Missouri curators deny role in RB's ouster

ST. LOUIS — **Two members of the University of Missouri's governing board** said Tuesday they did not order football Coach Gary Pinkel to dismiss a star running back after the player's 2010 arrest on sexual assault charges, contradicting an account by the player's mother in a new book that critically examines major college football.

Derrick Washington was Missouri's leading rusher as a sophomore and junior until he was kicked off the team days before the start of his senior season after the accusations by a tutor. He was convicted in 2011 of deviate sexual assault and served four months of a five-year prison sentence. Washington completed his college football career in 2012 at Division II Tuskegee in Alabama. After his dismissal by Pinkel, Washington also pleaded guilty to misdemeanor domestic assault against an ex-girlfriend but did not have to serve additional time.

Washington's mother told the authors of "The System," a book released Tuesday, that Pinkel wanted to use a redshirt to keep her son on the team until after his trial but was overruled by Missouri's Board of Curators, who "called him in and told him what they were going to do."

Board Chairman Wayne Goode, who spent 43 years in the Missouri Legislature and curator David Bradley, chief executive officer of a St. Joseph-based media company, told The Associated Press they never met with Pinkel nor discussed Washington's status on their own.

"I know of no contacts, nor can I remember any discussion along that line among curators or individually," Goode said.

"I don't remember any meeting with Gary Pinkel or recall any conversations about Derrick Washington," Bradley added. "That would be, in my mind, micromanaging. Our job is to set policy."
The book by Jeff Benedict and Armen Keteyian uses the Washington incident as the basis for a chapter about inadequate oversight of athletics tutors, describing a sexually charged atmosphere in Missouri's Total Person Program.

Pinkel declined to discuss the book at his weekly meeting with reporters on Monday, but the university responded in a written statement posted online last week after obtaining an advance copy of the book.

Missouri said the authors did not contact school officials for comment, though Benedict has said his emails to Pinkel and a school spokesman went unanswered. The statement calls the example cited an isolated one that "is not reflective of the culture of (an) academic program" that consists of 150 tutors working with more than 500 athletes.

The school's statement also includes a link to a voluntary April 2011 review of Missouri's academic support program for athletes conducted by the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics. The outside review included a recommendation that Missouri add a second professional staff member to help oversee a tutoring program where "day-to-day supervision" was handled by a graduate student assistant. Missouri subsequently hired another non-student for that position.
First Board of Curators meeting discussed university renovations and financial change

By Crystal Duan

The Missouri Orthopaedic Institute and parts of University Hospital will see renovations, the UM System Board of Curators approved at its Sept. 12 and 13 meeting.

The board also discussed education funding and wished outgoing Chancellor Brady Deaton well at the meeting.

University Hospital

The UM System Board of Curators unanimously approved plans to renovate MU’s Missouri Orthopaedic Institute and parts of the University Hospital.

Renovations to the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute will cost $35 million. This funding will go toward adding three floors to the building. An extra resident will also be on staff in the department.

James Stannard, chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, said additional doctors were recently hired in the department as well.

“I think that this facility and the momentum we’ve been able to achieve as a department is very significantly changing the landscape for us in terms of the quality of people we can recruit and the research personnel we’re bringing in,” Stannard said.

The board also unanimously approved renovations to the University Hospital building’s fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh floors. The plan includes upgrading the information technology system and updating patient rooms.

University Hospital has observed a growth in discharges by 8.2 percent and was recently named one of the top hospitals in Missouri by US News & World Report.

Renovations will cost $19 million and will be funded by MU Health Care reserves.

Construction dates for both projects are currently unknown.
Higher Education Funding

After Gov. Jay Nixon’s veto of House Bill 253 was sustained, $400 million in funds withheld from higher education will be released and given to the university.

A portion will go toward MU’s partnership with Springfield hospitals and the College of Veterinary Medicine’s large animal program expansion, said Vice President of University Relations Steve Knorr.

Hank Foley, executive vice president for academic affairs, also announced at the third public session on Sept. 13 that the [UM system would receive a total of $22.1 million for implementing strategic plans](. 

Scholarship

During the chancellor’s panel, Deaton emphasized the university’s current growth.

“We’ve been the fastest growing [Association of American Universities] university in the nation... we’re still increasing as one of the most diverse universities in the country,” Deaton said.

The chancellor also made statements about the changes in scholarship amounts, which are designed to reach out to high-achieving students.

“We’ve always emphasized academic quality has to be preserved at all times,” Deaton said. “And we have to have the facilities to ensure the high quality academic growth and the academic quality of the institution.”

Regarding students who do not have scholarships, Deaton said the university spends from its own resources to provide $55 million annually in work support to MU students.

“(W)e want to ensure those students (who do not have scholarships) are successful in our environment as well,” Deaton said.

MU provided 1,500 new scholarships as a result of the “For All We Call Mizzou” fundraising campaign.

The university aims to add between 350 and 400 students to the student body per year in the future, Deaton said.

Chancellor Deaton’s Retirement

The board also acknowledged Deaton’s retirement, thanking him for his service.
Deaton will continue to serve at the university as the director of the Brady and Anne Deaton Institute for University Leadership and International Development after he leaves his position as chancellor.

The search to select a new chancellor is ongoing.
Deaton signs resolution to expand School of Medicine

By Marek Makowski

In June 2006, the Association of American Medical Colleges issued a call to arms in the medical field.

“There’s a physician shortage in Missouri, and … the Association of American Colleges call(ed) upon all medical schools to increase class size by about 30 percent,” said Mary Jenkins, a spokeswoman for the School of Medicine. “It’s an ongoing need.”

The AAMC’s recommended deadline is 2015 in order to overcome the projected shortage of physicians.

On Sept. 9, MU answered the call.

Chancellor Brady Deaton signed a resolution with the Missouri State University President Clif Smart with aims to battle the state’s looming projections.

The resolution says the two universities will collaborate to expand their medical schools and facilities. CoxHealth and Mercy Springfield, two local hospitals, will provide support to the project with its Rural Track Pipeline Program, which provides opportunities for students to work in rural communities.

Missouri’s aging population and the fact that more than 90 percent of its counties are medically underserved creates a dangerous combination that needs to be remedied, according to a School of Medicine news release.

“It really goes back to a partnership that the MU School of Medicine, CoxHealth and Mercy in Springfield have had since 2005,” Jenkins said. “Since 2005, those Springfield health systems have worked with the School of Medicine as part of our Rural Track Pipeline Program.”

The pipeline program has been in place since 1994.

MU plans to build a clinical campus in Springfield, Mo., where medical students can study and practice medicine. Students will benefit from the additional space, as MU would accept more applicants into its School of Medicine, where about 96 of 1500 applicants are admitted each year.
MSU will also create an occupational therapy program at its campus.

MU will build a $32.7 million medical education building on campus, according to the School of Medicine news release.

MU’s costs will be beneficial in the future, as it projects that the expansion will create 3,500 jobs and pump $390 million into the state’s economy each year. By adding these jobs, Missouri is making a strategic investment in its economic future, said Amy Susan, spokeswoman for the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

“By opening the door for more Missourians to either earn a degree in the medical field or participate in health care training, we are not only improving our state's healthcare system, we are strengthening our economy,” Susan said in an email.

As the project grows, buildings will be created, which will provide jobs for construction companies. Once the buildings are set, they will need assistants, clerks, custodians and an array of various other occupations, all of which will grow along with time.

“There’s a multiplier effect of spending,” said Reed Olsen, a professor of health and economics at MSU. “It’ll be bigger if the investment gets bigger, (and) all that has a positive effect on the local economy.”

The multiplier effect says how much the economy will benefit with regard to how much money is spent in the project. The more money that goes into it, Olsen said, the more that comes out, aiding both Missouri’s health and economic crises.

“We’re looking at about four to five years, if it’s successful, to reach its full impact,” Olsen said. “I think, in general, it’s a good investment, without a doubt.”
Columbia College, MU partner to host Iraqi exchange students

By Karyn Spory

Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 2:00 pm

In Mid-August, eight Iraqi students arrived on the Columbia College campus for a six-week program to study English, the American culture and engineering.

Britta Wright, director of international student services at the college, said although Columbia College doesn't have an engineering program, having the Iraqi students here as part of the International Research Exchange has created a unique collaboration between the college and the University of Missouri.

Vladislav Likholetov, director of international technology commercialization at MU, said the College of Engineering has a partnership with the exchange, a Washington, D.C.-based not-for-profit, and the University of Technology in Baghdad. "They approached us with an idea to extend the project by including the summer program, but for a few reasons — scheduling and timing — we couldn't do that," Likholetov said.

So instead, he extended a hand out to Columbia College and ended up "brokering the deal" between IREX and the college.

Likholetov said while the students are living and studying on the Columbia College campus, they have ventured to MU to tour the engineering labs, sit in on classes and meet faculty.

Last weekend, Likholetov said the eight Iraqi students joined four busloads of international students from the College of Engineering at MU for a float trip.

"This was an opportunity for the Iraqi students to come to the U.S., study English, learn a little bit about the College of Engineering at MU, and learn what careers are out there and how English will be important to their future careers," Wright said.

Miranda Wilkerson, assistant professor and coordinator of English for Speakers of Other Languages at Columbia College, said the program also is an opportunity for the students to learn
about American culture by joining in on activities such as the MU float trip and an upcoming trip to Six Flags.

Wilkerson said the Iraqi students have become fascinated by the Amish community, and the college is working to set up a visit. "They have Iraqi graduate students at MU who are acting as mentors, and they were talking about getting their meat, eggs or milk from the Amish. Now there's this interest in going to the Amish community," she said.

Wilkerson said so far she feels the pilot program has gone well, and she hopes the collaboration with MU will continue in the future.
Council denies bevy of street closure requests for MU game day

Members want policy review.

By Andrew Denney

Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 2:00 pm

The Columbia City Council on Monday night approved a motion to deny street closure requests filed by eight downtown bars for the day of the University of Missouri's Homecoming football game.

Harpo's Bar and Grill initially filed a street closure request for all MU home game days to set up a hospitality zone. The owners of seven other downtown bars filed similar requests in protest.

Council members said at the council's Sept. 3 meeting that Harpo's could be approved for just Homecoming as a pilot program for game-day street closures, but they neglected to take a vote on the request at that meeting.

Mayor Bob McDavid had voiced support for allowing Harpo's to be approved for a street closure for Homecoming, saying that a street closure could create a festival atmosphere that could bring foot traffic to multiple downtown businesses.

But before the vote at last night's meeting, McDavid said he decided to change course on the issue and called on the Downtown Community Improvement District to review the city's street closure policy and try to find a consensus among downtown businesses on the issue.

"I just don't feel like we should be the ones arbitrating what is a fractured group right now," McDavid said.

The requests filed in protest were submitted by the owners of Bengals Bar and Grill, Campus Bar and Grill, Casablanca, The Heidelberg, Room 38, Shiloh Bar and Grill and The SoCo Club.

Before the vote, Third Ward Councilman Karl Skala said although he felt that allowing a pilot for a Homecoming street closure seemed reasonable, given the "internecine warfare" among downtown businesses over proposed street closures the council should vote to deny the requests.
"This is not New Orleans," Skala said. "We just don't close down the town and have open containers all over the place just because a football game is coming to town."

First Ward Councilman Fred Schmidt, who represents the ward that encompasses downtown, opposed the idea of allowing Harpo's to be granted its requested street closure at the council's last meeting. He said that if the city is to begin to allow street closures for the hospitality zones and similar events, applicants should be charged fees to help the city recoup costs for providing police and trash services.

Last night, the council also voted to deny a street closure request filed by a Dix Hills, N.Y.-based organizer to hold a "foam party" outside Bengals at Sixth and Elm streets. Council members said they voted against the Electric Flurry proposal because it had not been vetted by the city's Special Events Committee, which is charged with working out the logistics of events.

Bengals co-owner Dan Rader said he was pleased with the council's vote on the street closures and agreed that the city should look to change its street closure policy.

"It really just speaks to the need to change the street closure ordinance," Rader said.

He said the organizer of the foam party likely would reapply for a street closure after addressing issues raised by the city about the proposed event.

The organizer had planned to hold the event Oct. 4, but the council is not scheduled to meet again until Oct. 7.
MU human research director receives new title, expanded responsibilities

Tuesday, September 17, 2013 | 4:45 p.m. CDT; updated 5:49 p.m. CDT, Tuesday, September 17, 2013

BY T.J. THOMSON

COLUMBIA — MU's human research protections director, Michele Kennett, received a new title and a bigger workload when she took on additional responsibilities on Tuesday.

"It's not a new position; it's just a change in title," said Robert Hall, MU associate vice chancellor for research. "She's agreed to take on more responsibility. There is no increase in salary — just more work."

In addition to maintaining her current responsibilities, Kennett will work more closely with senior research division staff as the division's assistant vice chancellor for research.

"She will assume additional responsibilities in the day-to-day operations of the research division, especially in the area of research compliance, and will continue in her present role as Director of Human Research Protections," according to a MU Office of Research announcement.

Kennett said she wants to enhance MU's research environment while ensuring regulatory compliance. One of Kennett's responsibilities has been to oversee the Campus Institutional Review Board at MU that regulates safety and ethical decisions in research.
"Compliance is a necessary aspect to make sure you have a well-run research program," Kennett said. "It's a highly regulated area."

Since coming to MU in 2003, Kennett said her office has tried to make its IRB process less arduous without sacrificing subject safety.

"First and foremost, we're here to protect the subjects," Kennett said. "Beyond that, we try to eliminate research barriers when we can."
MU’s research office rolled out an electronic submission process for its IRB proposal process about five years ago in an effort to streamline it, she said.
Aimee Mullins, first amputee in NCAA, to speak at MU

Tuesday, September 17, 2013 | 7:33 p.m. CDT; updated 6:06 a.m. CDT, Wednesday, September 18, 2013

BY ALYSON BEAN

COLUMBIA — Aimee Mullins, a model, actress and athlete who was the first amputee to compete in the NCAA, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at MU’s Jesse Auditorium.

When Mullins was 1 year old, both of her legs were amputated below the knee, according to her website.

She attended Georgetown University, where she competed on the track team. In addition to competing in the NCAA, Mullins competed in the 1996 Summer Paralympics in Atlanta.

Mullins has given several lectures for the TED talks website, which features speeches on a variety of educational topics. Mullins' speeches focus on adversity, her career as a runner and her prosthetic legs.

In 2012, she was appointed by then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to the State Department’s Council to Empower Women and Girls Through Sports, according to a State Department fact sheet.

The event is sponsored by the MSA/GPC Speakers Committee and the Delta Gamma Lectureship Foundation in Values and Ethics.

The Delta Gamma Lectureship Foundation in Values and Ethics will sponsor another event in the spring, with Elizabeth Smart as the speaker.
Since flooding began Thursday in Colorado, MU junior Jaimee Zupan has been fretting about the damage done to her hometown of Aurora, Colo.

Zupan's house, which sits on a hill, hasn't been damaged. Her mother, Kathy Zupan, said that because of the street's placement, all of the water rolled down the hill into their neighbor's yard.

"Thank God our house sits on a hill," Kathy Zupan said.

Heavy rainfall caused flooding in Aurora and its surrounding cities. Kathy Zupan said there has been more than 23 inches of rain in the last week. One of the biggest problems was the 3 inches of hail the city saw last week along with the rain, she said.

"The hail blocked the drains on the streets, causing the rain to create a river," Kathy Zupan said. "Our city's system can't handle this. We're not used to this kind of rain."

Just when the rain seemed to have stopped in Aurora, another 4 inches poured down in a hour Sunday afternoon, Kathy Zupan said.

"All I want to do is help in some way," Jaimee Zupan said. "I absolutely love my home state, and it's hard to not be able to do anything. I like to stay positive, though."

Monday was the last day for a couple of weeks with rain in its forecast, according to The Weather Channel.

"It's weird because Colorado doesn't really know how to handle all this rain; we're used to droughts," she said. "It's like earlier this year when Missouri got all that snow at once, and we had to close school because they didn't know how to clear the roads."
Jaimee Zupan's parents weren't able to work Friday because of flooded streets, and they had gone home early Thursday when the flooding became serious.

"At first, I didn't really accept that the situation was bad," Kathy Zupan said. "Then, when I saw cars floating away, and then pictures of people stranded in cars, I started to take things more seriously."

Kathy Zupan heard stories of a girl canoeing in a neighborhood near the school she works at and a kid finding a fish in the street.

Kathy Zupan said a lot of people spent the weekend at home, trapped in their houses. One of Jaimee Zupan's friends said she saw a man on a personal watercraft in her neighborhood.

"It brings me to tears that I can't go home and help out in some way," Jaimee Zupan said.

"Being so far away from home adds a stress factor when you hear devastating news from home," she added. "I have made more of an effort to call my friends and family to make sure they're OK."

Jaimee Zupan turned on NBC last week and was surprised to see a national breaking news headline so close to her hometown. Kathy Zupan also said she was surprised when the local news panned through a neighborhood that she recognized as her own.

"We have these unique mailboxes, and they were showing houses, and I was like, 'Hey, I know those mailboxes,' " Kathy Zupan said. "It's always weird to see the media covering something right outside your doorstep."

Kathy Zupan said watching her friends and family go through this situation has given her a new perspective.

"I have a new compassion for the scenario of a flood," she said. "I hope we don't have to experience this again."

Missouri Task Force 1 has been deployed to Colorado to assist in the area affected by the floods.
Fire and smoke at Spirit of St. Louis Airport? That's just a training exercise

18 hours ago • From staff reports

CHESTERFIELD • A training exercise for firefighters over the next few days will bring fire and smoke to Spirit of St. Louis Airport, and they want you to know it's nothing to worry about.

The Monarch Fire Protection District is hosting the training today through Thursday on the airport grounds, near the west end of Edison Avenue. Several other fire districts and departments will join in the training.

Sessions from 1 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 10 p.m. will feature classroom instruction and hands-on training fighting fires on an aircraft crash simulator.

That training uses a new simulator from the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute.

The training is conducted every two years.

Similar training was held at Lambert St. Louis-International Airport last week.

A fire drill at Boston’s Logan Airport on Sept. 11 drew complaints from some who felt it was insensitive on the 12th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Two of the hijacked planes took off from Logan Airport.