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# MISSOURIAN

## UM Press considered at Faculty Council meeting with Wolfe, Deaton

Monday, August 6, 2012 | 6:11 p.m. CDT; updated 12:20 a.m. CDT, Tuesday, August 7, 2012  
BY Fareeha Amir

**COLUMBIA — The MU Faculty Council met early Monday morning with University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe and Chancellor Brady Deaton in a closed-door meeting to discuss issues surrounding the quality of the University of Missouri Press.**

One of the main concerns of the Faculty Council was that the quality of the press remains the same as its predecessor or increases.

MU officials announced in July that a new press focusing on online publishing would replace the original University of Missouri Press.

The press's reputation is based on the quality of the work it publishes, Nicole Monnier, academic affairs chair, said.

Monnier said one of the concerns about the quality arose because the press may end up as a teaching lab rather than a press staffed by professionals. Another concern was that quality may be affected with changes in management and press structure.

Wolfe said in the meeting that the quality of the press is the administration's main concern as well, Monnier said. However, Monnier said the lingering question is how that quality will be measured.

With the press still in a transitional phase, the structure is unknown. Without knowing the structure, it is hard to say how this quality will be measured, Monnier said.

At the meeting, the council decided to create a committee to oversee the transition of the press. The committee will include MU faculty, faculty from the other system campuses, authors and other stakeholders, Harry Tyrer, faculty council chair, said. He said that having this advisory group will help ensure the quality of the press.

Two people, Richard Wallace and Deborah Noble-Triplett, have been appointed to handle the day-to-day transition process of the press, Tyrer said. They will also be responsible for creating the transition committee. However, it is still uncertain when the committee will be formed and who will be on it.

No timeline has been presented yet, but Tyrer expects the transition to be done within a year.

# The Chronicle of Higher Education

## Director of U. of New Orleans Press Loses Job Amid Budget Cuts

August 6, 2012, 12:37 pm

Bill Lavender, the director and sole employee of UNO Press, the University of New Orleans's book-publishing operation, has lost his job in the latest round of budget cuts for public universities in Louisiana, according to *The Times-Picayune*. Mr. Lavender, who became director in 2007, ran the press with a small staff of graduate students. A university spokesman told the newspaper that the institution was still considering its budget-cutting options. **News of Mr. Lavender's departure comes as other scholarly publishers, such as the University of Missouri Press, are navigating the shift in traditional publishing brought on by budget pressures and new technologies.**



## Role of MU's non-tenured faculty evolves as numbers grow

By Janese Silvey

As a member of the University of Missouri Faculty Council's executive committee, Nicole Monnier seems to have a significant say in how the group operates.

She chairs a committee, can weigh in on proposed policy changes and joins in on the committee's closed-door meetings.

When it comes time for the council to actually make a decision, though, Monnier loses her voice. An associate teaching professor of Russian, she is not tenured and, per university rules, is not allowed to vote.

"When something gets to council, I can't vote on it, which is ridiculous," she said. "It's absolutely absurd."

Monnier is part of a population of non-tenured university employees who teach, conduct research and provide extension services — a group that is growing at a faster rate than tenured faculty. Between 2001 and 2011, the number of those not seeking tenure has grown 86 percent, compared with the 3.4 percent growth among tenured faculty.

She is the first non-tenure-track member to serve on the council's executive committee, a position she first held last year. Monnier worked mostly behind the scenes, though, because a teaching conflict prevented her from attending most of the full council meetings. This year, the fact that she cannot vote is likely to become more obvious. And it's likely Monnier will continue attempts to change that rule.

In March, Clyde Bentley, an associate professor of journalism, proposed to the council a change in the way "faculty" is defined. All full-time faculty members who hold an academic rank, the proposal said, would be given voting privileges both on the council and in campuswide elections. That proposal has not moved forward, though.

That Monnier and three other non-tenure-track faculty have a seat at the table, though, does reflect a changing campus culture. A decade ago, they were the only group not allowed to serve on lower-level campus committees, such as parking and transportation, said Leona Rubin, an associate professor of veterinary medicine.

"All the committees where faculty had an advisory role had no non-tenure-track faculty," she said. Those committees included "staff, students and full-time tenure-track faculty, so it was

obvious who was excluded. ... I think some of those NTT faculty have been members of this campus community for 20 years. To ignore them is just a crime."

About six or seven years ago, Faculty Council created four positions to allow each type of non-tenure faculty — teaching, research, clinical and extension — to have representation. But because those members are spread across campus and not organized, most of those seats remained vacant until Rubin became chairwoman in 2009. She helped the group hold elections to fill those slots.

One oft-cited concern about giving non-tenured faculty a voice on the council is that they're not protected under the guidelines that are meant to ensure academic freedom. Unlike tenured professors, who can't be fired without specific cause, non-tenured professors can be fired at whim.

Although that might seem to deter them from challenging administration, Rubin said in reality that has not been the case.

Monnier argues that those faculty members are as familiar with academic issues as tenured professors who might be more focused on research and graduate-level instruction. And academic issues are a key part of shared governance: In an ideal setting, faculty members are supposed to help administrators make decisions relating to curricula and determining degree requirements.

"That's what we do," she said. "That's our primary responsibility, but yet we have no right to participate in shared governance? It's really, really frustrating."

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# MISSOURIAN

## Towns of the SEC website will encourage tourism outside of sports

Monday, August 6, 2012 | 4:17 p.m. CDT

BY Leah Beane

**COLUMBIA — Missouri's move to the Southeastern Conference will bring the opportunity for new visitors to travel to Columbia. Most of these people may not know anything about the city, but a newly formed group, Towns of the SEC, wants to change that.**

Towns of the SEC is a conference-wide tourism effort to enhance fans' experiences in SEC cities and encourage visits to the cities outside of sporting events, Beth Mead of the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau said.

Mead attended the group's July 30 meeting at the SEC headquarters in Birmingham, Ala., where Towns of the SEC was formed. Representatives from 11 of 14 cities in the SEC were present, but all 14 cities are supportive, Mead said.

The group currently has an informal structure but a unified vision. "It's in its infancy," Mead said.

The main priority is getting the Towns of the SEC website up and running before this fall's football season. The website will be available through the SEC's website and will be a landing page for each city's tourism site, Mead said. The group will allow tourists from any town to easily access facts about the cities in the SEC — both expanded information about game days and more things to see and do outside sporting events.

When people visit Columbia's section of the website, they'll see the basic information about the game, but they can also expect information about transportation, other events happening that weekend and links to the city's social network presence, Mead said.

Users of the website can expect this kind of information from each city for each game.

"In Gainesville, there's 92,000 people jammed into the stadium, and hours later the town looks almost normal," Roland Loog of VisitGainesville.com said. "We would like people to stay for more than the game."

After the football season, Towns of the SEC representatives will reconvene and continue to work on the objectives they set forth at the July meeting. Greater interactivity with fans is a goal, as well as a presence at the SEC championships, Loog said.

# Poynter.

## Study: Happiest countries have press freedom

by [Andrew Beaujon](#) Published Aug. 6, 2012 12:39 pm

**Freedom of the press is a reliable indicator of a country's happiness, journalism doctoral student Edson Tandoc Jr. concludes in a new study. Tandoc and Michigan State University's Bruno Takahashi compared 2010 Gallup data on countries' happiness levels with Freedom House's press freedom index and countries' environmental and developmental rankings. The University of Missouri reports:**

Tandoc found that the more press freedom a country enjoyed, the higher the levels of life satisfaction, or happiness, of its citizens tended to be.

Wonderful news! But don't we fall into the ol' correlation-isn't-causation problem here?

Tandoc also found that countries with higher levels of press freedom enjoyed better environmental quality and higher levels of human development, both of which also contribute to life satisfaction. He credits this to the watchdog function of the press, which helps expose corruption of all levels in a community.

I did a little on-the-fly peer review of my own, comparing this Huffington Post slideshow about countries that indexed well for happiness (based on that 2010 Gallup data) with international sales of "Call Me Maybe."

In three of the happiest countries — Denmark, Finland and Panama — the song is still No. 1. In all the countries in the slideshow, "Call Me Maybe" is still on the charts. That said, it's also No. 1 in Venezuela, Mexico and Italy, none of which Reporters Without Borders rates particularly high for press freedom.