

SEP 29 2011



## Curators expected to meet Tuesday to discuss conference affiliation

By Dave Matter

**The University of Missouri Board of Curators is expected to hold a meeting Tuesday, a source confirmed, and will likely discuss MU's conference affiliation.**

The board's audit committee and compensation and human resource committee are expected to meet, as well as the executive committee, which consists of Chairman Warren Erdman and curators David Bradley and Don Downing.

UM System spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead declined to address reports of Tuesday's meeting. The board is required to issue a public meeting notice at least 24 hours in advance of a meeting.

According to the UM System bylaws on intercollegiate athletics, the UM president and the curators shall approve any proposal by a campus to withdraw from one intercollegiate athletic conference for the purpose of affiliating with a new conference. However, any proposal to withdraw would be proposed by the campus chancellor, whose role in the approval process would be significant.

Last week, Chancellor Brady Deaton and Athletic Director Mike Alden stopped short of expressing long-term commitment to the Big 12 and did not deny having discussions with other conferences, including the Southeastern Conference. SEC Commissioner Mike Slive told reporters yesterday that the conference is prepared to move forward with 13 members upon officially adding Texas A&M, effective July 1, 2012.

"We anticipate being a 13-team league in 2012-13," Slive said. "First, there are no institutions currently under consideration by the SEC presidents and chancellors. And secondly, we have not received any application of any institution other than Texas A&M."

That could change in the coming weeks if the UM Board of Curators grants Missouri officials authority to explore a change in conference and MU formally applies for membership in the SEC. The curators are expected to hear updates from MU's leadership during next week's meeting and from there could grant Deaton authority to engage in formal discussions with the SEC.

Alden has been attending the regularly scheduled Big 12 fall meetings for athletic directors the last two days in Grapevine, Texas.

"It's a crazy time," Alden told The Associated Press, deferring comment to Iowa State Athletic Director Jamie Pollard, who serves as chairman of the Big 12 ADs.

## Big step for Mizzou's conference future may come Tuesday

By MIKE DeARMOND

Tuesday may be an important juncture on Missouri's sports timeline — when it either steps away from the Big 12 Conference or stands pat as one of nine remaining members.

**Multiple sources have told The Star of plans that day for a meeting of the University of Missouri Board of Curators, where the Tigers' position in conference realignment scenarios will be discussed.**

The most likely result, if a simple majority of the seven curators with voting privileges favor the move, would be formal authorization for MU to explore admission to another conference. But there are other matters to be considered, including candidates to fill the position of University of Missouri system president, currently held on an interim basis by Steve Owens.

A decision to either stay in the Big 12 or leave is not anticipated. No official announcement of a meeting has been made. Under Missouri law, meeting times must be publicly posted at least 24 hours in advance.

No board members responded to interview requests on Wednesday. But three sources closely aligned with the board or the university said that the curators' prime concern is a Big 12 exit fee of as much as \$40 million.

"If it were just a matter of saying let's go, say goodbye Big 12 and join the SEC," one source said. "If there was no litigation or a few dollars involved, it would be an easy choice.

"If it comes down to: We've got to come up with 40 million bucks — or whatever the number might be — that's a different deal."

Nebraska reportedly forfeited \$9 million in Big 12 revenue when it left for the Big Ten and Colorado forfeited roughly \$7 million when it moved to what is now the Pac-12.

Those figures were below the full amount that could have been withheld, according to Big 12 bylaws:

- 100 percent of eligible revenues for a two-year period can be withheld if a school gives less than six months' notice of departure.
- 90 percent if the notice is between six months to just under a year.
- 80 percent if notice is less than 18 months but to a year prior to departure.
- 70 percent if notice is less than two years but prior to 18 months to departure.
- 50 percent if notice is given before the two-year "effective date" of departure.

Exit fees for Texas A&M, which announced Aug. 31 that it would withdraw from the Big 12 effective June 30 to join the Southeastern Conference, have been estimated at \$30 million.

"Currently there are bylaws that have liquidated damage clauses for any member that would be leaving the conference," Iowa State athletic director Jamie Pollard said this week. "That's what's going to govern any process we currently have."

Pollard noted, however, that future bylaws could not be applied to current situations.

Last Thursday, Oklahoma president David Boren said the remaining members of the Big 12 — including Missouri — had agreed to sign over their TV rights to the Big 12.

"These are very strong handcuffs," Boren said.

Missouri chancellor Brady Deaton that same night said granting TV rights was one of the issues under discussion but had not been agreed to.

While Boren gave the impression that the Big 12 was a unified entity, Deaton and MU athletic director Mike Alden refused to state that Missouri was part of that commitment.

"It's kind of a high-stakes poker game that's going on," the same source said Wednesday. "You've got a bunch of people that don't really like each other very well and can't trust each other dictating terms."

The curators and state officials, according to multiple sources, would not ask taxpayers to pay the exit fees. Those same sources expressed doubt that even the most well-heeled MU athletic boosters would contribute anything approaching \$40 million.

The money might be borrowed in anticipation of greater payouts coming to Missouri as part of another conference.

Published reports earlier this year indicated Big Ten members could receive \$22 million each in conference revenues and SEC schools could receive \$18.3 million each. Big 12 schools, according to officials, could receive \$13 million to \$14 million each on average.



Only seven of nine board members currently have voting privileges. Two other members appointed by Gov. Jay Nixon — attorney Craig Van Matre of Columbia and attorney Pam Henrickson of Jefferson City — are currently not entitled to vote. Their status — because of reported political disagreements — was withdrawn pending completion of the special session of the state legislature.

When that session ends, Nixon can reappoint Van Matre and Henrickson to the board as members with full voting privileges.

Statutes require a minimum of five members to constitute a quorum. Theoretically, opponents of authorizing a Missouri departure from the Big 12 could avoid a 4-3 assenting vote total by simply refusing to attend the meeting. That is not likely, however, because sources say it might create a long-lasting schism on the board.

Opposition to authorizing Missouri to leave the Big 12 appears to be centered on the Kansas City area, perhaps because of economic fears associated with losing the Big 12 men's basketball tournament at the Sprint Center if the conference no longer had a school in Missouri.

During a curators meeting last week in Columbia, the voice of one board member linked to the meeting by speakerphone asked others if they, too, had been deluged by emails.

The source, who is not a curator, told The Star he understood that most emails favored Missouri changing conferences.

"Over a thousand," the source said, "90 percent of which say, 'Get us out of the Big 12,' about 70 percent of which say, 'Get us into the SEC.' "

But, the source added, "It's not that simple."



## Missouri coaches talk about SEC's pros and cons

By David Briggs Columbia Daily Tribune

Wednesday, September 28, 2011

**Gary Pinkel has served as the public voice of Missouri's frustration with the Big 12, calling the unrest and defections over the past 15 months "sad," "embarrassing" and "unbelievable."**

But the Missouri athletic department's angst about the realignment saga extends beyond Pinkel and the school's power brokers. While a potential conference switch would be driven by football and television riches, a move also would have a profound effect on the Tigers' nonrevenue athletic programs.

Relocation to the Southeastern Conference would present both major challenges and new opportunities.

Missouri's wrestling program would be an outsider in a conference that does not sponsor the sport and a region where colleges long ago rolled up their mats — Georgia State is the Deep South's southernmost Division I wrestling school. MU's baseball team would become the coldest-weather program in a league where hardball can rival hoops in popularity — five SEC teams averaged more than 6,000 fans per game last season. Gymnastics, softball, swimming, track and field and tennis would face an upgrade in competition.

Recruiting territories would be redrawn. That's especially true for nonrevenue programs, which recruit primarily within the geographic footprint of the Big 12. One reason the volleyball team secured commitments from Dallas-area freshmen Whitney Little and Katie O'Brien was the opportunity for the touted pair to play multiple matches each season at schools within driving distance for friends and family.

"If you're recruiting a lot of kids from Texas and you start playing all of these games somewhere else, you're going to lose a lot of these Texas kids because the opportunity to play in front of friends and family is going to go way down," MU volleyball Coach Wayne Kreklow said. "You do have to change your base."

But the coaches who agreed to speak publicly also embraced the challenge of the SEC.

Softball Coach Ehren Earleywine favors the conference as a potential landing spot. The sixth-year coach, who has led the Tigers to three straight College World Series appearances, said he would sell recruits on playing for one of the top academic schools in a conference that's making a push to overtake the Pac-12 as the nation's premier softball league.

Missouri, which is 90th in the latest U.S. News & World Report college academic rankings, would be one of four members of the prestigious Association of American Universities along with Vanderbilt, Florida and Texas A&M. Vanderbilt does not have a softball team.

"You would have a bragging point that not only will you be playing in a great softball conference but academically we are arguably the best school in this entire conference, and to me those are recruiting bullet points that can really make a difference," Earleywine said. "I am totally OK with the SEC."

Wrestling Coach Brian Smith said he feels the same way, though his team would have to seek conference affiliation elsewhere — a common arrangement in an endangered sport. Only the Atlantic Coast Conference, the Big Ten and the Big 12 follow the traditional conference model. Like in hockey, most wrestling leagues are a regional collection of schools. Four of the Pac-12's seven members belong to other conferences. MU could conceivably stay in the four-team Big 12.

"It's how you look at it," said Smith, who's spent the past 13 years building wrestling into one of MU's most competitive sports. "People jump on the negative part of a report. I kind of see things like when I first took the job; everybody laughed at me and said you can't win here. Wherever we are, we're going to win and we're going to be successful and we're going to grow the sport."

For other sports, winning in the SEC would be a challenge. The SEC is known for its successes outside the big-money spotlight. In women's basketball, the conference's 32 all-time Final Four appearances are more than double that of the now-powerful Big 12. In men's swimming, Auburn, Florida and Georgia have combined to win 10 of the last 13 NCAA titles. In gymnastics, Alabama and Georgia have won six of the last seven national championships.

Baseball is an especially interesting case. A move to the SEC, which claims the last three NCAA champions and is regarded as the country's top conference, would generate excitement. But Missouri is a world away from the fevered baseball culture of the South. While MU spent a Big 12-low \$1.18 million on baseball and averaged less than 500 fans per game at Taylor Stadium last season, LSU might as well be running a small-market major league franchise. LSU spent \$7.5 million last year and drew an average of 10,534 fans to its \$38 million stadium.

Baseball Coach Tim Jamieson and track Coach Brett Halter, who would face similar weather and cultural challenges, declined comment.

For now, coaches must wait out the same song and dance they endured a year ago during Missouri's flirtation with the Big Ten. Earleywine said every recruit he's met recently has wanted to know where MU will land.

So does he — even if that means staying in the Big 12.

"I just want to know everybody is on board, and right now you don't feel that," Earleywine said. "You feel like everybody's making calls behind the scenes and working deals because of their frustrations. If they would impose significant penalties upon Big 12 schools for leaving, I would feel great about being in the Big 12. I love it here. But until that happens, it keeps you constantly on edge."



## Neinas says Mizzou's culture is Big 12

By Blair Kerkhoff - Posted on 28 September 2011

GRAPEVINE, Texas | **In the college sports landscape, centrally located Missouri borders several conferences.**

But to Big 12 interim commission Chuck Neinas, the Tigers belong to one.

"Every conference as a culture, as I've learned through the years," Neinas said. "One thing I can say with certainty is Missouri's culture belongs in the Big 12, not the SEC."

How to define a culture?

"It's who you are, it's where you do business," Neinas said.

After more than a century in the Big 12/Big Eight and its prior identities, Missouri is considering taking its athletic business to the Southeastern Conference.

Big 12 athletic directors, meeting near the Irving, Tex., league office, wrapped up two days off meetings, although Mizzou's Mike Alden stayed for only one day because of a prior commitment.

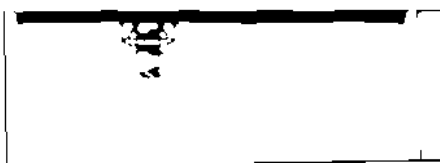
Alden didn't give his counterparts any definitive answers about the school's future.

"He explained it has to go through the Board of Curators," Neinas said. "That they have some decisions to make."

Neinas, was the Big Eight commissioner from 1971-1980. He oversaw the creation of the Big Eight Tournament, recalling fondly the battles between Missouri and Kansas State in the first two championship games.

"Norm Stewart and Jack Hartman really got after it," Neinas said of the Tigers' and Wildcats' coaches.

But it's his lifelong experience as an athletic administrator, including his years as executive director of the College Football Association and the last 15 spent as a head-hunter for searches for coaches and athletic director that guides Neinas' believe that the Big 12 is the best spot for the Tigers.





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## **Big 12 commissioner 'confident' Missouri won't leave**

By The Associated Press Thursday, September 29, 2011

**Interim Big 12 Commissioner Chuck Neinas says he is confident Missouri will stay in the Big 12.**

The Big 12 athletic directors wrapped up two days of meetings in Dallas on Wednesday and Neinas met with each individually.

Missouri is the latest Big 12 school in the spotlight, considering whether to stay in the conference or move to another league.

It has been reported that Missouri was eyeing a move to the Southeastern Conference when it looked as if Texas, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Texas Tech could be heading to the Pac-12.

The Big 12 has already lost Texas A&M to the SEC.

Last week, Oklahoma President David Boren said all nine remaining schools had agreed to grant their top-tier television rights to the conference for six years.

Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton wouldn't go that far, saying members would pursue that deal.

"We understand that relative to the grant of rights issue this matter has to be considered by the Missouri board of curators, and they will have an opportunity to review what the conference has accomplished, what we're doing and what we plan to do," Neinas told reporters on a conference Wednesday night. "I think that once they have an opportunity to fully understand and comprehend what the conference is doing that they will agree that Missouri should continue to be a good member of the Big 12 Conference."

Neinas said there was no timetable to a decision on the grant of rights deal.

"I think it depends upon the institutional process each member is required to follow," he said. "And it would not only just apply to the University of Missouri. It would apply to other institutions as well."

He also said he did not know of any offer to Missouri from another conference.

"I have not been contacted by anyone from the Southeastern Conference," he said.

Neinas suggested that Missouri would probably miss its century-old Border War football rivalry with Kansas and the opportunity to play its conference basketball tournament regularly in Kansas City, Mo., if it decided to switch leagues.

"So I think there's a lot to look at," Neinas said. "You know what happens is a pretty girl walks down the aisle and you say, 'Boy, I'd like to take her to the prom.' But there's also one who's tried and true and you know is going to be there."

Neinas was the commissioner of the Big 8, which became the Big 12 in 1996 after Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and Baylor joined.

Regarding possible expansion of the Big 12 — with or without Missouri — Neinas said there was still no telling how many schools might be added. The presidents of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State have said they are most comfortable if the league gets back to 12 members, while Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds advocated 10. Neinas said there was even some sentiment for staying at nine.

"There is no unanimity at all. There isn't even a plurality among the athletic directors as to what they would like to do," Neinas said.

He added, "There has been no shortage of interest" from teams wanting to join the conference.

"We would hope we would not be at eight," Neinas said.

Neinas had said last week that there was "resistance" from some existing members to adding teams from Texas.

"I'd say that's changed," he said.

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Big 12 wants to keep Mizzou

BY STU DURANDO • [sdurando@post-dispatch.com](mailto:sdurando@post-dispatch.com) > 314-340-8232 | Posted: Thursday, September 29, 2011 12:40 am

**Attempting to quell the groundswell of chatter about Missouri moving to the Southeastern Conference, and perhaps alleviate his own fears, Big 12 interim commissioner Chuck Neinas used a variety of techniques Wednesday night while delivering his message.**

From colorful to blunt, Neinas was consistent in his insistence that Missouri belongs in the Big 12 and belief that the school's board of curators will resist any other suitors to keep the conference stable.

He compared the SEC to the pretty girl you might want to take to the prom but suggested Mizzou should stick with a "tried and true" partner.

He noted the many friends he has at the university and that he was involved in the search that landed athletics director Mike Alden in Columbia.

And asked if he thought a year from now that Missouri would be in the Big 12, he said, flat out, "Yes."

Emerging from two days of meetings with the Big 12 athletic directors in Dallas, Neinas answered questions via conference call, with a majority dealing with the situation at Missouri.

Among the topics tackled by the A.D.s was the proposed granting of media rights to the conference, a deal that could give the Big 12 stability for years to come. The last step is approval from the Missouri curators. The curators do not have a meeting scheduled but can assemble relatively quickly, generally with a 24-hour notice to the public.

"They will have the opportunity to review what the conference has accomplished, what we're doing and plan to do," Neinas said. "Once they have the opportunity to fully understand what the conference is doing, they will agree that Missouri should continue to be a good member of the Big 12."

Neinas plans to visit each Big 12 campus in the next month and said he will work from north to south. But he wouldn't say when he might be in Columbia. He said he has talked recently with Missouri chancellor Brady Deaton, however, that has largely been in Deaton's role as the chairman of the Big 12.

Neinas said he doesn't believe that Mizzou, or any other Big 12 school, has filed an application for membership with the SEC. But he added "That doesn't mean there hasn't been one."

SEC commissioner Mike Slive said on Tuesday that his league "anticipates" being at 13 teams for the 2012-13 season. His conference officially accepted Texas A&M's membership on Monday.

Taking a second team from the Big 12 — and the potential perception and potential legal action that could come with it — is one reason the SEC is moving very cautiously.

Neinas wouldn't divulge how he might deliver a sales pitch on the Big 12 to Missouri. But he made a lot of his points evident.

"Where are Missouri's roots?" he asked. "They go way back to the Missouri Valley (Intercollegiate Athletic Association), which became the Big Six and then the Big Eight. There's a lot to look at."

One factor will be how the Big 12 replaces A&M. BYU, Louisville, TCU and Boise State are among the schools that might be considered for the Big 12. Neinas would only say that "there's been no shortage of interest."

The athletic directors discussed expansion at great length over two days, he said, but there was no consensus on how many members would be ideal.

"Right now there is no goal," he said. "Expansion was discussed widely by the athletic directors. They made no recommendations. Some even would say let's make sure we stay at nine. There is no unanimity, not even a plurality on what they'd like to do. They're waiting for the expansion committee to analyze the situation."

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## **NCAA president says money's role too big**

### **NO MU Mention**

By MICHAEL MAROT, The Associated Press

September 28, 2011 | 11:08 p.m. CDT

INDIANAPOLIS — As a growing number of schools play musical chairs with conferences, NCAA President Mark Emmert says he is concerned about the perception that money is driving the decisions and declared "this is not the NFL, the NBA, it's not a business."

Instead, Emmert is urging school presidents to consider factors besides revenue when choosing conference affiliation.

"I think what came across (with realignment) is that all we care about is money and what we can do that is to our advantage," Emmert said Wednesday. "Nobody was talking about what this is going to do for student-athletes or intercollegiate athletic programs. It was all about let's make a deal."

Emmert understands the urge, perhaps even the necessity, for schools to do something.

Nobody wants to give up a potentially big payday, and nobody wants to be left without a seat when the music stops playing.

Before leaving the University of Washington to take the NCAA job last October, Emmert participated in the same sort of discussion with his Pac-10 colleagues. Emmert and the others eventually voted to accept two new members, Colorado and Utah, which allowed the conference to add a football title game as another moneymaker.

There's nothing wrong with finding more revenue, Emmert said, as long as it is used properly and doesn't add to the perception that college sports is all about the bottom line.

"We shouldn't say money isn't important," he said. "It is very important to fund intercollegiate athletics because universities can no longer afford to take money out of their

regular budgets to subsidize sports. Money's not evil. It's what you do with the money that's evil."

Skeptics can point in almost any direction to illustrate their point that college sports is big businesses.

In April 2010, the NCAA signed a \$10.8 billion television contract with CBS and TNT to televise the men's basketball tournament. The NCAA says more than 90 percent of that money will go directly back to schools.

Bowl games generate tens of millions of dollars for participating teams, which are then divvied up among all of the teams in the league. And some conferences have started their own television networks, which pump millions into athletic department budgets, and many schools have spent millions more on their facilities in the recruiting race.

That's only part of the equation.

School leaders are debating proposals that would cover an athlete's full cost of attendance, money that would go beyond the cost of tuition, room and board, fees and books. The hope is to lessen the temptation of being influenced by outsiders offering money or benefits that run afoul of NCAA rules.

Conference realignment cropped up last year when the Big 12 lost Nebraska (Big Ten) and Colorado. That prompted other changes and things really took off recently when the ACC announced it was accepting Syracuse and Pittsburgh from the Big East and Texas A&M announced plans to leave the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference.

Critics fear the changes could lead to a handful of 16-team superconferences that could break away from the NCAA or dictate looser rules to stay competitive.

Though Emmert has no authority to dictate school decisions about conferences, he is trying to redirect the conversation.

"I'm not concerned so much about one university moving from one conference to another or exploring what their options are," Emmert said. "What I want, and what I've been encouraging schools to do, is look at what the end is.

"The end is not having 16 schools in a conference or doing a deal. It's why are you going in that direction and what are the outcomes you are trying to achieve? They better be looking at

it to see what it will do for student-athletes. Will it allow us to create more revenue to support these big intercollegiate programs, and whether we're contemplating something that won't create more impositions for our student-athletes."

Emmert has downplayed the significance of conference expansion or contraction, pointing out that leagues have expanded and dissolved before.

But there's one thing he wants to make clear: The NCAA will never become the equivalent of a pro league.

"The past handful of weeks, we have seen people behaving perfectly rationally because they think they'll be left without a chair when the music stops. Or that they'll be in a disadvantageous position or that they'll be left out of a media cycle," he said. "I get that. But at the end of the day, these presidents, these conference commissioners and myself, we have to be able to work together."



# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## Missouri Theatre shared inventory seen as advantage to MU

By [Zach Murdock](#)

September 28, 2011 | 4:02 p.m. CDT

**COLUMBIA – MU's lease agreement with the Missouri Symphony Society for the Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts shows the university is getting much more than an additional concert space.**

As part of the lease agreement, ownership of more than 335 pieces of equipment will be transferred to MU, including more than 180 musical instruments and audio components.

In August, MU entered into a three-year lease agreement with the Symphony Society to lease the theater for \$12,000 per month. The deal includes an option for MU to purchase the theater at the end of the term for \$3.7 million.

The university also will have access to nearly 300 more items that the Symphony Society will continue to own. The equipment now available to MU includes staging and audio elements, lighting, computers, shop tools and theater furnishings.

The musical equipment transferred to MU for at least the duration of the lease is in exchange for rent associated with the Symphony Society's office space in the theater, said John Murray, assistant director of business services and building coordinator for Jesse Auditorium. Murray now also oversees MU's use of the Missouri Theatre.

Symphony-quality instruments are very valuable, said Kevin Bucklew, general manager of [Palen Music Columbia](#). At the Missourian's request, Bucklew reviewed a list of the musical instruments included in the deal.

He said that if they are new, the instruments alone could be worth more than \$210,000 – not including the value of the theater's restored Robert Morgan theater organ.

Percussion instruments and equipment make up most the transferred instruments. But those items are well below symphony-quality, said Julia Gaines, associate professor of percussion in MU's School of Music.

"We bring over most of our (drums) from MU just to make sure we are playing on good equipment," Gaines said. "A few instruments of theirs we won't even use because they are so bad."

Murray explained the shared equipments and instruments gives his staff "efficiency of scale" by expanding the inventories of both Jesse Auditorium and the Missouri Theatre. Because both venues have the ability to share inventories, Murray's staff can save time and money by sharing equipment that would previously need to be rented, like specific models of microphones.

"It's just another example of how, by operating two buildings that are similar but different, we will be able to operate much more efficiently," Murray said.

That efficiency applies to the School of Music, too, cutting out time transporting instruments and setting up for rehearsals, said Robert Shay, the school's director.

"It's a convenience, and we'll certainly take advantage of that opportunity," Shay said.

Starting in 2014, MU may exercise the option to buy the property for \$3.7 million, MU spokesman Christian Basi said. That price tag is fixed and is the result of negotiation between MU and the Symphony Society, he said. That would require an appraisal evaluating the property's value before needing approval of the UM System Board of Curators. According to the terms of the lease, MU is not required to purchase the property.

"I really think this deal is another great example of how this cooperative arrangement works out for all parties involved," Murray said.

# The Daily Tar Heel

*University of North Carolina daily newspaper*

## UNC announces finalists for diversity head position

By [From staff and wire reports](#) | The Daily Tar Heel

*Updated:* 8 hours ago

Four candidates for the associate provost for diversity and multicultural affairs position have accepted invitations to interview publicly on campus.

Taffye Clayton, Charles Alexander, Roger Worthington and Pedro Caban will be on campus Oct. 11, 14, 18 and 25, respectively. Interviews with each candidate will be held in the Pleasants Family Room of Wilson Library.

The goal of the interviews is to give the campus community an opportunity to hear the candidates' ideas for enhancing diversity programs and initiatives on campus. The candidates will choose the topics they discuss.

Clayton is the associate provost for equity, diversity and community relations and chief diversity officer at East Carolina University. She is an alumna of UNC.

Alexander is the associate vice provost for student diversity and the director of the academic advancement program at the University of California at Los Angeles. He helped design programs increasing diversity in the health professions.

**Worthington will visit from the University of Missouri, where he is a professor in the College of Education. He also serves in the school's department of educational, school and counseling psychology, and the department of educational leadership and policy analysis.**

Caban was the vice provost for diversity and educational equity for the State University of New York from 2007 until 2011. He is currently a professor of Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latino studies at the University at Albany, SUNY.

# AP Associated Press

## Who's on first? On campus, competing claims cloud stakes for first homecoming celebration

By Associated Press, Updated: Thursday, September 29, 3:19 AM



*( no / Associated Press ) - FILE - In this Oct. 23, 2010, file photo Missouri football fans are seen during an NCAA college football game against the Oklahoma Sooners in Columbia, Mo. Spirit-filled students and reminiscing alumni by the thousands will descend on the University of Missouri this October to celebrate what many consider the first collegiate homecoming 100 years ago. But it turns out the University of Illinois began its annual alumni event one year earlier, in 1910.*

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Spirit-filled students and reminiscing alumni by the thousands will descend on Missouri in two weeks to celebrate what many consider the first collegiate homecoming 100 years ago.

There's just one problem, or maybe two.

Illinois already had its centennial homecoming celebration last year, having started its annual alumni event in 1910. And Baylor held its first homecoming in 1909, although it would take six years for the event's return and several more decades for the more-common moniker to take hold after an earlier incarnation as "Good Will Week."

Other schools such as Indiana, Michigan and Northern Illinois held homecoming-like events even earlier but without the traditional football game, bonfires, parades and other hallmarks of modern-day homecoming. When it comes to college football rivalries, none is older than Harvard-Yale and its 1875 origin. But Harvard's first homecoming didn't happen until 2009.

Tigers faithful have spent decades claiming former Missouri football coach and athletic director Chester Brewer's invitation for graduates to "come home" was the start of the tradition. School leaders know better — and are now more vocal in dispelling a well-worn myth whose adherents included Brewer himself.

"We try to be a little more careful about it," said Missouri Alumni Association executive director Todd McCubbin, whose organization used to promote the school's homecoming as "the first and finest."

The Oct. 15 game against Iowa State, preceded by a week's worth of activities, is now simply the school's centennial celebration.

"Certainly, our graduates feel like we're the first," he said. "Sometimes perception is reality."

In 2005, university archivists at Illinois attempted to get to the bottom of the historical uncertainty. Their conclusion: "At the very least, Illinois can claim to have had the longest tradition called 'homecoming' and to have self-consciously created the event with the intention of it being a precedent that would be adopted by other institutions."

"Baylor probably had the first homecoming," said Ellen Swain, the school's archivist for student life and culture. "Of course, there could have been a school in Florida somewhere that we don't know about."

As for Missouri's claim?

"We were so surprised to hear that," Swain said. "It was pretty clear that they weren't the first."

Students and alumni in Champaign, where No. 24 Illinois (4-0) faces Big Ten rival Northwestern (2-1) in Saturday's homecoming game, were disappointed about the archivists' findings but accept their conclusion, Swain said.

In Waco, the 1909 celebration convened over Thanksgiving weekend included class reunions, a parade, a band concert and an "old-time soiree," according to an online school history. The university makes no claims to have been the first, going only as far as noting that "few were as early as Baylor's."

"We don't say it's the oldest homecoming," said Baylor senior Zach Sartor, a chemistry major from Abilene who leads the homecoming committee. "We hang our hat on having the oldest and largest collegiate parade in the nation."

Settling the debate on the football field would seem to be an obvious solution, though Illinois chose not to renew what had been an annual season-opening game against Missouri in St. Louis after four consecutive losses. Sartor, however, noted that No. 15 Baylor hosts Missouri as its homecoming opponent on Nov. 5.

“That’s a great story line, huh?” he said.