletic director Lew Perkins, Kansas is working to put together alternative plans in case the Big 12 does dissolve.

"We want the Big 12 to continue," Gray-Little said. "But because any one or more of these things could happen, part of our discussion also is what would be the next plan for us. I don’t have any specifics to give you at this point, but that has to be part of our thinking. If the efforts to keep the Big 12 in fact do not work out, what alternatives will there be for us or K-State and the other universities that might not be part of some new organization?"

Kansas and Kansas State, fierce rivals for decades, have vowed to work together.

"That’s been our commitment and our plan, to the extent that it’s possible, that we would work together, that we would intend to be in the same conference and have the opportunity to play one another and continue a great tradition of rivalry."
Soy Masquerades As Chicken
By Teresa Shipley | Mon Jun 7, 2010 06:13 PM ET

Vegetarians everywhere delight! Now you can have your chicken and eat it, too.

University of Missouri scientists have come to the end of a 10-year effort to transform unassuming little soy plants into a finished product that has the look, taste and texture of real chicken.

Lots of meat substitutes are on the market right now, such as the ever-popular Tofurky. But there isn't one that tastes like chicken or, more importantly to these researchers, has the texture of real meat.

The fake meat is made by mixing up a batter of soy protein, wheat flour and water, and then pushing the batter through a high-heat extruder. The mixture firms up and develops a stringy, chicken-like texture, Fu-Hung Hsieh, a professor of biological engineering and food science at MU, said in a university press release.

The research has been published in the Journal of Food and Agricultural Chemistry, Journal of Food Science, and Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society.

Although the team hasn't perfected the taste yet, according to one reviewer, the texture seems to be right on.

"But the way the meat broke across my teeth felt exactly how boneless chicken breast does," wrote Time Magazine's John Cloud, who visited the laboratory where the soy-chicken is being made.

"It was slightly fibrous but not fatty. The soy wasn't mashed together as in a veggie burger; rather, it was more idiosyncratic, uneven, al dente -- in other words, meatlike," he wrote.

The soy-chicken substitute has the potential to be to America what Quorn is to Great Britain. But many questions remain about the product's marketability. For instance: How cheaply can it be made, and are hard-core foodies going to like such a highly processed substitute?

But the more persistent one that's been on my mind is this: What are we going to call it?

*Image from Flickr.*
Genetics play an important role in the development of problem gambling in both women and men, a new study has found.

Previous research has shown that problem gambling runs in families, with one study reporting that 8 percent of the first-degree relatives of people with gambling disorders had a history of similar problems, compared with 2 percent of relatives of unaffected individuals, according to background information provided in the report.

For the new study, researchers assessed nearly 2,900 pairs of twins in Australia, aged 32 to 43, and found that nearly all of them had gambled at some point, about half had gambled at least once a month and about one-third had gambled at least once a week. About 2.2 percent met the criteria for pathological gambling (3.4 percent of men and 1.2 percent of women), and 12.5 percent had experienced one or more symptoms of pathological gambling (18.2 percent of men and 8.3 percent of women).

While genes were estimated to contribute almost 50 percent to differences between people in terms of gambling disorders, "there was no evidence for shared environmental influences contributing to variation in disordered gambling liability," Wendy S. Slutske, of the University of Missouri-Columbia, and colleagues reported in the June issue of the Archives of General Psychiatry.

The researchers found no evidence of gender differences in the causes of problem gambling.

"This study represents a major step forward in that it establishes for the first time that genes are as important in the etiology of disordered gambling in women as they are in men," the researchers wrote. "In addition to similar relative contributions of genetic vs. environmental factors to variation in liability for disordered gambling, the results suggest that the susceptibility genes contributing to variation in liability for disordered gambling may also overlap considerably in men and women."

The study authors concluded that "the discovery of the specific genes and environments involved in the development of disordered gambling remains an important direction for future research."

More information

The National Council on Problem Gambling has more about gambling disorders.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Three MU professors nominated for national teaching award

By Ji Young Won, Margaret Niemiec, Wonsuk Choi
June 7, 2010 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

MU faculty nominated Anthony Lupo, John Adams and Wendy Sims for the U.S. Professor of the Year. The award is sponsored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation.

COLUMBIA — Three MU professors have been nominated for the U.S. Professor of the Year award.

MU faculty nominated John Adams, professor and chair of chemistry, Anthony Lupo, professor and chair of atmospheric science, and Wendy Sims, professor and director of music education. In order to qualify, nominees at MU must have previously received a teaching award.
Any undergraduate institute in the United States can nominate up to three professors. Nominees compete with their peers in one of four categories in a tiered judging process, and the Carnegie Foundation ultimately selects the four national winners. The foundation also chooses numerous state-level winners.

Pam Russell, spokeswoman for the U.S. Professors of the Year Awards Program, said there are more than 300 nominees this year.

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching sponsor the program, which is the only national program to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring.

According to the program's website, each national winner receives $5,000 and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for the awards celebration.

**Anthony Lupo**

Anthony Lupo has been obsessed with weather since he was 7. That obsession led him to MU and ultimately to a nomination for U.S. Professor of the Year.

"I was very humbled by the fact that my colleagues were good enough to nominate me," he said.

Lupo, 44, has taught in the Department of Soil, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences for the past 13 years and became department chair in 2008. He said he enjoys seeing students learn, but he does not consider himself a great teacher.

Dan Ebner, a junior meteorology major, disagreed. Ebner took a climate course with Lupo, whom he referred to as one of the smartest people he has ever met. Ebner said he would have nominated Lupo for professor of the year if he could.

"I think he deserves it 100 percent," Ebner said. "You only hear good things about him from everybody."

Lupo tried doing meteorology on television as an undergraduate but said he "failed miserably." He switched gears and applied for a job with the National Weather Service.
He got the job at the same time he was accepted for graduate school. With his wife’s encouragement, Lupo decided to give graduate school a try.

“At the time, I didn’t think I had what it took to get a Ph.D. or a master’s,” he said.

Lupo proved himself wrong. In 1991, he received his master’s in atmospheric science at Purdue University and went on to earn his doctorate from Purdue in 1995.

The Auburn, N.Y., native then worked as a postdoctoral research associate at the State University of New York in Albany until 1997.

Lupo has been married to Allison Lupo for 22 years and has three daughters. He plays softball in a Columbia recreational league and enjoys following “almost any sport.” His favorite, though, is football.

“I’m a San Diego Chargers fan,” he said. “It comes from my love of weather because that team has a lightning bolt as their emblem.”

Lupo has several accolades to his credit, including:

- Fulbright Research Scholar from 2003 to 2004 in Moscow.
- As part of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, he shares the Nobel Peace Prize with former Vice President Al Gore.
- The Kemper Teaching Award, the highest award possible for a Missouri college teacher, in 2008.

“I really enjoy what I do. I wouldn’t trade it in for anything,” Lupo said. “When you get up every morning and you don’t mind going to work, that’s the best way to be.”

John Adams

Even after winning a number of teaching awards in his 29 years teaching at MU, John Adams said he is always surprised and pleased about nominations such as the one for the professor of the year.

Adams, a professor and associate chair for undergraduate studies in the Department of Chemistry, is the longest-serving faculty member at the department.
He said he believes this year's recognition is a result of his passion for teaching.

"I put efforts into teaching, and recognition is secondary," Adams said. Adams said he continues to develop his teaching methods to reflect new materials as often as he can. He still learns new material even when he teaches introductory classes, he said.

"I always like trying new things," Adams said. He has been recording his lectures for students to view on the web since 2009.

His students remember him as a passionate professor.

"He explains the materials very thoroughly," said Jee Kim, a former student. Kim added that he especially liked the review sessions Adams provided every week and his online lectures.

Adams has been interested in science since he was in high school. He said he liked the fundamental concepts of chemistry and especially enjoyed observing the interactions of particles.

By the time he graduated from high school in the early '70s, he said many people expected "good students" to become scientists, which was the path he chose.

His vague desire to be a scientist became more specific after spending a semester at the University of Missouri-Rolla, now called the Missouri University of Science and Technology, with his chemistry professor, Ken Robertson. Adams decided to become a professor and specialize in physical chemistry as Robertson did.

Adams said Robertson had a big impact on his life in many ways.

"His biggest influence was showing me a career option that I had not previously considered," Adams said. After graduating from college, he said he was accustomed to achieving goals without much adversity. He said he was on the right track and very fortunate.
Adams received his Ph.D. from the University of California in 1979 and started teaching at MU in 1981.

While he was on sabbatical from MU at Brown University, he met another chemist, Carol A. Deakyne, and they married in 1991.

Deakyne was a faculty member at Eastern Illinois University. Adams and Deakyne have lived apart during academic years for more than half of their marriage.

Deakyne has been an associate professor in MU's chemistry department since 2003. Her office is now located right next to Adams'. Recently, they began collaborating on research projects.

"We each certainly understand what is involved in being a faculty member, both the time constraints and responsibilities," Adams said. "We also enjoy doing things outside of our professions as well, such as traveling(and) visiting museums."

In addition to conducting research, Adams also enjoys cooking, riding bikes and reading books.

Adams said that riding a bike on the MKT Trail for six miles to school is good exercise, and he'd like to continue the practice as long as the weather allows.

He said those hours he spends outside class are mainly for his self-development for his students.

He always enjoys working with students, which brings another generation of scientists, Adams said.

Adams said he has no regrets about choosing to become a professor instead of working in the private sector.

"If I would go back, I would do the same thing," he said.

During 29 years of teaching, he has received several teaching awards, including:
• AMOCO Foundation Undergraduate Teaching Award in 1987.
• Excellence in Advising Award.
• Advisors Forum & Office at the Provost in 2004.
• President’s Award for Outstanding Teaching.
• University of Missouri System-wide award in 2009.
• Curator’s Teaching Professorship in 2009.
• Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2009.

Wendy Sims

Wendy Sims, a professor of music and director of music education, said she loves going to school every day even after 25 years of college teaching.

“I don’t usually say I’m going to work,” Sims said. “I say I’m going to school.”

Sims was surprised to learn she was selected as a nominee for the U.S Professor of the Year Award.

“I feel privileged to be nominated because there are so many wonderful professors here,” Sims said.

Sims said prizes aren’t what motivates her to continue teaching. “I’m not going to work hard because I might get an award.”

Sims said she has loved teaching since she was in kindergarten, playing teacher and teaching her friends their ABCs. She said it’s always a pleasure to see “the light bulb go on when people learn and do something new.”

During high school, Sims sang and accompanied the choir on piano. She said that’s when she wanted a career teaching music. Because she also enjoys research, she decided to become a professor.

“It was a perfect combination for me,” Sims said.

Sims came to MU in 1985 after teaching music in a Cleveland-area elementary school. She earned her doctorate in music education at Florida State University. With her
specialty in elementary and early childhood music education, she teaches classes for undergraduates preparing to be music teachers. She also teaches research classes for graduate and doctoral students.

In a recommendation letter to the associate dean of MU College of Education, former student Jordan Black wrote that Sims is a devoted teacher.

“Dr. Sims is obviously a professor who wants to help each and every one of her students succeed both in and after college,” Black said.

Her students are as young as one year of age. She is a volunteer teacher for two preschool classes and one toddler class each week at MU's Child Development Laboratory. There, she plays guitar and sings with the kids.

“I do that because it's fun,” Sims said. “I also get research ideas from the kids by trying out new materials. It's like a laboratory in my work.”

For Sims, teaching is fascinating because every day and every student is different. She continues to learn from students, from reading and from watching preschoolers interact.

She believes music is important because it enhances children's lives and gives them opportunities to succeed when they lack special talents in other areas. They grow by continuing to practice music toward long-term goals, she added.

“Dr. Sims takes a special interest in making sure her future music educators reach young children,” Black wrote in the letter.

In addition to teaching, Sims has worked as an editor for the Journal of Research in Music Education, the primary research journal in music education. During her free time, she enjoys traveling and reading. Her 14-year-old daughter, who is involved in music and other activities, also keeps her busy.

She has won a number of awards since teaching at MU. They include:

- The Purple Chalk Teaching Award from the College of Arts and Science in 1991.
- The Governor's Award for Teaching Excellence in 1993.
- The College of Education Pillar of Excellence in Teaching Award in 2004.
- The Distinguished Service Award from the College of Human Environmental Science in 2006.
- The Honorary Alumni Award from the College of Education Alumni Board in 2009.

Sims encourages students pursuing careers in music education that their hard work will pay off. "They are really fortunate to be going into a job where they get to make music every day."
Bailing out journalism would threaten its independence

By David Nicklaus

Having watched the government bail out banks and automakers, some of my fellow journalists think it's time that news organizations got a little help, too.

I don't like the idea, because it interferes with the free market and because journalism ought to be practiced by people with a fierce independent streak, not people who owe their jobs to Uncle Sam.

A subsidy for news-gathering is getting plenty of high-level attention, though. The Federal Trade Commission's staff recently prepared a discussion document that lists several direct and indirect ways to put taxpayer cash in the pockets of journalists.

The suggestions are creative. We could create a journalism division of Americorps, the public-service program. We could give publishers a tax credit when they hire a reporter. Every citizen could be given a $200 voucher to donate to the news organization of his or her choice.

The report even suggests ways to pay for the subsidies, perhaps by taxing iPads and other electronic devices.

The FTC emphasizes that these are not recommendations. They're merely ideas to stimulate conversation next week at a workshop titled, "How will journalism survive in the Internet age?"

The question itself says a lot about the angst that's present in newsrooms these days. We've watched colleagues lose their jobs, we've seen once-proud organizations like Tribune Co. file bankruptcy, and we've suffered through furloughs and pay cuts.

It's enough to make many proud journalists hold their hands up — or out — and ask for help.

"I think something has to be done," says Charles Davis, an associate professor of journalism at the University of Missouri.

"A year ago or two years ago, the conversation was, 'Should we do something or should we let the business cycle run its course?' Now, I don't see the broad media economy returning to anything like its former self.

"I guess the question is, is the media as currently constituted robust enough to serve the
democracy. I think the answer is no."

Davis, the executive director of the National Freedom of Information Coalition, is as strong a
free-press advocate as anyone I know. He thinks a subsidy, whether it's done with tax credits or
through an entity like the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, could be structured in a way that
doesn't compromise journalists' independence.

I'm not so sure. Ultimately, large government checks can and will buy influence. Here's another
concern: Many of these programs would require the government, for the first time, to decide who
is a journalist. Does the guy who blogs about local government in his pajamas qualify for the
same tax credit as this newspaper's City Hall reporter?

Rather than have to answer such questions, I'd prefer to let the market run its course. Yes,
newspapers employ fewer reporters than they used to, and that's not good in a democracy that
depends on the press to hold public officials accountable. It's too early to know whether online
publications, like ProPublica at the national level and the St. Louis Beacon at the local level, will
be able to fill the gap.

If you subsidize startup Internet organizations, however, you may hasten the decline of
traditional newspapers. Give tax credits to traditional publishers and you'll stifle innovation.

The business model for Internet news isn't clear yet, but a lot of people are trying to figure it out.
Government intervention is more likely to interfere with that process than to help.

So thanks but no thanks, Uncle Sam. You can keep my bailout check.
Advocacy group Citizens for Missouri’s Children closes its doors

By JASON NOBLE

JEFFERSON CITY | A children’s advocacy group in Missouri unexpectedly shut down last week, but officials say the work it’s best known for will go on.

Citizens for Missouri’s Children, citing a decline in funding, closed its doors after more than 25 years of lobbying lawmakers and publishing reports and briefs on children’s issues.

Grants from charitable foundations have steadily fallen since the beginning of the recession and ultimately forced the organization’s board to dissolve its operations, said former executive director Scott Gee.

“It became apparent we just couldn’t sustain our funding at the level it needed to be,” Gee said.

The St. Louis-based nonprofit has seen its budget drop by about a half million dollars — more than 50 percent — in two years, he noted.

Groups that have partnered with Citizens for Missouri’s Children or used the data it produced expressed shock upon hearing of its demise.

“It’s a real blow to children living in poverty in this state to have any advocacy group close,” said Sister Berta Sailer, co-director of Kansas City-based Operation Breakthrough. “It’s kind of scary.”

Citizens for Missouri’s Children’s biggest project, however, is likely to continue.

Since the mid-1990s, the organization has administered and led the advocacy efforts related to Kids Count, an annual report of local and statewide data on children.

The report, sponsored nationally by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, gathers statistics on several indicators of children’s health, education and economic well-being for every county in Missouri and is used extensively by service providers, lobbyists and policymakers.
The nonprofit partnered with the state Children’s Trust Fund and researchers at the University of Missouri to develop the report, then lobbied lawmakers for policy changes based on its results.

Officials with the Casey Foundation, the University of Missouri’s Office of Social and Economic Analysis, and the Children’s Trust Fund said Monday that efforts are under way to find another nonprofit to assume those duties.

“We will begin talking with our partners in Missouri to find a new organization to house this important project,” said Jann Jackson, a senior fellow for the Casey Foundation.