UM System president wants to fix up STEM facilities
Plan would help all four campuses.

By ASHLEY JOST
Saturday, February 1, 2014

The buildings that house science, technology, engineering and mathematics facilities on the four campuses of the University of Missouri System are not suitable to turn out the number of graduates those fields require, UM System President Tim Wolfe said Friday.

In his annual report to the Board of Curators yesterday, Wolfe said he wants to improve at least one building used for science, technology, engineering and mathematics — or STEM — on each of the four campuses this year. That would cost $176.5 million. "The physical infrastructure — the education plant — that we need to produce those students in is in disrepair, and we need to fix it," he told curators.

Wolfe said he came up with the idea to prioritize these facilities after hearing from business leaders that there is a growing need for STEM graduates to fill open positions in those fields.

"To put it bluntly, we will not be able to address these critical needs of the state until we can solve our critical needs in STEM-related facilities on all four campuses," Wolfe said.

For MU, the priority project is Lafferre Hall, part of the College of Engineering that houses 3,900 students, almost 150 faculty members and generates about $30 million in annual research expenditures. The renovations at Lafferre would cost about $32.6 million and would help update teaching, research and study space in the portions of the building that were built in the 1930s and 40s.

Earlier during the day, Tom Richards, UM interim vice president for finance, gave a report about "strategic investment" in facilities, as a preview of Wolfe's priority report.

According to Richards' presentation, about 40,000 square feet of the building would be renovated, including 15,000 square feet of research facilities. The renovations would allow for 20 new faculty and increased enrollment.
The University of Missouri-St. Louis won the arms race for worst facility with the Benton-Stadler science complex, a project that would cost $62 million. Among the issues with the building are black mold, Wolfe said.

To help fund these projects, Wolfe emphasized the state's 50/50 higher education capital fund that allows the state to match money raised by universities for projects. The system raised $40 million for projects from private companies, and the General Assembly will decide whether to match that money during the budget process.

Some, though not all, of these 50/50 projects overlap with Wolfe's building priorities. The Lafferre Hall project does. For it, administrators are asking for a $6.1 million state match.

Other sources of funding could include a bond proposal.

During a news conference, Wolfe mentioned a $1.2 billion bond issue that Rep. Caleb Jones, R-Columbia, introduced this week. The issue, which is in the form of a joint resolution and would need voter approval, would provide $600 million for higher education capital improvements, with $480 million of that going toward public, four-year institutions.

Wolfe said Jones' bill is similar to bond issues that Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, proposes every year.

UM curators discuss renovations to engineering facilities

Friday, January 31, 2014 | 7:14 p.m. CST
BY KEVIN MODELSKI, LAURA COLE

COLUMBIA — Proposed renovations to MU's Lafferre Hall, home to the College of Engineering, were a focal point of discussions Friday at the UM System Board of Curators meeting.

Lafferre Hall, which has undergone seven renovations since 1892, requires an estimated $32.6 million in renovations, according to board documents.
In a presentation to the board, Gary Ward, MU interim vice chancellor of administrative services, made the case that renovations to Lafferre Hall would create a more suitable environment for labs, classrooms and study facilities.

"It's not about the building," Ward said. "It's about teaching and research."

Ward said the renovations would add capacity for 20 new faculty members, which would lead to increased research productivity of an estimated $21 million per year.

The renovations would also provide space for undergraduate enrollment to grow to 4,000 and potentially create more than 400 additional annual degrees, he said.

Thomas Richards, UM System interim vice president for finance and treasurer, said the estimated cost for all system renovation projects is about $200 million. MU estimated renovations make up $102 million.

UM System President Tim Wolfe said he supports renovations to Lafferre Hall and other STEM — science, technology, engineering and math — facilities across the UM System campuses.

Wolfe said that there is a growing need to fill STEM-related jobs, which will not be met if the need for renovated labs and facilities is not addressed.

"Our biggest bottleneck right now in producing STEM graduates and maintaining the mission we've got for the University of Missouri System is buildings. That's it. It's buildings," Wolfe said.

He said that although the system is making an effort to raise efficiency by offering many courses online, there is not yet an online substitute for hands-on lab experience.

The curators discussed several potential funding scenarios:

- Divide the $200 million over 15 years with a $17.7 million annual debt service.

- A 50/50 matching program, where the state would match all donations by businesses and private donors. Wolfe said the UM System has already received $40 million in commitments that's hoping for a match from the state.

- Attempt to increase alumni donations.
• Add a $300 to $350 student facilities fee. Wolfe said this is the last resort in funding renovations.

The curators said they hope the renovations to Lafferre Hall and the other STEM facilities will happen within the next five years.

Board Chairman Don Downing announced that he has chosen alternative sources of revenue as his 2014 theme. The board spent part of an all-day retreat on Thursday talking about fundraising.

Downing especially wants to focus on getting more alumni to donate and for them to give bigger sums of money. He said the average MU alumnus donation is $688, which is about $400 less than average donations at the University of Kansas and the University of Illinois.

If donations to MU are brought up to match its peers, Downing said, they would generate an additional $14 million in revenue.

**Curators review financial aid**

Hank Foley, UM executive vice president of academic affairs, guided the curators through the 2013 financial aid report.

The report showed:

• Federal support for financial aid is up 27 percent from 2009.

• State support is down 24 percent from 2009.

• Institutional support is up 19 percent from 2009.

• Lower-income undergraduates have the largest amount of unmet financial need. They also take out the largest loans.

Foley said UM System enrollments are increasing, and the financial aid trends show students with financial need continue to receive access to the university.

**No update in independent counsel in Menu Courey situation**
At a brief news conference after the board meeting concluded, Downing said the process of contacting firms to conduct an independent review of MU's handling of the Sasha Menu Courey situation has begun.

On Wednesday, the curators approved Wolfe's request to hire an independent counsel.

Sen. Schaefer says to count on MU increase; lauds Wolfe's response to Sasha Menu Courey case

By Rudi Keller

Friday, January 31, 2014 at 2:00 pm

Advocates for the University of Missouri can expect the school to receive a 5.2 percent boost in state funding next year, but all other promises made by Gov. Jay Nixon's budget are in doubt, Sen. Kurt Schaefer said Thursday.

Schaefer, R-Columbia, was among five lawmakers who took part in the annual legislative forum sponsored by the MU Alumni Association's Boone County Chapter. The event at Harpo's drew about 125 people and included student leaders as well as local alumni and supporters of the university.

Along with Schaefer, state Reps. Caleb Jones, Caleb Rowden, Stephen Webber and John Wright attended the forum.

Before Schaefer, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, launched into his discussion of spending, he praised UM System President Tim Wolfe for the way he has addressed news reports about a possible link between a sexual assault and the suicide death of MU swimmer Sasha Menu Courey. The link was first explored in an in-depth report produced by cable network ESPN.
"I could not be any prouder than I am of President Wolfe for stepping up to the plate on a national story and doing the right thing," Schaefer said. "A leader needs to step up and stand up in front of a microphone and say what is going on. He did that."

When he turned to the budget, Schaefer said Nixon has promised far too much money and lawmakers will be forced to cut back on the proposal. Nixon has proposed increasing funding for the university by $45.7 million in the coming year. That proposal includes $21.3 million to boost base support, $12.2 million to expand programs for science, technology, engineering and mathematics and $12.2 million to expand education for mental health professionals.

Lawmakers appropriated $407.5 million for the university for the current year.

"A lot of things were promised in that budget that there is no way can be funded," Schaefer said. Advocates for the university don't need to wade into the dispute over how much money is available, said Wally Pfeffer, event chair for the alumni chapter. "It would be nice if they had agreed on an estimate," he said.

Instead, supporters must explain the need and work to secure the best deal they can, Pfeffer said.

The four House members, though split between Republicans and Democrats, avoid partisanship in their support of the university, said Jones, a Columbia Republican. Rowden is also a Republican; Webber and Wright are Democrats.

"We are all trying to push that ball up the same hill," Jones said.

Along with the budget, the other major legislation with a general impact on higher education is a measure to allocate future funding increases based on how each school performs in five areas. Failure on one of the five would mean a 20 percent reduction in the funding increase, and failure on all five would mean no new money.

Commissioner of Higher Education David Russell, who attended yesterday's event, said performance funding is a way to push schools to do better. "If you miss one of those payments, you are not going to get it back," he said.

Schaefer, however, said he will oppose the bill because it treats all 13 state universities the same. "The pie we cut up into 13 pieces is never going to be big enough," he said.

This article was published in the Friday, January 31, 2014 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Sen. Schaefer says to count on MU increase; Schaefer lauds Wolfe response."

Posted in Politics, Education on Friday, January 31, 2014 2:00 pm.
Reports increase to UM system ethics hotline

Reports to an ethics and complaints hotline for the University of Missouri system nearly doubled in the past year.

There were 74 reports to the hotline last year compared with 39 complaints in 2012. The Columbia Daily Tribune reported (http://bit.ly/1nAhoXR) that most of the calls came from MU Health employees, accounting for 50 of the complaints last year and 23 the previous year.

MU Health public relations manager Mary Jenkins said an increase in reports to the hotline is not surprising. She said it has been included in the health system's daily newsletter going to 10,000 employees since August 2012 and is promoted on the employee intranet system.

"We've been giving the number out widespread through internal publicity and letting employees know they can and should call that number if there's a problem," Jenkins said.

Complaints reported in the hotline calls have varied. Four reports still under investigation by university administrators deal with unfair treatment or inappropriate behavior toward employees by health care managers. Others have focused on billing issues or raised allegations about privacy violations.

Privacy issues were at issue in two other complaints during the past year. One still is under review and the other has been deemed investigated with no action necessary.

Jenkins said there are "numerous policies and procedures in place" to protect patient information. She said staff members "adhere to the highest level of industry standards in terms of computer network security."

UM system spokesman John Fougere said hotline reports are investigated and that depending upon the results, appropriate actions is taken based upon university polices including its rules and regulations and human resources manual.

Global Compliance is contracted to operate the hotline for the university.
UM hotline complaints on the rise

Majority concern health system; boost attributed to promotion.

By Ashley Jost

Friday, January 31, 2014 at 2:00 pm Comments (3)

The University of Missouri System's ethics and complaints hotline yielded almost twice as many calls in 2013 as it did in 2012, and the majority of the calls came from employees with University of Missouri Health Care.

Last year, 74 calls came into the hotline, up from 39 in 2012. Each year, the hotline fielded more calls from MU Health employees than from all four campuses, with 50 out of 74 complaints in 2013 and 23 out of 39 complaints in 2012.

"It's not surprising to us that reporting among health employees has increased the last two years," said Mary Jenkins, public relations manager with MU Health. "We've been giving the number out widespread through internal publicity and letting employees know they can and should call that number if there's a problem."

Jenkins said since August 2012, the hotline has been posted on the health system's daily newsletter, which reaches 10,000 employees. Additionally, she said, the number is promoted on the employee intranet, which received 3.1 million views during 2013.

The issues mentioned in the complaints vary. Four open reports — meaning they are under investigation by UM administration — involve health care assistant managers or managers treating employees unfairly or behaving inappropriately toward employees.

John Fougere, chief communications officer with the UM System, said in an email that "hotline reports are investigated and, depending upon the results of the investigation, appropriate action would be taken in accordance with University policies and procedures including the University Collected Rules and Regulations and Human Resources Manual."
A handful of issues in the report related to billing issues. One of the complaints came late last year and is still under investigation. The report says: "MU Healthcare is billing county jails rather than prisoners directly and as a result to not receive payments and subsequently end up writing off the charges."

The report included complaints about alleged privacy violations at MU Health, including a potential Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act violation. The complaint, reported in December, said "staff are working from home and printing from the printers and forgetting they have print jobs." Questions about privacy connected to employees working from home came up on the report two other times in 2013. One of the incidents is under investigation, and the second is listed as investigated with no action deemed necessary.

"The circumstances under which MU Health Care employees would work from home vary widely, depending on the type of work being performed, but in all cases, the decision to allow any work from home is up to the employee's manager," Jenkins said in an email.

There are "numerous policies and procedures in place" to protect the confidentiality of patient information, Jenkins said, adding that staff members "adhere to the highest level of industry standards in terms of computer network security."

The hotline is contracted through a third party, Global Compliance, which the university pays to operate the program. During 2011, 60 complaints were filed, and that was a spike from 14 reports in 2010 after the hotline was expanded to include non-fiscal concerns.

Posted in Education on Friday, January 31, 2014 2:00 pm.

MU pulls out of planned business research park in suburban KC

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saturday, February 1, 2014

KANSAS CITY — The University of Missouri is pulling out as the main tenant of a proposed business park in suburban Kansas City to allow the university to streamline its operations in Jackson County.
The proposed Missouri Innovation Park in Blue Springs was expected to create a business park focusing on science technology and research, possibly attracting dozens of companies.

Nothing has been done on the project since Blue Springs spent $2.3 million on 24 acres to accommodate it, The Kansas City Star reported.

The university announced Thursday that it will vacate leased space at the site by September.

A 2008 memorandum of understanding between the university, city and the Blue Springs Economic Development Corporation outlined a plan to eventually create a business park, with the university as the anchor tenant.

Officials had expected in 2012 to break ground for a building to house university operations by the first quarter of this year. The university explained its change of plans in a statement on the city's website Thursday.

"Technology has changed the way we deliver our services, the economy has continued to challenge us financially, and some traditional funding sources have become less dependable," the statement said.

Blue Springs Mayor Carson Ross said on the website that officials were disappointed but optimistic.

"Retooling our economic development goals for the Innovation Park and engaging new partners will strengthen our strategy going forward," Ross said.

— The Associated Press

MU case, Obama initiative highlight handling of campus sex assaults

By ASHLEY JOST

Sunday, February 2, 2014

Two days after President Barack Obama launched an initiative to fight sexual assault on the nation's college campuses, a story about a former University of Missouri swimmer who committed suicide in 2011 cast doubt on the way MU responded to her alleged rape.
A White House report released at the time of Obama's announcement indicates 1 in 5 women has been sexually assaulted at college but only 12 percent of student victims report the assault. In the case of Sasha Menu Courey, six campus medical professionals reportedly were aware of her 2010 rape but didn't report it to police.

MU Health Care policy prohibits medical personnel from reporting sexual assaults to campus administrators or law enforcement without a patient's permission, said Mary Jenkins, public relations manager for MU Health Care.

"Victims of sexual assaults, including college students, need to be assured that their information will be kept confidential by health care providers," Jenkins said. "Otherwise, victims might refuse to seek necessary medical treatment."

That policy is in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or HIPAA, and similar policies are becoming increasingly common, said Abner Weintraub, president of the HIPAA Group Inc., an Orlando, Fla.-based training and consulting firm that specializes in the health care law.

Weintraub said even if health care providers report such assaults, HIPAA requires "the minimal amount" of patient data information to be released to law enforcement, regardless of the patient's consent.

Obama created a task force to come up with recommendations for colleges to prevent and respond to assaults, increase public awareness of each school's track record and enhance coordination among federal agencies to hold schools accountable if they don't confront the problem.

In the wake of questions about Menu Courey's case, UM System President Tim Wolfe directed chancellors at all four campuses to initiate their own reviews of how their respective schools respond to sexual assaults. And the UM System Board of Curators, acting on a recommendation from Wolfe, approved hiring an independent counsel to investigate MU's response to Menu Courey's case. Her alleged rape was only reported to law enforcement a week ago. The Columbia Police Department is investigating because it reportedly happened off campus.

As for sexual assaults that happen on campus, Capt. Brian Weimer of the MU Police Department said the focus is always on the victim. "The No. 1 goal then is to start to get the victim the help they need. We ask if they need medical attention, counseling attention, do they need shelter, orders of protection. What do they need to get through this?"

If the alleged perpetrator is a student, information about the case is sent to the MU Office of Student Conduct, as well as the Boone County prosecutor, if the victim wants to press charges. If the perpetrator is unknown and campus police believe he or she might pose a threat, MUPD sends out a Clery release with information about the situation.

Campus police nationwide are required to disclose information about crime on or near campus property as a result of the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Police and Campus Crime Statistics Act of 1998.
MUPD also works with on-campus groups such as the MU Women's Center and the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention, or RSVP, Center. Danica Wolf, coordinator of the RSVP Center, said representatives of the center act as advocates for victims.

"When our students talk to us about problems they encounter, we actively work with our campus and community partners to address the problem so students in the future will not have to endure the same kinds of issues while they seek justice and utilize services," Wolf said.

Wolf said she was pleased the White House report addressed issues that are important to RSVP, such as highlighting the physical and mental health consequences of sexual assault and the many barriers victims face in reporting them.

"I was pleasantly surprised to hear that more resources will be allocated to holistically address these problems from prevention to advocacy," Wolf said.

Stephens College and Columbia College don't have their own police departments, but both campuses have policies and procedures for assisting victims of sexual assault.

What can colleges do?

Sunday, February 2, 2014

After revelations of the suicide of former University of Missouri swimmer Sasha Menu Courey, the university is under pressure to react, but how?

In frustration, UM President Tim Wolfe, himself a parent of a female freshman athlete, said the school would hire an outside evaluation of the situation and give a report to the Board of Curators at its next meeting in April. This is about the best Wolfe can do.

We learn Menu Courey wrote in her diary she was raped but never reported the incident to law enforcement. After being diagnosed at the MU Psychiatric Center with borderline personality disorder, she attempted suicide. She had made a similar attempt while in high school. Her swimming coach, Greg Rhodenbaugh, says he pointed her "toward people who could give her much more professional help than I could. ... I think we got her into the right hands." Rhodenbaugh says he would handle the situation
again the same way. Her alleged rape occurred off campus. The university cedes investigation to the Columbia Police Department.

By coincidence, another MU student in recent days reported an assault by a man who entered her dorm room through an unlocked door.

Every college wants its students to exist in a safe haven, but with thousands of youthful individuals in tow, most stirred by stimulations of puberty and relative freedom, college administrators and counselors are bound to be disappointed. Short of assigning a personal coach to every student every moment of the day and night with power to veto every potentially bad act, the birds are bound to escape the cages.

Remember the concept "in loco parentis," in which college officials were to take over the role of parents once students arrived on campus? This might have worked at a certain time in the dim past when students like the females at Christian and Stephens Colleges were prohibited from riding in cars, had strict curfew rules and participated in required ethics activities.

Today administrators must provide all help possible when a student has known problems, and I think most do. Because of privacy rules, they are limited in how much they can reveal of personal situations and also able to avoid publicity regarding their own actions.

We might discover from President Wolfe's inquiry that somewhere along the line some university employee could have conceivably done more to monitor Menu Courey's condition, but from what I'm seeing, no generic institutional failure is evident.

Finally, should MU Athletic Director Mike Alden be saying more? Probably. The comments by Coach Rhodenbaugh were helpful to the university's cause. Alden could have said something similarly positive without stirring the pot too much, but likely as not he was advised to keep mum.

HJW III

Missouri athletic director Alden supports university investigation into sexual assault allegations

Missouri athletic director Alden supports university investigation into sexual assault allegations
By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch (MCT)
MISSOURI athletics director Mike Alden has broken his conspicuous silence.

After avoiding the media following news of sexual assault allegations made by former Mizzou swimmer Sasha Menu Courey, Alden reached out late Thursday to discuss the situation for the first time, including the independent investigation launched by University System President Tim Wolfe.

Alden apologized for not publicly discussing the news initially. When the story broke, Alden had been in Florida attending meetings for the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, of which he serves as president.

Until Wolfe spoke to reporters Wednesday, the university and athletics department had taken a defensive stance toward the ESPN story, which first appeared on Jan. 24, offering only news releases, some of which harshly criticized ESPN’s reporting.

Alden struck a more compassionate, reflective tone Thursday. In a lengthy interview with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Alden said he embraces the upcoming investigation and that Missouri will approach its role with “compassion for the victim” while looking at the school’s handling of Menu Courey’s situation with “a very critical eye.”

Menu Courey committed suicide in June 2011, 16 months after she allegedly was sexually assaulted in February 2010 by MU football players, according to records obtained by ESPN. On Monday, the Columbia Police Department announced it had opened a sexual assault case after receiving information from University Police about the alleged assault. ESPN reported that records indicate Menu Courey spoke about her assault in 2010 to campus personnel, including a rape crisis counselor, a campus therapist, a campus nurse and two doctors.

“I’ve known about this for quite some time, but when the story finally comes together and it’s told, your first emotion is sadness,” Alden said. “It’s a tragic situation that a young lady took her life and had so many challenges. As a parent you look at things like that through a different lens. It’s just very, very sad.”

Alden said he took a call from Wolfe last week. Wolfe asked Alden about launching an independent investigation. On Wednesday, the UM System Board of Curators approved the president’s recommendation and will hire legal counsel to review MU’s handling of Menu Courey’s case.

“Sexual assaults are all too common on college campuses across our country, as President Obama emphasized last week,” Curators chairman Don Downing said. “We need to do all we
can do to address these issues at the University of Missouri and provide appropriate assistance to those who are victimized.”

In detailing his conversation with Wolfe, Alden said he thanked the systems president for the call and agreed it was a good idea to initiate a comprehensive review of how the institution as a whole handled the Menu Courey situation as it unfolded.

Alden said it’s important that MU is transparent during the investigation and prepares itself to “analyze everything.” He said he doesn’t fear that the investigation will reveal university officials made mistakes.

“I wouldn’t approach that from a fear standpoint as much as I would … that this is the right thing to do,” he said. “To do that, you want to make sure you’re transparent and do that with sympathy and compassion for the victim in this situation, a woman that has lost her life, and do it in a way that we’re confident that we look at it with a very critical eye. That takes the fear away from it.”

Alden said he found some parts of ESPN’s story especially troubling. He was surprised by the revelation of former Mizzou football player Rolandis Woodland, who told ESPN that Menu Courey mailed to him a video of her being raped by three MU football players. Woodland, a close friend of Menu Courey, said he later angrily confronted his three teammates shortly after her suicide. Woodland never reported what he learned to law enforcement and said he’s misplaced the video.

“I’ve never heard that before,” Alden said. “And that’s a young man we all know and all of us worked around and all of us appreciated being in our program. And that information that he shared on that, to my knowledge, he never shared with anybody.”

Menu Courey is not the first woman at Mizzou to accuse a high-profile athlete of sexual assault. In 2011, former football co-captain Derrick Washington was convicted of sexually assaulting his former tutor. Former basketball player Michael Dixon was accused twice of sexual assault but never charged with a crime. He left the program in 2012 immediately after the Post-Dispatch reported the details of the first alleged incident.

Asked if Missouri needs to do more to educate its athletes about sexual assault, regardless if the Menu Courey case leads to criminal charges, Alden acknowledged more can be done.

“Maybe more so,” he said. “The president of the United States is talking about this: mental health issues, sexual assaults on college campuses and binge drinking. Those are major issues
we’re all dealing with. In particular he was talking about sexual assault. ... Certainly, we’re not immune to that. That’s something, for us, we’ve got to find ways to clearly communicate at a higher level and educate at a higher level and provide a more welcoming environment to make sure reporting (of assaults) is there and people are doing what they need to do.”

Alden ends silence on Menu Courey

By Joe Walljasper

Friday, January 31, 2014 at 2:00 pm Comments (3)

Six days after ESPN published a story on its website questioning Missouri's treatment of former swimmer Sasha Menu Courey, Athletic Director Mike Alden broke his silence.

Menu Courey committed suicide in June 2011 after battling mental-health problems that were possibly exacerbated by a rape by MU football players. The ESPN piece portrayed the Missouri athletic department as treating the struggling swimmer coldly in her time of need and questioned whether the university violated the federal law Title IX by failing to investigate the rape.

After the story aired on ESPN's "Outside the Lines" on Sunday morning, the athletic department issued news releases refuting some of the piece's claims, defending its own actions and placing the blame for the lack of a rape investigation on Menu Courey's parents.

On Saturday night, the university turned over information about the alleged rape to the Columbia Police Department, which is now working the case. University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe announced Sunday that an independent investigation would be conducted to critique the university's actions and determine how better to deal with mental-health issues and sexual assaults in the future. On Wednesday, Wolfe answered questions from reporters about the matter.

But until last night, Alden had not responded to interview requests. He was in Florida over the weekend for a National Association of College Directors of Athletics meeting and returned Monday night. In a phone interview last night he acknowledged his prolonged silence was a mistake.
"That was a misread on our part," he said. "I should have been out there earlier. I could have been out there earlier, at least no later than when I got back Monday night or Tuesday or done something over the phone. But our team thought they were addressing it appropriately."

Alden said he supported the idea of an independent investigation when Wolfe called him Saturday and suggested it.

"My thought is, 'I think we need to have an outside set of eyes and take a look at all of these things, not just athletics,' " Alden said. "I remember him reinforcing that, saying, 'Mike, this isn't an athletic department issue. This is an institutional issue. There are a lot of support areas that are involved in this. It just happened to involve a student-athlete. But it's a lot of departments that have to work together — MU Health Care, the Counseling Center, Student Health. I'm thinking about getting an outside set of eyes.'

"He asked my advice, 'What do you think?' I said, 'Tim, I can't see the downside to that.' "

Alden said he learned that Menu Courey might have been sexually assaulted from a Tribune story in February 2012. The alleged rape occurred two years earlier. When asked why the athletic department didn't launch an investigation as soon as it learned about the alleged assault, Alden said that wasn't the athletic department's jurisdiction.

"While clearly Sasha was one of our kids and a student-athlete for us, as a student, this is a comprehensive effort on behalf of the institution," he said. "It's not an athletic department alone issue. While you have a student-athlete, as far as looking into that, doing investigations, that's a comprehensive deal — MUPD, Student Affairs, Student Conduct, all these areas. For us, as one of the departments that's part of that, we would look to the leaders that would usually do those types of things, which in essence would be Student Affairs, Student Conduct, MUPD. I don't think you'd necessarily say, 'Athletic department, go off on your own.' "

In its news releases, the athletic department indicated that the university wrote a letter to Menu Courey's parents — Mike Menu and Lynn Courey — asking if they wanted the alleged rape to be investigated but that the parents didn't respond. Alden said the person who reached out to Menu and Courey was Donnell Young, MU's senior director of the Office of Student Conduct, and that it was Young's decision whether to follow up after the lack of response.

Alden said he was not a part of the decision-making process that led to Menu Courey being removed from the swim team while she battled borderline personality disorder. He said senior associate athletic director Sarah Reesman was the administrator who supervised that process. ESPN pointed out that MU academic adviser Meghan Anderson — who has since left to take a similar job at Tennessee — had the swimmer sign a form withdrawing from school while she was hospitalized under suicide watch. Alden said he was comfortable with that decision because it was done to preserve her grades during a period when she was missing many classes.

"At least from my understanding from Sarah, that information was shared with Sasha and her parents," Alden said. "They were all together in Columbia and talked about that together. 'Here's
the options. If we're going to miss a lot of class, then we probably want to look at the option of withdrawing from classes so you don't get an F in all the classes.'

Questions about the university's slow response to Menu Courey's alleged rape is particularly troubling because of the recent spate of high-profile MU athletes accused of sexual assaults — including football player Derrick Washington and basketball player Mike Dixon — which has called into question whether Alden is serious about investigating or disciplining athletes unless the media forces his hand.

In the case of Dixon, a tutor who said Dixon raped her in January 2010 came forward to athletic department employees and initially reported the alleged assault to police before declining to press charges. The police incident report indicated that a nurse who examined her believed a rape occurred. And yet Dixon was allowed to remain on the team until the details of the police report were publicized in November 2012.

Alden said since returning to Columbia on Monday night, he has met with coaches, athletes and faculty and brainstormed ideas about creating a culture where athletes are more likely to report sexual assaults.

"We've been talking about that constantly, particularly over the course of the last few days," Alden said. "I met with soccer — I had a squad meeting with them this week — and it's nothing more simplistic than reminding kids that if you see it or you hear it, you own it. That's kind of our mantra: If you see it or hear it, you own it. That means you have to share it. You can't withhold it. I'm not telling you that's the end of anything at all. That's just something we talked about and we're trying to communicate.

"As you look at that, with the people we work with on campus — our women's center, our rape crisis center, all our areas we work with regularly — our thoughts are we're going to keep reaching out to them to give us an even better idea of things we could be doing, how we can communicate better with our kids, how can we make sure we have a safe environment where people feel like they can report, and on and on. So something like this clearly is such a tragic situation, but it forces you to take another look at what are those things we can get better at."

Posted in **Mu** on **Friday, January 31, 2014 2:00 pm**.

**Moldy books in Columbia cavern leave large price tag for MU Libraries**

Friday, January 31, 2014 | 5:20 p.m. CST; updated 6:51 p.m. CST, Sunday, February 2, 2014
BY CAROLINE BAUMAN
COLUMBIA — **Limestone walls 24 feet high encase the underground cavern holding 600,000 molded books and journals belonging to MU Libraries. That's 20 percent of MU Libraries' total collection.**

Water collection pans and drainage gutters stretch across the ceiling of the cavern owned by Subtera underground warehousing. A large industrial dehumidifier attempts to control relative humidity levels, but it’s been known to reach 70 percent humidity in the caverns during the summer.

These descriptions and more are included in a Jan. 21 letter Scott Campbell, industrial hygienist for MU Environmental Health and Safety, wrote to MU librarian June DeWeese summarizing his visit to analyze the mold at the storage site last November.

The more than half a million books and journals stored in the northern Columbia cavern fell victim to high humidity. The resulting mold damage is not covered by insurance nor is the storage company financially liable for it, according to a contract between the company and the University of Missouri System.

**The mold was first discovered at the MU Libraries off-site storage facility** in October. Campbell’s tests determined the common molds of Penicillium and Aspergillus, which do not pose a serious health threat, to be the most prevalent.

"The exposed parts of most books are covered with a mixture of mold spores, mold growth and mineral salt dust," Campbell wrote. "Based on my visual inspection, I recommend handling all books as if they are contaminated with mold."

Now the volumes must be treated or destroyed to ensure that contamination cannot spread to other collections, Director of MU Libraries Jim Cogswell said. Time and funding allow for 300,000 to be saved before heat warms the caverns, which are not climate controlled, toward the end of June.

Any books or journals published before 1870 will be salvaged, Cogswell said, as they are less likely to be held by other universities. The oldest volumes date from 1740 to 1760.
Four requests for comment from Subtera, a part of Con-Agg of MO, LLC Cos., were declined.

Without an insurance policy that covers this type of disaster, MU Libraries is emptying its self-insurance fund, which holds $700,000, compared to the $1.8 million needed to save the whole collection, Cogswell said.

"This is the first time we’ve had a disaster this large," he said. "It’s devastating."

**The choice behind the cavern**

Noah Heringman, an MU English professor, was on the university’s library committee when the decision was made to use the Subtera cavern as storage in 2006. There are several caverns, but MU uses only one.

A lack of space led MU Libraries to expand in 1997 to an above-ground depository on LeMone Industrial Boulevard. The depository was out of space by 2005, Heringman said.

The depository on LeMone showed no sign of mold infection, according to Campbell's report.

Heringman joined the library committee in 2005. He said Cogswell was planning to propose a bond issue that year to finance the construction of a second depository module, right next to the original one on LeMone, at a price tag of $4 million.

But Cogswell's proposal was blocked at the UM System level, Heringman said, and the choice to lease storage space at Subtera was made. "This misguided decision by the UM System to privilege short-term savings has caused long-term damages, far exceeding the value of the savings," Heringman said. "The strength of our physical collection is a main reason why MU is included in the Association of Research Libraries. It is a devastating blow to the university and the library system."

Signed in September 2006, the 28,000-square-foot storage space cost MU Libraries $140,000 a year, according to a copy of the contract obtained by the Missourian. The contract was signed between UM, on behalf of MU Libraries, and Underground Records Management, LLC, a Missouri company affiliated with Subtera.
The lease was extended to run from February 2010 to January 2012 for $133,000 a year, and extended again for an additional five years, starting in February 2012, for $140,000 a year, according to a copy of the lease agreement.

In total, MU Libraries has paid about $966,000 for the storage space since 2006.

"The MU Libraries rented the space from Subtera to warehouse books, and we tried to maintain those books to the best of our abilities with a limited budget," Shannon Cary, communications officer for MU Libraries, said in an email.

It was always the preference of MU Libraries to put the books into a similar space as the LeMone location, Cary said, but it did not have the budget to do so.

"This disaster is a direct result of underfunding," said Kerby Miller, a curator's professor in the Department of History. "As more library funds were slashed over the years, MU was forced to store books in cheap, unsafe conditions where they would rot and mold away."

**Greenhouse effect**

You need two things for mold to happen, said Nick Fortner, who owns a mold inspection company in Grain Valley, east of Kansas City.

"A food source — that’s the books — and then moisture at anything over 50 percent humidity," Fortner said. "That's what we call a greenhouse effect for mold."

The contract signed between UM and Underground Records Management makes it clear Subtera is not responsible in any way for the damage; it states that the company has no obligation to insure loss of any stored materials.

The UM System also is not responsible to pay for the damage, UM Chief Communications Officer John Fougere said in an email, because mold is generally excluded on property programs unless it is the result of damage that is covered, such as wind or fire.

The responsibility falls to MU Libraries, Cogswell said, because the insurance policy is like renting an apartment. The books are the apartment, and MU Libraries the renter.
"If there’s a fire in the apartment, then the damages are on you," Cogswell said. "It is a different level of production. The more general university insurance policy on property does not cover this."

Cogswell said MU Libraries is in the process of hiring a remediation firm to handle the recovery process. He said it is a monumental task, and there is no firm estimate of how much time it will take to sort through the books and select which half to save.

MU Libraries will then transfer as many restored books as possible to other UM facilities, Cary said.

"There is room for about 200,000 volumes at our (UM Libraries Depository) on LeMone Industrial Boulevard," Cary said. "The other UM campus library directors are being very cooperative in allowing us to use the primary available space for these materials."

Community members and faculty and staff have spoken out about offering donations to help save more books than just the 300,000, Cogswell said. "We will be setting up a fund where people can contribute to save these materials and others," he said.

In a Jan. 21 letter to MU librarian June DeWeese, Scott Campbell, industrial hygienist for MU Environmental Health and Safety, summarized his visit to analyze the mold at the underground storage site last November.

More states grant in-state tuition to immigrants

Sunday, February 2, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CST
BY KIMBERLY HEFLING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**No MU Mention**

WASHINGTON — Giancarlo Tello paid $14,000 more than other New Jersey high school graduates to attend Rutgers University, the state's flagship public college.
Why the difference?

Tello spent much of his childhood in the U.S. without legal permission after his parents moved from Peru when he was 6.

That changes if he re-enrolls this fall, as he plans, thanks to a law recently signed by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie that provides in-state tuition to immigrants like him.

Supporters of immigrants' rights are energized because after years of contentious fights, New Jersey and three other states passed statutes last year that will allow such students who came to the U.S. when they were minors to pay in-state tuition.

Fifteen states now have such a statute, said Ann Morse of the National Conference of State Legislatures. In addition, university boards in Hawaii, Michigan and Rhode Island have granted these students in-state tuition. To qualify, high school graduates typically must meet requirements such as living in a state for a set number of years.

Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Mississippi, New Hampshire and Virginia have bills under consideration that would extend the in-state benefit, said Tanya Broder, a senior attorney with the National Immigration Law Center.

Supporters next plan to step up lobbying on a related issue: making these students eligible for state financial aid, including scholarships or grants. Already, California, New Mexico and Texas have laws spelling out this right and it is under consideration in states such as Washington.

Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and Rep. Jared Polis, D-Colo., filed a bill in Congress that would provide money to states that offer in-state tuition or financial aid to these students.

"It's an economic issue, and it's an issue of fairness," Murray said.

In this time of financial austerity, the bill faces a difficult road.

The students are known as "Dreamers" — from the shorthand for legislation stymied in Congress that provides a way for them to permanently remain in the U.S. The measure's full title is the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act).
Lacking legal immigration status, the students typically aren't eligible for federal financial aid and many other aid programs.

But in many cases they are able to remain in the United States under President Barack Obama's 2012 "deferred action" program. That allows immigrants brought into the United States without legal permission as children by their parents to obtain temporary resident status for two years. The status is renewable.

Tello and Yves Gomes, 21, who was brought to the U.S. from India as a toddler, signed up.

Gomes attends the University of Maryland and pays in-state tuition, which he had lobbied for. But he says in some cases that isn't enough. He called for state and other financial aid, especially for those who don't qualify for Maryland's in-state tuition benefit.

Tuition and fees for Maryland residents come to about $9,000 this academic year, compared with more than $28,000 for those from other states. That doesn't include thousands more in room and board.

"I met so many friends who are off and on in school just because they have to take time off to help their families put food on the table. You have to survive," Gomes said.

The issue of what educational benefits should be available to immigrants living illegally in the country has been contentious. Critics say helping the students encourages unlawful behavior and means they potentially take someone else's seat at taxpayers' expense.

"I don't understand why they would take taxpayer dollars that could be going to U.S. citizens and instead subsidizing the education of non-citizens who could also be deported," said Kris Kobach, the Republican secretary of state in Kansas who has litigated immigration-related cases. "Why would you subsidize a workforce that may not be there tomorrow?"

Kansas passed a law in 2004 that granted the in-state tuition benefit to students living in the country illegally.
Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, South Carolina and Indiana bar the in-state benefit altogether, according to the National Conference of State Legislators. In Wisconsin, in-state tuition was authorized in 2009 but was later repealed.

Politicians have taken heat on both sides.

In the 2012 Republican presidential primary, Texas Gov. Rick Perry ended up apologizing after saying critics of in-state tuition for students in the country illegally "did not have a heart." In last year's gubernatorial race in Virginia, GOP Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli was dogged during his unsuccessful campaign by a vote opposing the in-state tuition benefit earlier in his career.

Christie agreed to sign the New Jersey bill only after issuing a conditional veto that took out the financial aid component.

"It definitely felt great that now a lot of 'dreamers' in New Jersey, including myself, will be able to return to school, but at the same time it feels like we were lied to by Gov. Christie, who when he was campaigning, said he was going to give full equality to the Latino community," Tello said.

He was campaign manager for the New Jersey Tuition Equity for Dreamers, and he said he dropped out of college after attending part time for three semesters because of the cost. Out-of-state tuition at Rutgers is about $24,700 compared with about $10,700 for an in-state student. Full-time students also pay nearly $3,000 in fees in addition to room and board.

On the day he signed the bill, Christie explained his decision this way: "This is what compromise looks like." Christie said the important thing is that these students will now have an "affordable" way to continue their education.

About 65,000 students living illegally in the country graduate annually from high school and about 5 percent to 10 percent of them go to college, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities has estimated.

Daniel Hurley, an official with the association, said even when these students are able to get a college degree, their future work prospects are limited.

"They are caught in the limbo," Hurley said. "It's certainly frustrating to see."
Missouri cancer patients seek coverage of chemo pills

February 2

BY DAVID A. LIEB
Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — JoAnn Shaw was first diagnosed with cancer at age 19. Then again at 25. And 37. And 53. Each time, she was treated with intravenous chemotherapy. 2014 photo shows JoAnn Shaw, who says she is a four-time cancer survivor, at the Missouri Capitol in Jefferson City, Mo. Shaw testified to a state Senate committee in support of legislation requiring insurers to provide equal coverage for oral and intravenous chemotherapy treatments.

Today, she wears a wig, talks with a raspy voice and is in danger of losing sight in one eye — not because of the cancer, but because of the side effects of the treatment, she said.

"I am a walking result of four cancer diagnoses with traditional infusion therapy," Shaw, 68 of St. Louis, told a Missouri Senate committee this past week. She added: "Although it saved me, it's destroyed most of the other systems" in her body.

Shaw came to the Capitol in support of a newer and less physically draining way to treat cancer through chemotherapy pills that are swallowed like most other medicines.

Legislation pending before Missouri Senate and House committees would require insurance companies to charge patients the same out-of-pocket costs for chemotherapy pills as they do for chemotherapy treatments pumped directly into the bloodstream.

Patients currently often are charged more for oral chemotherapy, which is covered as a pharmacy benefit, than for intravenous therapy, which is covered as a medical benefit requiring only a routine co-payment for an office visit.
Twenty-seven states and the District of Columbia already have enacted laws requiring equal coverage for oral and intravenous chemotherapy treatments. The trend began in 2008 in Oregon and continued last year with new laws in more than a half dozen states.

Ruth Pirch, of Oak Grove, said her husband was diagnosed with cancer in his lungs last spring, marking his fourth cancer diagnosis since 1990. She said an oncologist recommended an oral chemotherapy drug that would have cost $6,000 to $7,000 every six weeks. But they decided that was too expensive on a long-term basis, so her husband has been receiving intravenous treatments covered by Medicare and private insurance.

"I feel like I'm speaking for a lot of families who are concerned and have to make this decision on what they're going to do," Pirch said. "I just think that we need to have parity."

An actuarial study by Overland Park, Kan.-based Lewis and Ellis Inc. found that Missouri health insurance premiums would rise by an average of 57 cents per month if a law were enacted requiring equal coverage for oral chemotherapy. That equates to a roughly $12 million impact statewide, said David Smith, a lobbyist for Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield of Missouri.

The Missouri legislation would prohibit health insurers from requiring higher co-payments and deductibles for oral chemotherapy than for intravenous treatments. It also would prohibit insurers from increasing the patient payments required for intravenous chemotherapy in order to make them equal to higher oral chemotherapy costs.

No one testified against the bill at a Senate insurance committee hearing. But Smith suggested the legislation could be changed to lower the costs to insurers. Smith pointed to a Kansas law, which lacks the prohibition on the costs of intravenous chemotherapy rising to create parity with oral treatments. He also cited a California law taking effect in 2015 that sets a maximum $200 co-payment for each chemotherapy pill prescription.

**About half of the most common forms of cancer now can be treated with oral chemotherapy, said Dr. Carl Freter, chief of hematology and oncology at the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center at the University of Missouri-Columbia. The pills not only are more convenient for patients but also typically lack side effects such as vomiting and hair loss that accompany intravenous chemotherapy.**

"This is really the future of chemotherapy," Freter said. He added: "Oral therapy simplifies cancer care — it simplifies it for patients, it simplifies it for physicians, nurses and everybody taking care of cancer patients."
Shaw said her life has been far from simple as a cancer patient undergoing multiple rounds of intravenous chemotherapy.

"Infusion therapy worked, obviously — I'm here. But the effects," she said without finishing the sentence. "We know that there's not the same long-term effects with the oral chemotherapy."

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