Sources: Ex-Miami coaches know of allegations

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Two former Miami assistant coaches have been told they will be charged with "unethical conduct" when the NCAA presents the Hurricanes' athletic department with its notice of allegations, said two people familiar with the situation.

The people spoke to The Associated Press Monday on condition of anonymity because neither the NCAA or Miami have announced the contents of the long-awaited letter, which the Hurricanes may receive at any time. The people say the coaches will be cited for violating NCAA bylaw 10.1, a broad rule that covers conduct and cooperating with investigations. One of the coaches has been told to expect arrival of an actual copy of the allegations on Tuesday, one person told the AP.

Parties who are named in the notice of allegations are entitled to a copy, though it is unclear if all will receive the letter simultaneous to its delivery at Miami. It's unknown how many current and former coaches and staff members will be charged with wrongdoing.

The NCAA does not comment on ongoing investigations. Miami officials have said throughout the investigation, which started in 2011, that the school is cooperating with the NCAA and will decline extensive public comment out of respect to that process.

The people told the AP that Miami still has not seen a final version of the notice of allegations, the arrival of which will essentially bring just the first chapter of this Miami-NCAA saga to a close. Several people involved with the process have either reviewed draft documents or been advised of their upcoming mentions in telephone calls with investigators. Most of those calls took place last week.

Another individual who was interviewed during the joint inquiry told the AP that the NCAA has not been in contact since. That suggests not everyone who at one time was thought to be under investigation will not actually be mentioned in the notice of allegations.

Earlier this month, Miami coach Al Golden said he did not expect the university to be surprised by the NCAA's findings. Several people involved in the investigation said Miami has had representation at many interviews the NCAA conducted with persons it found to be of interest.

A CBSSports.com report published Monday said that the NCAA could not prove former booster and convicted Ponzi scheme architect Nevin Shapiro's claim that former Miami men's basketball coach Frank Haith or a member of his Miami staff paid $10,000 to the family of former Hurricanes' player DeQuan Jones. Shapiro has said that he provided that money.
Jones was suspended by Miami last season after Shapiro's claims were published in August 2011 by Yahoo Sports, then ultimately allowed to return to the team.

CBSSports.com also said Haith will face the "unethical conduct" charge because of inconsistencies the NCAA found in his account of Jones' recruitment. CBSSports.com also said Haith will be charged with "failure to promote an atmosphere of compliance" because relatives of two players were given impermissible airline travel.

"The University has been in communication with the NCAA regarding their ongoing efforts related to the University of Miami investigation," Missouri said in a statement. "Coach Haith and the University of Missouri continue to cooperate fully. However, we are not at liberty to comment further out of respect for the NCAA process."

One of those players, current senior Reggie Johnson, was suspended for a game last season after Miami and the NCAA found members of his family accepted what they called "impermissible travel benefits." And guard Durand Scott, the Hurricanes' leading scorer, was for the end of last season and the start of this season after he was also found to have gotten unspecified extra benefits.

Whenever the actual letter arrives, Miami's receipt of the notice of allegations will usher in the start of the sanctions phase.

And that could take months — meaning actual penalties may not be handed down until this summer, or later.

Typically, schools and individuals named in the notice of allegations have 90 days to file a response to the NCAA's findings, all of which would be reviewed by the committee on infractions — which operates separately from the NCAA's investigative arm.

Some of the sanctions have already gone into effect, since they were self-imposed. Miami's football team has missed three postseason games — two bowl games and what would have been an appearance in this season's Atlantic Coast Conference championship game — in response to the investigation, and Golden is holding back a number of scholarships from the 2013 roster as well.

Shapiro, the former booster, is serving a 20-year sentence in federal prison for masterminding a $930 million Ponzi scheme. Virtually all of the individuals who were named by Shapiro in his detailed claims that were published by Yahoo Sports are no longer at the university, and several of the people to whom the NCAA wanted to talk simply refused during the inquiry.

The NCAA inquiry started several months before that August 2011 article.
Missouri Coach Frank Haith could face charges of unethical conduct and failure to promote an atmosphere of compliance when the NCAA releases its notice of allegations after an investigation of the University of Miami, CBS-Sports.com reported Monday.

The website’s report cited an anonymous source close to the situation saying, if found guilty, Haith could receive a multiple-year show-cause penalty, which is an order from the NCAA saying that any NCAA penalties imposed on a coach involved in major rules violations at one school will continue to be enforced if he is hired by another school.

Show-cause penalties often end the careers of college coaches.

The CBS report said the notice of allegations will reveal the NCAA could not prove booster Nevin Shapiro’s allegation that Haith gave his blessing for Shapiro to pay $10,000 to recruit DeQuan Jones. But the CBS report said Haith could be charged with unethical conduct because "the NCAA did not believe his story that payments to his assistants intended for camp money did not wind up going to repay Shapiro." The website’s source said the money was delivered to Shapiro’s mother, who later verified the payment to the NCAA.

Haith learned of the report after practice yesterday afternoon but said he could not comment until he or his attorneys received a notice of allegations from the NCAA.

They are still waiting. The CBS report said the allegations could be released soon, perhaps as early as this week.

"It's premature to talk, say anything other than that, based on I'm bound by confidentiality based on the process of the NCAA," Haith said before appearing on his Tiger Talk radio show last night at Buffalo Wild Wings. "That's all I can say."

A statement from Missouri released last night echoed that sentiment.

"The University of Missouri is aware of today's story from CBS Sports," it read. "The University has been in communication with the NCAA regarding their ongoing efforts related to the
University of Miami investigation. Coach Haith and the University of Missouri continue to cooperate fully. However, we are not at liberty to comment further out of respect for the NCAA process."

Michael Buckner, one of three attorneys representing Haith, expressed disappointment that someone would violate the NCAA's confidentiality provisions before the notice of allegations was released.

"There were only a certain small group of people that should be able to talk about any aspect of this case, and I would hope anyone that either has information or thinks they have information not talk about it before the NCAA has made its decision on this case," he said this morning. "Up until that point, anything that's reported in the media from any source is speculation."

Even if Haith is named in the notice of allegations, he and his attorneys are prepared to contest the charges.

"The enforcement staff is not right all the time," Buckner said. "That's why you have a hearing. That's why you have a process."

Buckner noted that the NCAA's investigation of Miami began because of accusations made by Shapiro, who said he gave thousands of impermissible benefits to Miami athletes, most of them football players, between 2002-10. Shapiro is currently serving a 20-year prison sentence after being convicted for his role in a $930 million Ponzi scheme.

"This case was started by Nevin Shapiro, a man who's in prison because he lied to people for a living," he said. "And I think that's what people forget about all this. He was a professional liar."

After the NCAA's notice of allegations is released, individuals involved in the case will have up to 90 days to respond in writing before a hearing in front of the Committee on Infractions, which operates independently of the NCAA's investigative unit. That hearing would likely take place in mid-June. A decision on penalties would likely come at least four months later.

Schools aren't explicitly prevented from hiring coaches who receive the show-cause penalty, but they can be subject to severe penalties if the coach commits another violation during the length of the penalty.

The penalty has had the effect of blackballing coaches, including former Tennessee Coach Bruce Pearl, former Oklahoma and Indiana Coach Kelvin Sampson, former Baylor Coach Dave Bliss, former Minnesota Coach Clem Haskins and former California Coach Todd Bozeman. Of them, only Bozeman, now at Morgan State, has returned to the college coaching ranks.

Haith's contract stipulates that Missouri can terminate him for cause for "any violation of any policy, law, rule, regulation, constitutional provision, bylaw or interpretation" of the NCAA that, "in the sole judgment of the University, reflects adversely upon the University or its athletic
program." That includes "any violation which occurred during prior employment of the Employee at another NCAA member institution."

Haith, hired by Missouri in April 2011 after seven seasons at Miami, has had the possibility of NCAA sanctions looming over him almost since the beginning of his tenure. His name surfaced in a Yahoo! Sports report in August 2011 detailing Shapiro's allegations of rampant rules violations at Miami.

During the investigation, the NCAA uncovered evidence of impermissible airline travel given to the family members of two players — Reggie Johnson and Durand Scott — from a member of Haith's staff, resulting in multi-game suspensions for both players last season. The CBS report said that because of those infractions and interaction between Shapiro and players on recruiting visits, the NCAA is also prepared to charge Haith with failure to promote an atmosphere of compliance.

Three of his former Miami assistants — Jake Morton at Western Kentucky, Michael Schwartz at Fresno State and Jorge Fernandez, who left Marshall after last season — are also expected to be charged with unethical conduct, according to the CBS report.

This article was published in the Tuesday, January 22, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Haith in NCAA's crosshairs: CBS reports says MU coach will be sanctioned."
Tipsheet: Faith in Haith is evaporating

20 hours ago • BY JEFF GORDON, STLtoday.com Sports Columnist

If the NCAA pins an “unethical conduct” rap on Mizzou basketball coach Frank Haith — and then makes it stick — he is toast.

As Post-Dispatch reporter Vahe Gregorian notes, that is generally a professional death sentence for a collegiate coach. The accompanying “show cause” sanctions are so onerous that schools treat such coaches like they have the plague.

To make such a charge stick, the NCAA should have compelling direct evidence of serious violations. According to information CBSSports.com learned, the NCAA lacks such evidence on the sexiest allegation.

Former University of Miami booster Nevin Shapiro, currently doing time as a convicted Ponzi schemer, claims Haith knew about a $10,000 payment made to a Hurricane recruit. The NCAA was unable to prove that this payment was made.

And yet the report indicates Haith would face charges of “unethical conduct and failure to promote an atmosphere of compliance” for allegedly funneling basketball camp money to Shapiro, a confessed bag man. Also, the staff gave some impermissible airline tickets to family members of two players. Also, Shapiro went outside NCAA rules to make contact with players on recruiting visits.

This is fairly minor stuff in the realm of collegiate recruiting, where top prospects can command six-figure packages. The $10,000 and some airline tickets amount to a Sun Belt Conference-caliber beef. This is the sort of “case” that elicits chuckles at the lobby bar during a coaching convention.

The John Caliparis of the industry operate freely, but the diligent NCAA crime-stoppers spend years trying to nail the University of Miami basketball program — which is barely on the national radar screen.

Major programs have become quite creative in offering massive financial inducements. Perhaps the family will see a sudden rise in the real estate value of their home. Perhaps family members could enjoy sudden good fortune in the employment market. For a while, programs curried favor with AAU coaches by hiring them to bring an exhibition team into town to play. Every time the NCAA closes one path toward recruit compensation, coaches think of something new.
But we digress. Haith’s coaching future hangs in the balance. His former assistant coaches at Miami face the same fate. Will one or more of them serve up new information on Haith while trying to cop a plea? Or was Haith truly out of the loop on the more serious stuff?

Allowing Shapiro to hang around the Miami basketball program was a huge mistake. Then again, Shapiro was an omnipresent force at that school. Through his generous giving, he ingratiated himself with everybody from school president Donna Shalala on down. Most of that largesse was directed toward football, but some apparently spilled over to hoops. In that toxic atmosphere, Haith’s program did not stay squeaky clean.

In the short term, this controversy provides a distraction for a team that certainly doesn’t need the hoo-ha. This season could start looking like Mike Anderson’s sad farewell season, when the Tigers tanked during his protracted romance with Arkansas.

In the longer term, this story endangers future seasons. Mizzou was lining up quality recruits for years to come. Other coaches are circling these young men like wolves, telling them and their families and/or handlers that Haith is doomed. Next season Haith hoped to start his program building in earnest with top freshmen instead of talented transfers. Suddenly those hopes are imperiled.

The University of Missouri will allow the process to play out. Once the notice of allegations becomes official, then Haith will get his opportunity to mount a defense. Then he will get his hearing with the Committee on Infractions. Then that group will have up to six months to render a decision. And all the while, Haith will try to operate in business-as-usual mode.

It is hard to see a happy ending for Haith. Even if he beats back the more serious charge, his support base at Missouri could disappear. Haith was an unpopular hire. He won national Coach of the Year honors last season, then let his team fall to Norfolk State in the NCAA Tournament.

Boosters are already speculating about his replacement. The Brad Stevens infatuation is gathering steam again.

Athletic director Mike Alden already has his hands full with Mizzou’s painful transition to SEC football. He is spending much of his hard-earned equity to buy Gary Pinkel time to make needed adjustments. There won’t be much left to buy faith in Haith if the basketball scenario gets even more dicey.

Alden is duty-bound to stand by Haith while the process plays out over several months.

From the purely competitive standpoint, Alden’s best play is to keep top associate head coach Tim Fuller aboard to sustain the recruiting flow as best he can. Perhaps paying Fuller like an upper mid-major coach would help that effort. Perhaps positioning him as the possible successor (ala Frank Martin at Kansas State) will help that quest.

**STORY CONTINUES...**
Timing, location could make Haith’s situation unique

January 22

By BLAIR KERKHOFF and TEREZ A. PAYLOR

The Kansas City Star

Will this be the winter of Missouri discontent?

MU basketball coach Frank Haith is expected to be charged by the NCAA with unethical conduct and failure to promote an atmosphere of compliance while he worked at the University of Miami, according to a report by CBSSports.com’s Jeff Goodman.

But time and location would create unique circumstances in Haith’s case if and when formal allegations are made by the NCAA.

He’s no longer at the school where the trouble originated, and when Missouri hired him in April 2011, athletic director Mike Alden had checked with the NCAA for past discretions and was given a green light.

The Miami scandal, which focused on gifts provided by jailed booster Nevin Shapiro, was uncovered in reporting by Yahoo! Sports after Haith had moved to Missouri.

Does that mean Missouri could pay for the alleged misdeeds at another school?

If the NCAA charges Haith, he is expected to have 90 days to respond in writing before a hearing is set with the NCAA Committee on Infractions, likely in June. At that stage, he can argue the charges, and MU officials could observe. There are past examples of the NCAA not being able to prove all allegations made in a formal notice.

It typically takes the committee an average of two months to rule and hand out penalties. Once decisions are made public, parties can appeal.

If Haith is found guilty of the charges mentioned in the CBSSports.com report, a multiple-year show-cause penalty could result. A show-cause typically renders a coach unemployable in the
college ranks. Former Tennessee basketball coach Bruce Pearl and Indiana basketball coach Kelvin Sampson were hit with multi-year show-cause penalties.

If Haith remains the coach at MU and is tagged with a show-cause order, it’s likely he would be prohibited from recruiting or suspended for multiple games. Those penalties would follow him to MU. If Missouri wanted to keep Haith, the school likely would have to explain that decision to the NCAA — why it wants to employ a coach with such a charge — and could also ask for relief from the penalties, which has been successful in other NCAA cases.

MU also would have the option to terminate Haith based on language in his contract.

Whatever the timeline in Missouri’s case, Haith’s situation will hang over the team until it’s resolved, which could be well after this season ends.
COLUMBIA, Mo. • Once again we arrive at the dateline for rumors of rumors, of whether the NCAA posse is merely circling outside of town or if it’s actually poised to serve a warrant bearing basketball coach Frank Haith’s name.

A process that actually began before Missouri’s expedited hire of Haith is reportedly past the fact-finding phase and moving onto notification of the principals.

Following notification there is the inevitable appeal process and, ultimately, a penalty.

Missouri won a conference game against that backdrop Tuesday night at Mizzou Arena, a 71-65 escape act after trailing South Carolina by 13 almost three minutes into the second half.

The Tigers won improbably with point guard Phil Pressey hobbled with four fouls for much of the second half and despite the night’s catalyst, forward Alex Oriakhi, fouling out following a perfect shooting night that came with 11 rebounds.

The outcome comes within a climate where — until Haith’s situation clarifies — each win is secondary and each loss can be conveniently considered potential fallout from the larger issue.

“It’s been a tough 20, 18, 19 months,” Haith said afterward. “But it’s a blessing it is coming close to the end. That’s the way I feel personally.”

The process can appear unfair but it has proceeded in this case as it has in numerous others.

Any NCAA investigation is sure to be ponderous and often presumptive. The NCAA doesn’t enjoy power of subpoena. It cannot compel the truth and at times acts on incomplete information. Once charged, the accused assumes burden of proof when appearing before the body’s Infractions Committee. Haith, whose alleged missteps occurred during his seven-year term at Miami, at first asserted his innocence of wrongdoing and now asserts his silence.

Haith’s current university may be portrayed as an unwitting bystander or sloppy at a vetting process that seemed to accelerate when its first choice to succeed Mike Anderson, Matt Painter, declined the job.
Now this.

Barely six weeks have passed since suspended senior guard Michael Dixon withdrew from school only hours after unearthed police records tied him to a second alleged sexual assault.

The program had couched Dixon’s on-court absence as a result of violating “team rules” as his case awaited disposition by Chancellor Brady Deaton. It had little to say of substance upon Dixon’s exit.

Saturday’s revelation by CBS Sports that the NCAA had found Haith guilty of “unethical conduct” and failure to promote an atmosphere of compliance while coaching the Hurricanes is unsettling.

If true, the reported charges could bring a “show-cause” penalty, creating significant pressure on Missouri to dismiss Haith or absorb the penalties attached to him.

The university, Haith and his Florida attorney have said little in recent days except to insist they have yet to receive official notification from the NCAA.

Haith’s attorney called the report “premature” early Tuesday.

“If I could wave a magic wand I would want to know the evidence that the NCAA is relying upon in their decision-making,” Haith’s attorney, Michael L. Buckner, told the Post-Dispatch’s Vahe Gregorian on Tuesday, “and I would have liked to have an opportunity to conduct our own fact-finding.”

Following Tuesday’s win, Haith doubled down, insisting they are untrue.

“Any person would want to defend himself, particularly when you’re having strong allegations being made about your character,” Haith said after his post-game briefing. “But because I’m a man of faith, I don’t worry about what I can’t control; I worry about what I can control. And those are my thoughts and my preparation. I’ve just put it in someone else’s hands, not mine. I don’t let it affect me. But that is the structure of the NCAA in dealing with this kind of process. That’s what they put before us. It is what it is.”

Haith could be seen as a pawn or a conspirator. According to the weekend CBS Sports report, the NCAA concedes it lacks material evidence against Haith but does not believe his account credible.

Because three of Haith’s former Miami assistants are also under investigation, it is hardly a stretch that Haith’s account may differ from at least one of theirs.

The NCAA reportedly believes that while at Miami Haith funneled money through his assistant coaches to the mother of a program booster, according to the CBS Sports report. That booster, Nevin Shapiro, is serving time for heading an elaborate Ponzi scheme that bilked investors of
almost $1 billion. As one might suspect, this is not Sunday school activity. The slime is attached to the alleged payment of a former player.

Haith did not discuss specifics of the case with the Post-Dispatch following the game. However, his answers represented a clear denial.

Both Haith and his attorney long ago maintained his innocence in the matter.

“Obviously, I want to see what the allegations are — if there are any coming our way,” Haith said, “And if there are, they’re just allegations. We get a chance to tell our side.”

Right now it all seems upside down.

Missouri reveled in the basketball program’s success last year as the Tigers rolled through a 30-5 season that included a 14-4 conference record, a Big 12 tournament title and a compelling road win over arch-rival Kansas. National outlets proclaimed Haith their national Coach of the Year. The new guy exuded class. He was patient with media that predictably fixated on his team’s remarkable success rather than the swill being stirred from Indianapolis to south Florida.

Now this.

A team once ranked No. 7 in the country Tuesday night almost suffered its third loss in four games, this one against a team that had suffered its previous three conference losses by a total 12 points against Mississippi State, Auburn and Vanderbilt. Pressey failed to score in 16 first-half minutes while the team shot 20 percent from the field, including 3-for-17 by its starters. The Tigers again played without forward Laurence Bowers, leaving them to work an outside-in offense that featured 14 attempted treys (and one make) in the first half.

Haith stripped his coat. Then he lost his tie. However, he never lost his composure during a game that tested his team’s viability or a post-game interrogation that resurrected questions about his integrity.

“Surely, this has been taxing on me. It’s been taxing on my family,” Haith said. “But at the end of the day I’m going to better because of all of it. And I think it’s going to teach our young people. You go through tough times but when you get out of it you’re going to be better. That’s what I live by. I’m very grateful this thing is getting close to the end. That’s exciting to me.”

There are many others very much wanting to share in Haith’s excitement.
Sam Mellinger: Missouri's Haith goes from coach of the year to endangered

By SAM MELLINGER

The first game of the rest of Frank Haith's coaching career was ugly. Coyote ugly. Brick after brick, a talented Missouri basketball team struggling to win a home game it should've breezed through, the injured star Laurence Bowers stuck in shirt-and-tie, clapping his hardest.

And, really, a too-close 71-65 win over South Carolina is the least of the Tigers' concerns.

"My attorneys have not received a letter of any allegations," Haith said, and that's a sentence every coach would rather not have to say in a postgame news conference.

Haith has gone from national coach of the year awards to his profession's endangered species list after a CBSSports.com report that indicates Haith will face serious NCAA charges from a scandal at his previous job in Miami and raises more questions than anyone can answer at the moment.

But while most are focusing on the obvious questions - Will Missouri fire Haith? Should Missouri fire him? - the most important ones are largely ignored.

Like, how did the report surface before Haith has even seen what he's charged with? What is the source's motivation? And are we really in a place where a man should lose his job over something his accuser reportedly says it can't even prove?

This puts Mizzou in an entirely unfair position. A promising basketball season is being rocked by something it had nothing to do with - that took place on a different campus years ago - that it could not have known about or acted upon - all regarding potential charges that were unethically leaked under questionable circumstances.

If it's proven that Haith broke rules at Miami, he did his job no worse than the NCAA.

This all stems from a Yahoo! Sports investigation fueled by an imprisoned source and focused on the football team. Haith is caught in the crossfire, far from an innocent victim if he lied about infractions, but also something like a loitering bystander taken in for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.
So for the rest of the season, Haith is coaching with a metaphorical lion in the room that he can't say much about. Once he receives the charges, he has up to 90 days to respond before a hearing is set, likely this summer. He will have his day in the NCAA's kangaroo court, in other words, and there is a bit of a hopeful new undercurrent around Columbia that he can be convincing enough to keep his job.

An infractions committee will presumably examine the motivations of the leak, because it's not hard to imagine the NCAA putting this out there in order to turn up public heat in a case it knows is light on evidence.

Mizzou sports seem to have an unbreakable connection to never-ending drama, and this is the story that isn't going away soon. But unlike a lot of it, this one isn't Missouri's fault.

Yahoo's report was still four months away when Haith was hired at Mizzou, and athletics director Mike Alden - who's in China on business - has said the NCAA gave him no hint of any wrongdoing when he was researching Haith's background.

The NCAA has emphasized sticking punishments with coaches more than schools, and if it's proven Haith cheated, and especially that he lied about it, then he has earned the punishment.

But we should also keep in mind that in the world of college basketball, these accusations essentially translate to a speeding ticket - maybe in a work zone. Haith just had the misfortune of being at a school with a football program under investigation by a relentless reporter.

What's interesting is that the Miami investigation isn't the only major change for Haith in the last 17 months. He also won 30 games last year, so even with more recent struggles at least some fans want to see more of him.

So in the end, whether Haith is retained will depend on more than just what the NCAA can prove. This is big business, after all, so Haith still has about two months to make his case through basketball. If the NCAA leaked the allegations to turn up public heat in what might be a flimsy case, Haith has his argument, too.

The Tigers play Vanderbilt on Saturday. They think Bowers might be healthy. Haith's fight to retain his job will be televised.
Haith's lawyer criticizes report of allegations

L.G. Patterson
Frank Haith at the press conference in April 2011 when he was named Mizzou basketball coach. Athletics director Mike Alden is in the background. (L.G. Patterson photo)

7 hours ago • By VAHE GREGORIAN vgregorian@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8199

As the business day came to an end on Tuesday, one of Mizzou basketball coach Frank Haith’s attorneys, Michael L. Buckner, said he had no update on the status of his client with respect to the NCAA investigation at Miami, Haith’s former employer.

“I thought you were calling to give me some updates,” he joked. “We still haven’t heard back from the NCAA.”

A day after a CBSSports.com report cited a source saying Haith is expected to be charged with “unethical conduct and failure to promote an atmosphere of compliance” as part of the NCAA’s impending notice of allegations against the school, Buckner maintains Haith did nothing wrong and stressed the fluidity of the process.

“Nothing’s on the table … (And) until I get the notice of allegations, no one’s been charged with anything,” said Buckner, who specializes in such cases and has written a guidebook on the NCAA process for institutions and involved parties. “And they will literally tinker, revise, rework, look at evidence. They are still looking at interview transcripts and summaries and evidence. They’re still conducting the investigation.

“Because of the public pressure and the high-profile nature of this case, if they had finalized the allegations, they would have been issued already.”
According to CBSSports.com, a source said the NCAA was unable to prove a 2011 allegation from Miami booster Nevin Shapiro that Haith was complicit in a $10,000 payment made by an assistant coach to a family member of former Hurricane DeQuan Jones.

According to the CBS report, the NCAA also couldn’t prove “anyone on (Haith’s) staff paid $10,000.”

Leaving some margins for explanation, the CBS story went on to add, “However, Haith will be charged with unethical conduct because the NCAA did not believe his story that payments to his assistants intended for camp money did not wind up going to repay Shapiro, who made the allegations to Yahoo Sports back in August of 2011. A source said that the money was delivered to Shapiro’s mother — who verified the payment to the NCAA.”

CBSSports.com also said Haith will be charged with a failure to promote an atmosphere of compliance, noting impermissible airline travel given to the family of two players from a member of his staff and interaction between Shapiro and players on recruiting visits.

But Buckner emphasized that in his experience there are ongoing conversations and “give and take” with the NCAA enforcement staff before a notice of allegations is brought forth.

“We would be working on some type of resolution or to try to reach a compromise or try to understand the evidence, (and if) they need more information, we’re going to provide it to them,” he said.

In the wake of the CBSSports.com report, Buckner said he had called the NCAA to inquire about the integrity of the process and was assured by the NCAA that there was no leak from its end.

“I don’t have any proof, I don’t know who did it; I just know, of course, that someone did,” he said. “And as you can tell, it’s not helping the process.”

Asked what he wants to see happen next, Buckner said, “If I could wave a magic wand, I would want to know the evidence that the NCAA is relying upon in their decision-making, and I would have liked to have an opportunity to conduct our own fact-finding.” he said. “I mean, we haven’t been allowed to do any fact-finding (in response).

“We don’t know what the NCAA is relying upon. We don’t know what they have … If we were allowed to do that, I think we could have with the NCAA an intelligent conversation about what really went on and to win them over as to the fact that my client did nothing wrong.”

To illustrate his point, Buckner recalled a case several years ago in which in the NCAA initially was prepared to make some serious allegations, including unethical conduct, against one of his clients.

“And with ongoing conversations between me and the enforcement staff, they kept withdrawing allegations,” said Buckner, adding that he learned one substantial final allegation had been revisited as he entered the hearing for his client and was told, “Oh, we dropped that.”
He added, “In the (local newspaper), they already had that my client was guilty … but they dropped everything.”

That’s why, he said, he wants to see the process play out, even if it leads to conclusions with which he and Haith disagree.

“Even if the NCAA issues a notice of allegations against my client, he did nothing wrong,” he said. “And once we get the opportunity to conduct our own investigation, we will be able to show that.

“But I am confident, and I hope that the NCAA is able to prove me right, that they will see after they review the evidence that’s in the best interest of the NCAA enforcement process to find no charges against Coach Haith.”
If the initial report from CBSSports.com is true, and there’s no reason to believe it isn’t, then it will be an anxious, troubling time at Missouri. If the NCAA hits basketball coach Frank Haith with allegations of unethical conduct and the failure to promote an atmosphere of compliance while running the hoops program at Miami, then Haith and director of athletics Mike Alden have a lot of explaining to do.

Jumping ahead a little bit, here are a few points and questions:

1. **Haith will have a formal opportunity to defend himself** before the NCAA. I would like to say that everyone should hold off on judging Haith until then. That would be the fair thing to do. But I don’t know if he’ll be able to change the outcome and draw lesser (or no) penalties, because the NCAA is ... well, the NCAA.

The organization is highly aroused to make an example of coaches like Haith; it’s an easy way to show that the ethically pure men and women of the NCAA are tough on corruption. Unless, of course, the corruption is occurring inside the hugely popular, important and highest-profile programs that help make money for the NCAA. And then the NCAA usually looks the other way. (See: Cam Newton, Auburn.)

2. **What did Haith tell Mizzou during the interview process?** Did he volunteer that there were issues at Miami that potentially could flare up and cause problems for the coach going forward?

3. **How thorough was the vetting?** Did Alden and his associates do an adequate job in the discovery process when assessing Haith’s coaching and background?

4. **If Haith is charged, can he be an effective coach and leader** with the turmoil swirling around him. I heard former Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl talk about this with Zach McCrite on a podcast at 101sports.com. Pearl was the subject of an NCAA investigation that led to his dismissal. He said it was tough to coach with a “gun to your head” and that he lost confidence and swagger. He didn’t know if his bosses would support him. He was always worried. Pearl said he was “afraid” and it undermined his coaching.

5. **If Haith is sanctioned by the NCAA,** it could lead to a “show-cause penalty” on Haith and Mizzou. That’s big trouble, but it’s not a ban or an edict to fire the coach. But again, let’s be realistic. A show-cause means an NCAA institution has to absorb the penalties slapped on the coach when he committed the transgressions at another NCAA program. That would be a
substantial blow to MU. Sure, the Tigers could appeal. But would Alden and the administration really want to go that far in defense of Haith?

Buckle up.
Words help in climate change acceptance

COLUMBIA, Mo., Jan. 22 (UPI) -- Public acceptance of climate change begins when terms move from scientific journals into mainstream use, a process that can take years, a U.S. researcher says.

Anthropologist Michael O'Brien of the University of Missouri says understanding how word usage affects public acceptance of science could lead to better science communication and a more informed public.

"Scientists can learn from this study that the general public shouldn't be expected to understand technical terms or be convinced by journal papers written in technical jargon," he said in a university release Tuesday.

"Journalists must explain scientific terms in ways people can understand and thereby ease the movement of those terms into general speech."

O'Brien and his colleagues studied word usage in popular literature to document how the usage of certain words related to climate change has risen and fallen over a period of time.

"That can be a slow process," O'Brien said. "Several words related to climate change diffused into the popular vocabulary over a 30-50 year timeline."

By 2008, several important terms in the discussion of climate change had entered popular literature from technical obscurity, he said, including biodiversity -- the degree of variation in life forms within a given area -- and paleoclimate, prehistoric climate trends often deduced from ice cores, tree rings and pollen trapped in sediments.

Not every term is adopted at the same rate or achieves the same degree of popularity, O'Brien said.

He pointed to the terms holocene -- the current era of the Earth's history, which started at the end of the last ice age, and phenology -- the study of how climate and other environmental factors influence the timing of events in organisms' life cycle -- as climate terms still relatively uncommon in mainstream discussion of climate change.

"The adoption of words into the popular vocabulary is like the evolution of species," he said. "A complex process governs why certain terms are successful and adopted into everyday speech, while others fail."
Television judge Hatchett to deliver annual King lecture at Missouri

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — TV judge Glenda Hatchett is this year's speaker at the University of Missouri's annual lecture honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

Hatchett is scheduled to deliver a free public lecture at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Missouri Theatre in downtown Columbia. Her presentation is titled, "Dare to Take Charge: How to Live & Lead with Purpose"
Higher ed construction not a smart investment

Editor, the Tribune: The concerned and general public, trying to keep abreast of Missouri's funding allocations for the University of Missouri System, is swooning from confusion and seeks a more focused direction from officialdom.

The news of late has been maintenance cuts to the campus brick-and-mortar academies: a pay-me-now-or-pay-me-later fiscal fiasco. Yet a local politician seeks to float a $900 million bond issue with a majority portion — $700 million — allocated for higher ed construction?

Let's see, non-classroom salaries rise with unmitigated obscenity, confiscatory student tuition hikes are perennially price-gouged, stagnant wages for faculty and staff are bloodlessly pegged and then the very edifices where learning actually transpires are doomed to dilapidation, yet more structures are desired in our telecommunications age? This way madness lies, and those whom the gods destroy, they first drive mad. No wonder Gov. Jay Nixon is unsettled by these mores and seeks lowered state appropriations for these hijinks.

Warren Erdman, curators chairman, recently queried with perhaps more revelation than he realized: Are we going to invest in physical facilities, or are we going to invest in people?

Boom! It's well past time for students to economize through blended learning (online-cum-classroom settings) in their educational tapestry, pare their learning expenses by culling gatekeeper, self-enamored, socially entitled administrative drones from their over-wrought balance sheets. Hence, Udacity's popularity, among other online pedagogues.

A recent expose by the Wall Street Journal unearthed a staggering University of Minnesota statistic: 3½ students per administrator! Does MU suffer the same outrageous bloat?

Darryl Edwards

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Grant to provide mid-Missouri food pantries with community gardens, nutrition education

By Caroline Bauman
January 22, 2013 | 6:22 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — Eight food pantries in central and northeast Missouri will see an increase in the availability of healthy foods and nutrition education, thanks to a $500,000 grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health.

The grant is going to two MU centers: the Interdisciplinary Center for Food Security in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and the Health Communication Research Center in the School of Journalism.

The grant will be used to develop ideas and activities with the food pantries that can be replicated by other pantries around the state, said Bill McKelvey, project coordinator of the Food Pantry Nutrition Project in the Interdisciplinary Center for Food Security. The new grant will build on the 2011 pantry nutrition project.

In 2011, Missouri was ranked ninth in the nation for food insecurity, or the lack of money or resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet, according to a 2011 household food security report from the United States Department of Agriculture. On average, 16 percent of state households were reported to have low or very low food insecurity from 2009 to 2011.

"On a day-to-day basis, Missouri food pantries are seeing more and more people coming in," McKelvey said. "This grant is focused on trying to get healthier food to those people, especially fruits and veggies."

The MU centers will partner first with the St. James Caring Center in St. James and the Shelby County Food Pantry in Shelbina, McKelvey said. Later this year, three more pantries will be selected; the final three will be chosen next year.
"At St. James, we're hoping to expand the community garden and provide plots for community members who use the pantry," McKelvey said. "We're looking for ways to integrate more families and youth to produce their own healthier food."

Goals of the grant include distributing gardening education and seeds to food pantry clients and helping pantries establish a presence in their communities, McKelvey said. The Health Communication Research Center also will help pantries, such as the Shelby County Food Pantry, to create websites to better share information with clients.

"We've found that many folks going to pantries already have gardens or are interested in having one but don't have the resources or knowledge," McKelvey said. "This project focuses on self-sufficiency for food pantry clients. The idea of folks learning how to grow their own fresh food is really exciting."

Every month, the Shelby County pantry serves about 300 families and 900 individuals, said Charles Grubb, president of the Shelby County Food Pantry board. The grant will help the pantry to start the county's first community garden.

"Our people are going to benefit greatly from the website and garden," Grubb said. "Growing their own fresh food will make their dollar go a lot further."

Once the Shelbina community garden is up and running, Grubb said, he wants to establish gardens in Shelbyville and Clarence, the next two largest communities in Shelby County.

Over the next five years, McKelvey said, he hopes the two centers will be able to tailor the grant to better meet the needs of Missouri food pantries and their clients.

"What we're doing now will provide ideas and inspiration to pantries all over the state," McKelvey said. "We will keep evaluating our projects over time to make sure we are making the biggest impact possible."

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*
Speakers to encourage entrepreneurship at REDI conference at MU

By Rachel Koehn
January 22, 2013 | 7:33 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — Residents can hear from innovators who are utilizing new technologies to run successful businesses at a conference called #BOOM at MU on Friday.

Speakers will include Newsy President Jim Spencer, two sisters who created clear boots with interchangeable liners, and Jeremy Johnson, co-founder and president of 2U, a company that helps universities develop online degree programs.

Sarah Hill, social media strategist for Veterans United Home Loans and former KOMU-TV anchor, will emcee the event, which is sponsored by Regional Economic Development, Inc.

"The speakers will talk about their successes, their failures, and hopefully light the fire for those in the audience," said Sean Siebert, the event's chairman.

Twenty individuals from Columbia's business elite were recruited to help organize the event, Siebert said.

The group secured three local, three regional and four national entrepreneurs to speak. The keynote speakers will appear either in person or via a Google Hangout, where Hill will open the event to an international audience.

"I would describe the audience as what I call 'social era entrepreneurs,' so basically if you're in to innovation and you want to be inspired, this event is for you," Siebert said. "This is really a day to immerse yourself in a culture of innovated people."
KOPN radio host Tyree Byndom is trying to increase the number of minority attendees. Byndom is starting a Facebook contest that would award minority adults and students admission to the event, which costs $15 for students and $35 for the public.

“For households that are close to the poverty level or below, they have to figure out ways to make their own income,” Byndom said. “So being an entrepreneur is something they have to learn anyway, but they don’t realize they’re being an entrepreneur.”

#BOOM will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Reynolds Alumni Center on MU’s campus, and will be followed by an after party at Bleu Restaurant & Wine Bar, according to the Columbia Daily Tribune. Tickets are available on the event website, where the conference will be streamed live.