MU chancellor weighs in on sex assault reporting requirement

Thursday, April 10, 2014 | 1:13 p.m. CDT; updated 6:53 a.m. CDT, Friday, April 11, 2014
BY CAROLINE BAUMAN

COLUMBIA — MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin sent an email to campus faculty and staff Thursday further clarifying UM System President Tim Wolfe’s executive order about employee obligations for reporting sexual harassment and assault.

"The executive order specifically says that every staff or faculty member who becomes aware of an act of sexual harassment, including but not limited to sexual assault, becomes a 'mandated reporter,'" Loftin said in the email.

Wolfe issued Executive Order 40 on Tuesday, which stated that UM System employees are obligated to report sexual harassment and assault committed against students. Before the executive order, there was no reporting requirement or mandatory training for MU faculty or staff for handling Title IX incidents, such as sexual harassment or violence, according to previous Missourian reporting.

The mandatory reporters are obligated to report the incident to Noel English, MU’s Title IX coordinator, or Cathy Scroggs, deputy Title IX coordinator, according to the email, which also provided their contact information. English is also the director of the MU Equity Office.

Loftin said training will be provided to employees most likely to witness or receive reports of sexual harassment and violence. But the email did not specify who those employees would be or how the university will determine who to train.
English referred media questions to the MU News Bureau. Interim MU News Bureau director Christian Basi was unavailable for immediate comment early Thursday afternoon.

According to Loftin’s email, university employees must report to the Title IX coordinators regardless of whether the person making the complaint requests confidentiality.

If the student requests anonymity, Loftin said, the faculty or staff member must be clear with the person that some information will have to be reported to the Title IX coordinator.

"The Title IX coordinator will take all reasonable steps to investigate and respond to the complaint consistent with the request for confidentiality and will evaluate the complainant’s request in the context of providing a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for all students," Loftin said.

Exceptions to this rule are those employees with legal obligations or privilege of confidentiality and may include health care providers, counselors, lawyers and their associated staff.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on college campuses based on a person’s sex.

Before Wolfe’s order, if a student made a complaint that fell under Title IX, MU faculty and staff were encouraged to report the incident through an online form or to contact English.

UM System spokesman John Fougere said Tuesday that discussion of Wolfe's executive order did not appear to be on the agenda for the UM System Board of Curators, who are meeting Thursday and Friday in Rolla.

However, the Dowd Bennett Law Firm, which was hired to investigate whether MU employees acted consistently with university policy and the law in the Sasha Menu Courey matter, is scheduled to present its findings to the board in a closed session on Friday.
Menu Courey, an MU swimmer, allegedly was assaulted by three football players and told several university employees about it, according to an ESPN investigation. She took her life in June 2011 after leaving MU.

MU CURATORS TO HEAR REPORT ON SWIMMER SUICIDE

ROLLA, Mo. (AP) — University of Missouri curators will learn the results of an outside law firm's investigation into the school's handling of a former swimmer's 2011 suicide at a Friday meeting in Rolla.

The university system hired the Dowd Bennett Law Firm to review the Columbia campus' actions in connection with the death of 20-year-old Sasha Menu Courey.

University officials say they didn't learn about her alleged freshman-year rape by several football players until she committed suicide 16 months later. Menu Courey's family has created a charitable foundation in her name to help raise money for greater awareness of borderline personality disorder.

The school says neither Menu Courey nor her parents sought a police investigation and didn't respond to a later request for more information. The case has since been referred to Columbia police.

Panel details sexual assault exam, victim trauma

COLUMBIA — The sexual assault clinic at University Hospital conducts between 120 and 150 sexual assault exams every year, Lesli Briggs said during the Sexual Assault Medical Panel at MU's Relationship and Sexual Violence Center on Thursday.
Briggs, who is a sexual assault nurse examiner, has been working at University Hospital for more than eight years, helping victims through sexual assault exams and training other nurses to care for them.

She was among three panelists answering questions focused on the medical side of sexual assault at the event. The panelists answered audience questions about available resources, how to help those who have experienced sexual assault and common problems sexual assault victims experience.

Tammy Hickman, a former hospital advocate for True North, and Dominique Malebranche, an MU doctoral student who is an intern at True North, joined Briggs on the panel.

As a domestic assault survivor, Hickman said talking about her experience helped her heal, but she cannot speak for others. The hardest thing for her is seeing a victim return to True North.

"There's that frustration that can happen for friends and family of, 'Why do you keep doing it? Why do you go back? I don't understand,'" Hickman said. "There's still a little bit of that for me sometimes, even though I've been in it and I do understand."

Briggs described the process a sexual assault victim goes through if they come to University Hospital for treatment.

Patients first meet with a triage nurse, where they are asked when the assault occurred, Briggs said. This is crucial because nurses have a time frame in which they can collect the best evidence — children younger than 14 need to report within 24 hours, and anybody older needs to report in 96.

Patients are then asked whether they want a forensic exam, also known as a rape kit. If patients request the exam, they wait for a True North advocate to arrive at the clinic to support the victim before a nurse conducts the exam, Briggs said.

The exam includes looking for potential areas of assailant DNA, questions about details of the assault and photographic evidence of injuries if the patient gives consent. Nurses also collect clothing that the patient wore during the assault, including underwear, as it can contain DNA evidence.
"At any point, we emphasize that the exam can start and stop at any time given what the patient wants to do," she said. "They have complete control over the exam, what we do during the exam, how much we do during the exam."

Once complete, these exams can be used as evidence in a court trial if the patient wishes to press charges.

Audience members also asked the panelists about their experiences working with sexual assault victims. Malebranche works with people living in True North's women's shelter and in the community. She said she notices a difference between the two demographics: Residents of the shelter tend to be more willing to talk about their experiences.

"A common theme is a fear of talking about the trauma," Malebranche said. "Really delving back into the trauma is usually pretty difficult for people because they're afraid that once they talk about it, they won't know how to put their pieces back together."

UM System Board of Curators gets updated on international partnerships, facilities
Thursday, April 10, 2014 | 6:15 p.m. CDT; updated 10:39 p.m. CDT, Thursday, April 10, 2014
BY KEVIN MODELSKI

ROLLA — For Brian O'Connell, international partnerships with other universities are all about sharing.

O'Connell, the rector of the University of the Western Cape (UWC) in South Africa, presented the importance of maintaining and sharing the institution's partnership with the University of Missouri System to begin the UM Board of Curators meeting Thursday morning.

"We are the transitionists," O'Connell said. "We are the ones moving from a time when humans had a lot going for them to a time with significant challenge."

UWC and the UM System have been partners for 28 years with more than 500 student-staff exchanges throughout, demonstrating the reciprocity between the institutions.
O’Connell, who is stepping down this year, said he wants the partnership to continue to grow a new generation of researchers.

"With the help of friends — and you must have the help of friends — we will do incredible things," he said.

O’Connell said university-level research could contribute in fighting Africa’s biggest issues, such as hunger, HIV and poverty. UWC leads research in physics and molecular biology in South Africa.

UM System President Tim Wolfe presented a gift to O’Connell on behalf of the system, thanking him for his dedication to the relationship.

**Richards talks facilities, budget**

Tom Richards, interim vice president for finance and treasurer of the UM System, discussed the importance of facilities in the system.

Richards reviewed the building conditions of each system campus, a topic the curators discussed in January’s meeting. About 43 percent of MU’s buildings are in poor or below-average condition, according to Richards’ presentation.

"It is important to recognize that there is a cost to not investing in facilities to support institutional priorities," Richards said.

There was no public talk about the walkway collapse at University Village, the related death of firefighter Bruce Britt and the subsequent announcement that the graduate housing complex will close.

Richards also presented an update on the fiscal year 2015 budget. As things stand now, tuition and fees approved by the curators in January would make up about $13.6 million of revenue, while changes in enrollment would make up $2.1 million. Unrestricted student aid would create an additional $3.5 million, most of that coming from MU.

State appropriations to the UM System are anticipated to increase between 3 and 5 percent, or between $12 million to $21 million. New state funds will continue to be allocated by the president to support investment in strategic plans, Richards said.
More detailed budgets will not be developed until May, with a board vote in June.

**Establishing state relations**

Steve Knorr, the UM System vice president for government relations, updated the curators on the "Show Me Value Tour."

The tour, which has totaled 14 stops and 4,230 miles, is designed to promote the value of higher education to Missouri middle school students and business and community leaders.

A typical visit involves a tour of local businesses, a community luncheon and an editorial board meeting, but it all starts with a visit to local middle schools.

"The president has the ability to establish rapport with the seventh-, eighth- and ninth-graders," Knorr said.

The students play games like "Guess the Major," where students are shown photos of celebrities and must determine what each person studied in school.

Knorr added that the “Show Me Value Tour” would be a long-term effort that can expand from the president to the chancellors.

"When we put the strategic plan together, the discussion with the president said that this is not a one-year thing," Knorr said. "It’s going to be a five- to eight-year period where we see a lot of movement."

**Other notes:**

- Betsy Rodriguez, the UM System vice president for human resources, presented an outline of a task force’s recommendations for the Total Rewards package, which includes evaluating retirement plans and staff time-off plans for UM System employees.

- Hank Foley, system executive vice president for academic affairs, research and economic development, spoke in favor of an amendment regarding e-Learning program fees. The proposed revisions are intended to allow flexibility in fees to be more competitive in the market, UM System spokesman John Fougere said later. The amendment unanimously passed.
Coming Friday:
The Dowd Bennett Law Firm, which was hired to investigate whether MU employees acted consistently with university policy and the law in the Sasha Menu Courey matter, is scheduled to present its findings to the board in a closed session on Friday. It was unclear when the information will be released to the public.

Menu Courey, an MU swimmer, allegedly was assaulted by three football players and told several university employees about it, according to an ESPN investigation. She took her life in June 2011 after leaving MU.

MO. GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES $22 MILLION WITHHOLD FROM EDUCATION BUDGET

By Alex Stuckey astuckey@post-dispatch.com 573-556-6186

NO MU MENTION

JEFFERSON CITY • Gov. Jay Nixon announced today he will withhold $22 million from this fiscal year's education budget after the Legislature did not appropriate enough money to make up for a shortfall in gambling and lottery revenue.

In January, Nixon requested $44.1 million in the supplement to the fiscal year 2014 budget because of shrinking revenue from riverboat gaming and lottery. Lawmakers only appropriated $22 million this week.

Nixon will withhold $3.2 million from both community colleges and four-year institutions and $15.6 million from the Foundation Formula, which funds K-12 public schools.

"General revenue was and continues to be available and there was no reason why students shouldn't have gotten the resources they were promised," Nixon said today.

In a statement, the Missouri School Boards' Association said it was "truly unfortunate" that adequate funding was not appropriated, resulting in Nixon's withholding announcement today.
"This puts school boards and superintendents in the difficult position of having to make budget adjustments in the very short time remaining before the end of the fiscal year," Association spokesman Brent Ghan said.

Nixon Cuts $22 Million In Education Funding, Says GOP Lawmakers Forced His Hand

BY MARSHALL GRIFFIN

NO MU MENTION

Because of a dispute over how much money to put in this year's supplemental budget, Gov. Jay Nixon has cut $22 million from public schools and higher education.

Nixon, a Democrat, announced Thursday that he's cutting $15.6 million from the current budget for K-12 schools, $3.2 million from community colleges, and $3.2 million from four-year institutions.

He says he asked lawmakers for $44.1 million in additional funding for education in this year's supplemental budget (HB 2014) to make up for declining revenue from lottery sales and casinos. But the Republican-led General Assembly provided only half of that amount for the current school year. The governor told reporters at the Capitol that GOP leaders have left him no choice.

"These are real cuts that will affect all Missouri students, even though there is sufficient general revenue available right now to cover the shortfall and make our schools and higher education institutions whole," Nixon said.

The governor also wants lawmakers to make up the difference in next year's state budget.

"While it is too late to fix this problem for the current fiscal year, I call on legislators to right this wrong by including that additional funding in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget to make up for this loss," Nixon said. "That budget is under consideration as we speak."

The 13 bills making up the state budget are currently in the hands of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Nixon also criticized that committee for cutting $4.6 million from the Department of Social Services' budget that was earmarked for case worker expenses within the Children's Division.
Republican House and Senate leaders have not yet responded to requests for comments.

Follow Marshall Griffin on Twitter: @MarshallGReport

STRAUSS: TIGERS IN TURMOIL

JOE STRAUSS • jstrauss@post-dispatch.com

It’s getting to the point in Columbia that you can’t read an incident report without a roster.

What transpired Thursday at the University of Missouri isn’t funny. It’s embarrassing to the athletics department and should be troubling to those who donate or pay tuition to the school.

This was a scarlet-letter day on which a basketball player getting kicked off the team became secondary to an all-conference football player avoiding burglary charges because of his alleged victims’ fear of reprisal.

This is your state university, where the basketball coach releases a statement saying the program has severed ties with 6-foot-10 transfer Zach Price at almost the exact moment the Columbia Police Department says it won’t arrest wide receiver Dorial Green-Beckham despite a damning 19-page incident report.

Rarely has Frank Haith’s basketball program seemed more dysfunctional.

Seldom has football coach Gary Pinkel seen one of his avowed core principles more directly challenged.

An athletics program that sadly is no stranger to controversy now stirs another helping or two of swill. Haith dismissed Price a day after it became public knowledge that co-captain Earnest Ross secured a restraining order against an out-of-control Price, who reacted by attacking his teammate for a second time on the same day.

Pinkel ends each summer camp session with a long, stern lecture about respecting women. He also reinforced the point while celebrating his program in the wake of defensive end Michael Sam’s coming-out as gay.

Pinkel earlier this week indefinitely suspended Green-Beckham from the team. Now he faces a defining decision regarding Green-Beckham who, according to the lengthy police incident report, broke into an off-campus apartment, confronted two women and allegedly shoved one down four steps. Does the Missouri coach stand on his stated principle or side with expediency?
The woman who suffered the brunt of Green-Beckham’s ire declined to press charges because, according to the report, she feared “media and community backlash since Green-Beckham is a football player for the University of Missouri and is possibly going to be in the NFL soon.”

Also disturbing: text messages between the women involved in the altercation suggest a member of Pinkel’s staff contacted one of the alleged victims about whether she planned to pursue the matter.

Of course, we’ve heard some of this before.

A female acquaintance of former Mizzou guard Michael Dixon declined to press sexual assault charges against him after basketball coach Mike Anderson reminded her how campus life could become uncomfortable if she proceeded. The university never publicly addressed Dixon’s case. He later withdrew from the university within hours of Columbia police releasing a report detailing a second, unrelated incident.

To some this might represent an unofficial rite of passage into the Southeastern Conference. It’s even elicited chuckles from some state media members with Mizzou ties. However, the university and its acolytes reach a dangerous place when repeated violence against students is tolerated. It’s enough that Pinkel enabled Green-Beckham after two marijuana-related incidents. One was pleaded down. Another, involving almost a pound of the stuff, remains under investigation by Springfield police. Now comes a third, more serious strike.

To find one’s way around CoMo these days, one better be fluent in redacted names, Class C misdemeanors, botany and due process. As of early Thursday morning at least three Missouri scholarship athletes remained the target of multiple investigations. By sundown, one had been cleared partly because of intimidation and a second expelled from a basketball program that recently has addressed its own issues with cannabis.

Haith did the right thing by dismissing Price from the squad. It also was the only thing he could do.

“The off-court incidents involving our program over the past few months will not be tolerated,” Haith pledged in a statement.

Hard questions remain:

How does one introduce a volatile player such as Price, who had been at Louisville, into his program when an MU assistant coach (Tim Fuller) had direct knowledge of Price from when he was one of Rick Pitino’s assistants there?

Did problems between Price and Ross explode in a matter of days, or simmer over an extended period? If Ross felt so threatened that he secured a restraining order, did he not first seek out his coach?

The crime log in Columbia waxes and wanes against the backdrop of an ongoing investigation into a tragic, complicated series of events preceding the suicide of Mizzou swimmer Sasha Menu Courey — who alleged being raped during her time at the university. The rape allegedly involved one or more football players.
University system president Tim Wolfe ordered an independent investigation, the results of which are expected to be released in a matter of weeks, if not days. One can wonder why a federal Department of Education that recently became involved with handling of sexual assault allegations against Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston wouldn’t have cause to investigate the Menu Courey case as well.

One suspects the independent investigation ordered by Wolfe will focus on process rather than affixing blame to individuals. Civil litigation remains a possibility.

To his credit, Pinkel acted forcefully on the Green-Beckham matter by suspending his star player even before media sniffed out the incident. He spoke forcefully about the matter Tuesday, a departure from his habit of not discussing discipline.

Pinkel described himself as “disappointed” and “frustrated.” He said, “It stings me. It stings the players. It stings the fans.”

It stinks. It stinks more than a pound of weed. It stinks more than a year’s worth of rationalizations and situational ethics. It stinks so bad Mizzou can be forgiven for holding its nose — but no longer for covering its mouth or tying its hands.

**Police: No arrest in case involving Dorial Green-Beckham**

By [David Morrison](mailto:David.Morrison@missouritribune.com)

Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 12:40 pm Comments (22)

[Green-Beckham incident report](http://missouritribune.com/)

Columbia police announced Thursday they won’t be making any arrests in a weekend incident involving junior University of Missouri wide receiver Dorial Green-Beckham.

“Based on the information obtained during the investigation there will be no arrests made in this case,” police Spokeswoman Latisha Stroer said in a news release Thursday.
MU Coach Gary Pinkel suspended Green-Beckham indefinitely this week for an unspecified violation of team policies. Team spokesman Chad Moller said Green-Beckham's status remains unchanged as of Thursday afternoon.

An incident report released by the Columbia Police Department on Thursday details an altercation involving Green-Beckham, 20, his 20-year-old girlfriend and two other 18-year-old women in the early morning hours at the Brookside Townhomes on Sunday.

Green-Beckham unlawfully entered an apartment at 310 W. Old Plank Rd. around 2:30 a.m., according to the report, forcing the door open as one of the occupants, was trying to close it on him after initially opening the door because she was expecting company.

The woman who opened the door for Green-Beckham stated that he pushed the door with such force that the doorknob broke through the drywall of the wall next to the door, according to the report.

According to the report, Green-Beckham allegedly assaulted another occupant of the apartment after entering it by pushing her, causing her to fall down "at least 4 stairs striking the floor." Green-Beckham had entered the apartment looking for his girlfriend, according to the report.

Green-Beckham and his girlfriend then left, according to the report.

According to the report, both the woman who tried to bar Green-Beckham from entering and the woman who he allegedly pushed opted not to press charges and signed "decline of prosecution" forms at the police station Sunday evening.

The alleged victim experienced "slight bruising and swelling of her right wrist and had limited movement of her fingers on her right hand," according to the report.

When police asked her why she did not want to press charges, she stated it was because "she was afraid of the media and community backlash since Green-Beckham is a football player for the University of Missouri and is possibly going to be in the NFL Draft soon."

She also stated she "was afraid of being harassed and having her property damaged just because she was the victim" and that she "did not want to deal with the mental stress of the whole ordeal it was already making her physically sick to think about it."

Given that the two women elected not to press charges, the investigating officer withdrew his warrant request for Green-Beckham on a charge of first-degree burglary -- a class B felony -- according to the report.

The report includes a number of text messages from Green-Beckham's girlfriend to the alleged victim after the incident with the seeming purpose of dissuading her from pressing charges.
"I know you're so upset and I am too," one of the texts read, according to the report. "Dorial was wrong in every way and you have every right to be furious. I'm not sticking up for him but football really is all he has going for him and pressing charges would ruin it for him completely.

"I agree that something should be done- whether that's paying for what he did with money or a different way...Now he's hurting my friends not just me. I really am so sorry you're in this position and I never meant for this to happen."

Another text message from Green-Beckham's girlfriend indicates that he injured her as well by dragging her by the neck, according to the report.

Police conducted a Monday follow-up interview with the girlfriend in which she said she did not remember texting that to the alleged victim and that she had been drinking and did not remember if the description in the text was accurate.

Another text from Green-Beckham's girlfriend to the alleged victim stated, "We just need to move quickly on this before he's arrested and before his warrant is made public. He will be kicked out of Mizzou and" then "not qualify for the draft next year.

"The coaches talked to me and explained to" me "how serious this is and there's no time to waste at this point."

In a follow-up interview with police, Green-Beckham's girlfriend said she had not received any calls from the coaching staff and that Green-Beckham had talked with coaches and "relayed that information to her."

"I'm not sticking up for him, but it's the rest of his life," read another text from Green-Beckham's girlfriend, according to the report. "He deserves to pay somehow but without football he really does have nothing. He wouldn't have anything. He wouldn't make it in a real job. He'd be" in "the streets and in prison like his brothers."

Moller said the Missouri coaching staff did not contact Green-Beckham's girlfriend after the incident.

Shortly after the follow-up interview, a woman identifying herself as the mother of Green-Beckham's girlfriend called the officer who conducted the interview and asked that her daughter not be contacted further.

The mother told the officer "she had been living with this kind of stuff most of her life, and she believed her daughter being an adult, she could make her choice as to whether she wanted to live the same kind of life she did, or not."

The report indicates that Green-Beckham's girlfriend said she was "in the bathroom" and "didn't hear or see anything" during the incident and was "extremely uncooperative" in the investigation.
Green-Beckham's girlfriend also sent text messages to the alleged victim saying she could "just say we had alot (sic) to drink and what not everything is fine" if she opted not to press charges, according to the report.

"Please do something quickly it's going to be a distaster (sic)," another read, "I know you're upset but this is a huge deal. Please work with him and his family."

A witness to the incident, who placed a 911 call shortly after, said that he saw a man he could not identify leading a woman by the arm and walking her down a sidewalk to a car that he said contained three other men, according to the report. The car then left.

Another witness to the aftermath of the event said he heard two or three "black males" talking to people at the scene. He heard one of them say he was a teammate of Green-Beckham's and was saying "please don't call the police, just chill out, we know what he did was wrong, but he does not need to get in trouble," according to the report.

Green-Beckham was arrested along with two other men -- John McDaniel and Patrick Prouty -- in his home town of Springfield during a Jan. 10 traffic stop, after police say they found about a pound of marijuana in a car in which Green-Beckham was riding. All three were arrested under suspicion of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute, a felony if charged as such.

No charges have been filed in the case as police await results of testing from the state crime lab, and court documents released after the incident indicate the two other men arrested with Green-Beckham said the marijuana did not belong to the receiver.

University police also arrested Green-Beckham in October 2012 along with teammates Levi Copelin and Torey Boozer on suspicion of possession of 35 grams or fewer of marijuana. Green-Beckham was suspended for a game and all three later pleaded the charges down to a misdemeanor trespassing violation.

The 6-foot-6, 225-pound Green-Beckham was one of the top recruits in the nation coming out of Springfield Hillcrest High School in 2012.

He caught 59 passes for 883 yards and 12 touchdowns for Missouri last season, leading the team in catches and receiving touchdowns.

Pinkel said Tuesday, without singling out a specific incident, that Green-Beckham's recent behavior "stings me. It stings the players. That stings our fans. My job is to get it fixed. That's what I intend to do."

*This is a developing story. Check back for updates.*

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Posted in [Local, Mu Football] on Thursday, April 10, 2014 12:40 pm.
COLUMBIA, Mo. • Columbia Police announced Thursday that there will be no arrests made in the burglary investigation that occurred in the early hours of Sunday morning involving Mizzou wide receiver Dorial Green-Beckham.

The investigation has been completed, the department announced with a brief news release.

Team spokesman Chad Moller confirmed that Green-Beckham’s status has not changed as of Thursday. He remains suspended indefinitely.

Green-Beckham, already arrested twice in drug-related incidents during his first two years at Missouri, avoided an arrest this time. But he might not avoid further discipline and public scrutiny based on the findings of the incident report released Thursday by Columbia Police.

According to the 19-page document, Green-Beckham came to the alleged victim’s apartment on Old Plank Road around 2:30 a.m. on Sunday looking for his girlfriend. Green-Beckham forced his way into the door, causing the doorknob to break through the drywall behind the door. He pushed the alleged female victim, a friend of Green-Beckham’s girlfriend, in the chest with two hands causing her to fall down four stairs. Green-Beckham’s girlfriend was in the bathroom at the time and told police she didn’t see or hear anything and was described in the report as “extremely uncooperative.”

The victim, an 18-year-old Mizzou student, reported slight bruising and swelling of her right wrist and limited movement of her fingers on her right hand.

The reporting officer applied for a warrant for Green-Beckham’s arrest for the charge of first-degree burglary, which is a Class B felony.

Sunday night, the victim and her roommate, also an 18-year-old female MU student, visited with the reporting officer at the police station and declined to press charges, saying they feared retaliation should Green-Beckham get arrested. The victim told police she was “afraid of the media and community backlash since Green-Beckham is a football player for the University of Missouri and is possibly going to the NFL draft soon.” The victim said she feared property damage to her apartment and “didn’t want to deal with
the mental stress.” Both the victim and her roommate filled out decline of prosecution forms.

The victim also shared a series of text messages from Green-Beckham’s girlfriend that were sent after the incident. In multiple messages the girlfriend urged her friend not to press charges.

One of the texts read: “Dorial was wrong in every way and you have every right to be furious. I'm not sticking up for him but football really is all he has going for him and pressing charges would ruin it for him completely. … I can’t do this anymore. Now he’s hurting my friends not just me. I really am sorry you’re in this position and I never meant for this to happen.”

The girlfriend later texted, “No part of me wants to be with him and last night made me realize so much. I’m not sticking up for him, but it’s the rest of his life. He deserves to pay somehow. Without football he really does have nothing. … He wouldn’t make it in a real job. He’d be in the streets and in prison like his brothers. I understand how upset you are. i am too. he drug me out by my kncek (sic) and hurt me too.”

The last message prompted a follow-up call from a domestic violence investigator on Monday but led to the girlfriend declining to cooperate.

Another text from the girlfriend read: “Reports are already being let out. this is going to be a huge deal if you press charges. it’ll be over for him. please.”

In another text, the girlfriend asked her friend if she considered “classes or counseling” or letting Green-Beckham pay for the damaged drywall.

The girlfriend continued with another text: “We just need to move quickly on this before he’s arrested and before his warrant is made public. he will be kicked out of Mizzou and the not qualify for the draft next year. The coaches talked to me and explained to (me) how serious this is and there’s no time to waste at this point.”

“It’s going to be a disaster,” she texted. “I know you’re upset but this is a huge deal.”

From there, the officer requested that the warrant for Green-Beckham’s arrest be withdrawn.

In the follow-up call Monday, the domestic violence investigator asked the girlfriend about the text referring to Green-Beckham dragging her by her neck. She said she didn’t remember sending that text and that she had been drinking the night of the incident.

The girlfriend also said she had never talked to the Mizzou coaches about Green-Beckham and the incident but that he relayed that information to her from the coaches.

The girlfriend insisted she had not been assaulted by Green-Beckham the night of the incident and left the apartment with him.
About 25 minutes after that call, the investigator received a call from a woman claiming to be the girlfriend’s mother. She told the investigator to stop contacting her daughter and that “she had been living with this kind of stuff most of her life” and that as an adult her daughter could make her own choices.

The report also included interviews with two witnesses from the alleged scene. One, a neighbor, said he saw three black males sitting in a car outside the apartment during the incident then another walking a girl down the sidewalk to the car. The unidentified male with the girl was wearing a flat-brimmed hat and a “wife beater” tank top. The neighbor then called 911.

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**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI**

**Columbia police say Missouri receiver Dorial Green-Beckham will not be arrested**

April 10

**By Tod Palmer**

The Kansas City Star

*Columbia Police have completed an investigation into an alleged burglary Sunday morning involving Dorial Green-Beckham, but the Missouri wide receiver will not be arrested because the alleged victims declined prosecution.*

“Based on the information obtained during the investigation, there will be no arrests made in this case,” read a news release posted on the City of Columbia website Thursday.

*Green-Beckham remains indefinitely suspended from the MU football team by coach Gary Pinkel.*

According to a Columbia Police report released Thursday, Green-Beckham was looking for his girlfriend around 2:30 Sunday morning when he allegedly forced his way into an apartment in the 300 block of Old Plank Road, where two 18-year-old women live.

One of the residents was expecting company and opened the door, according to the report, but she tried to close it when she saw Green-Beckham, who pushed the door open with enough force that the doorknob made a hole in the drywall.
The other woman who resides at the apartment allegedly was pushed with two hands by Green-Beckham while he went down a flight of stairs looking for his girlfriend, 20. The woman fell down at least four stairs and hit the floor, injuring her wrist, the report says. She had a bruised and swollen right wrist and limited movement of her fingers, but declined medical attention, according to police.

Green-Beckham, 20, then left the apartment with the girlfriend, according to the report. The girlfriend was quoted in the report as saying “I was in the bathroom, I didn’t hear or see anything.” The report also said the girlfriend was “extremely uncooperative.”

Later Sunday, around 7:30 p.m., both 18-year-old women went to the Columbia Police station. The woman who allegedly was pushed said she had been exchanging text messages with Green-Beckham’s girlfriend all day and no longer wanted to press charges, according to the report.

The alleged victim told police “she was afraid of the media and community backlash since Green-Beckham is a football player for the University of Missouri and is possibly going to be in the NFL Draft soon.”

She also told police she was worried about being harassed or having her property damaged and that she “did not want to deal with the mental stress of the whole ordeal, it was already making her physically sick to think about.”

The other 18-year-old resident told police she didn’t want to press charges because she was “afraid of retaliation against her and her property.”

The girlfriend was quoted in the report as texting the woman who was allegedly shoved: “I’m not sticking up for him but football is really all he has going for him and pressing charges would ruin it for him completely. ... I really just want all of us to move past this and not have this happen again by completely being done with him. I can’t do this anymore. Now he’s hurting my friends, not just me.”

Both 18-year-old women filled out forms Sunday night in which they declined prosecution, according to the report. Initially, police applied for a warrant to arrest Green-Beckham for first-degree burglary, but that warrant application was withdrawn when the victims declined to press charges.

The following day, Monday, Green-Beckham’s girlfriend was interviewed by a Columbia police domestic violence investigator.

The girlfriend said in the text message exchange quoted in the police report that Green-Beckham “drug me out by my neck and hurt me” while leaving the apartment Sunday.
morning. But she told the domestic violence investigator that she was not injured and had walked out of the apartment with Green-Beckham.

When the investigator read back the portion of the text message that mentioned she was hurt, the girlfriend said she had been drinking and didn’t remember texting that.

In another text message quoted in the police report, the girlfriend on Sunday told the woman who was allegedly shoved, “You can do and say whatever you want about this. We just need to move quickly on this before he’s arrested and before his warrant is made public. He will be kicked out of Mizzou and the not qualify for the draft next year. The coaches talked to me and explained ... how serious this is and there’s no time to waste at this point.”

Green-Beckham’s girlfriend told the domestic violence investigator on Monday she had not received a call from any Missouri coaches, but that Green-Beckham had relayed that information after talking with his coaches.

A Missouri spokesman also said the coaches had no contact with Green-Beckham’s girlfriend.

She also said in the text message exchange quoted in the police report that “something should be done,” but in a subsequent text message said, “I’m not sticking up for him, but it’s the rest of his life. He deserves to pay somehow but without football he really does have nothing. He wouldn’t have nothing. He wouldn’t make it in a real job. He’d be (in) the streets and in prison like his brothers.”

In another text message quoted in the report, Green-Beckham’s girlfriend asked the woman who was allegedly shoved to “not have him arrested” and suggested telling the police “everything is fine,” that the involved parties had “all had a lot to drink.”

She said in another text quoted in the report that “all his dad is asking is to let the police know that you aren’t pressing charges. That’s all he needs before this investigation happens.”

She said time was running out and that he would pay for any damages before urging in another text message, “Please do something quickly it’s going to be a disaster. I know you’re upset but this is a huge deal. Please work with him and his family.”

Attempts to reach Green-Beckham were unsuccessful. A message left with Green-Beckham’s father, John Beckham, who is the high school football coach at Springfield Hillcrest, was not returned.
When Pinkel announced Green-Beckham’s suspension on Monday, he said, “We’ll work with him during this process.”

A message left with the Boone County prosecutor’s office also was not returned. It is unclear if the prosecutor’s office reviewed the case or could follow through with charges despite the victims’ wishes.

This is not Green-Beckham’s first scrape with police in his time with the Tigers.

Green-Beckham and three teammates were arrested for misdemeanor possession of less than 35 grams of marijuana in a parking lot near Memorial Stadium in October 2012. All four later pleaded guilty to second-degree trespassing.

Three months ago, Green-Beckham was arrested on alleged possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute, a felony. He was riding in a car that was stopped for an expired tag in Springfield, and a search of the vehicle turned up nearly one pound of suspected marijuana.

Another passenger in the car said the marijuana was his, but charges remain pending as Springfield police await state lab results.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/2014/04/10/4950259/missouri-receiver-dorial-green.html#storylink=cpy

Price dismissed from MU basketball team a week after arrests

By Steve Walentik

Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 12:45 pm Comments (3)

Zach Price’s career with the Missouri basketball team has ended before he even played a game.
Price, who redshirted last season after transferring from Louisville, was dismissed from the team Thursday, a week after he was twice arrested on suspicion of domestic assault and assault.

“Last week’s situation was unacceptable and after a review, I have decided that Zach will no longer be a part of our program,” Coach Frank Haith said in a statement released by the school Thursday afternoon. “The off-the-court incidents involving our program over the past few months will not be tolerated. Our program represents the entire university and needs to be an asset. That’s my responsibility as our head coach at Mizzou and we’ll get it fixed.”

No charges have yet been filed against Price, but he had been suspended the past week while Haith said he was gathering information about the incidents that led to his arrests.

He was first arrested early last Thursday morning on suspicion of third-degree domestic assault and third-degree assault, both Class C misdemeanors, after an incident near Stadium Boulevard and Ash Street that occurred shortly after 1 a.m. According to the probable cause statement, Price was involved in a dispute with a 23-year-old “male roommate” and a 23-year-old female and blocked them in with his car before exiting his own vehicle and punching the male victim in the face. He allegedly pushed the female victim to the ground when she tried to intervene.

At the time of that encounter, Price was under investigation for another incident that occurred the previous afternoon near the area of Bethel Church Road and Route K. The same alleged victims reported that Price intentionally rammed their car with his car at least twice. Police arrested him last Thursday afternoon on suspicion of second-degree domestic assault and second-degree assault, both Class C felonies, after completing their investigation.

Price’s teammate Earnest Ross filed a petition for an ex-parte order of protection against Price between the two incidents on April 2 and on the petition described Price as engaging in “reckless (sic) driving” near the Rock Bridge Elementary. In the petition, he said Price “hit my car a few times, was following me and trying to steer me off the road.”

Ross also wrote that Price “tried to harm me and put me in danger. He performed illegal traffic violations in order to harm me and my vehicle” and that he "followed me while I was going to police station. My girlfriend was also in the vehicle.”

In describing why there was an immediate and present danger of abuse or stalking, Ross wrote “he has tried to harm me and my girlfriend in my vehicle, tried to run me off the road several times. I feel threatened by this activity and violated. He endangered my life and not only me but others around me. All I want is to feel safe.”

Under the category of relationship with respondent, Ross marked the box that said he and the respondent never resided together. In describing his relationship with Price, Ross wrote that they “were good friends.”

It was only a month earlier that Ross talked to reporters about his friendship with Price on the eve of the Tigers’ final regular-season home game against Texas A&M.
“We’ve been kicking it ever since day one, since he’s got here, and we haven’t been apart,” Ross said. “He knows my family really well. I know his family really well, and we’re just like brothers, so whenever I’m off the court, that’s who I’m kicking it with, and I’m looking for him to be able to do big things next year.”

Their relationship seems to have dissolved quickly, and with it, Price’s career with the Tigers.

The 6-foot-10, 250-pound forward had been expected to contribute to Missouri’s frontcourt rotation beginning next fall after averaging 1.3 points and 1.4 rebounds as a sophomore during the 2012-13 season for Louisville, which won the national championship.

Price’s dismissal and the expected departures of junior guards Jordan Clarkson and Jabari Brown, who last week declared for the NBA draft, gives Haith and his staff three scholarships to use in the spring signing period, which begins Wednesday. One is promised to State Fair Community College guard Kevin Punter, who gave Missouri a verbal commitment last Friday.

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University to offer new online master's

The University of Missouri announced Wednesday that its master's degree of public health program will be available online starting this June.

According to a news release, the decision was based on a demand for global health professionals. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts increased job growth for health care managers through 2022.

"Graduate education in public health opens myriad career opportunities," Lise Saffran, interim program director, said in a statement. "We have alumni who focus on the aging population, infant health and safety, international travel and food security, and antibiotic resistance and disease control. The opportunities for public health graduates are plentiful."

The new degree requires 45 credit hours and can be done entirely through online courses taught by the faculty who teach with the on-campus program.
Students can start the program in June, August or January, and applications for the summer session are due May 1. The application deadline for the August start date is July 1.

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Posted in Education on Thursday, April 10, 2014 2:00 pm.

How to Budget For Health Care Expenses in Retirement

By Joanne Cleaver

Should you plan on getting healthier once you retire, or is it smarter to work on wellness in advance? New research indicates that entering retirement in good health can result in a major cost savings: Those who retire in good health may need 19 percent less money over the course of retirement than people with chronic conditions and bad habits, according to a 2013 Fidelity Investments Retirement Savings Assessment survey of over 2,265 working households earning at least $20,000.

Plotting a financial return on wellness is a new thought for most near-retirees, financial advisors say. Here's how to integrate this insight into your plans.

Certified financial planner Elaine Bedel, based in Indianapolis, has seen clients take two typical approaches to retirement health expectations: postponing a wellness makeover until retirement and adopting wellness in anticipation of retirement. One of her clients retired from a stressful job that involved many meals eaten on the road. He promptly lost 50 pounds once he was able to adopt a daily exercise plan. But another of Bedel's clients made a late-career shift from a physically exerting nursing job to a deskbound position and found her stamina and physical condition deteriorating. She started a diet and exercise regime so she could retire strong.

The second approach is more likely to yield results for both your waistline and income, says John Sweeney, executive vice president of retirement and investing strategies for Fidelity
Investments. "The link between fiscal and physical health is important. You have time to maintain or improve your health before you retire," he says.

The big difference in the two approaches, he says, is in the cost of addressing chronic conditions. Once you develop, say, heart disease or diabetes, the related costs become part of your core expenses. When added on top of predictable expenses such as housing, food and health maintenance, the cost of chronic conditions can absorb income you had hoped to have for travel, lifestyle and a financial cushion.

"Health is a big factor that can swing your income substantially," Sweeney says.

Health care costs are the wild card for most retirees. A study released in May 2013 by the Society of Actuaries, which used data from the Health Care Cost Institute, predicted that health care costs in retirement are likely to hit $146,400 for those who retire at age 65 and live for another 20 years.

A good place to start with a preretirement health strategy is to scope out the likely conditions you might develop so you can create a preventive plan accordingly, Sweeney says. The most common chronic ailments in retirement are asthma, cancer, heart disease, stroke and diabetes, according to a 2005 paper, "Do the Sick Retire Early?" by West Virginia State University professors M. Solaiman Miah and Virginia Wilcox-Gök.

Examining your family history is another way to predict your health trajectory in retirement, Bedel says. Health usually comes up in financial planning conversations when you are discussing with your planner how long you are likely to live and how far your money must stretch, she says. "If you recognize that something runs in your family, you know what your options are and what you can do to delay the onset," Bedel says.

Here are steps you can take now to improve your wellness and reap a healthy return after you retire.

-- Think through your social support system for making healthy decisions, experts say. If you realize that professional colleagues help you choose salad over a burger at lunch, how can you make the most of peer support to ramp up your wellness efforts a notch? Also, how will you replace that support system once retired, so you can maintain current good habits? "Get some healthy peers outside of work and start changing your habits," advises Angela Curl, an assistant professor at the University of Missouri’s School of Social Work and a leading researcher on retirement satisfaction.

-- Research your greatest health risks and adjust your wellness plan accordingly. Curl says it's important to understand how health factors evolve as you age. For example, it's actually healthier for older adults to carry a little more weight because it can cushion them from falls and illness.

-- Make the most of wellness benefits offered at work. Employer-subsidized programs designed to break bad habits (such as smoking or overeating) or establish good ones (like on-site yoga
classes and nutrition counseling) are convenient and inexpensive modes of gaining momentum to carry you into retirement.

-- If elective surgery, such as joint replacement, looms in the near future, consider having it done before you retire, while you are covered by a familiar insurance and health care system.

-- If you have a health savings account at work, make the most of it for preventive cases, Sweeney advises, because you'll be spending at pretax rates while tallying key health benchmarks.

-- Shift your daily habits to proactively address the health conditions you think are most likely to emerge after you retire. For example, research published in April by the American College of Rheumatology found that women can strengthen their knees by frequently drinking low or nonfat milk.

-- If you don't have enough money set aside to cover at least three years of assisted living (either at home or in a facility), consider getting long-term care insurance, Bedel says. She notes that many states offer policies that complement Medicare. Local financial advisors are likely to be conversant in such plans.

"Retirement is a great opportunity to make changes, but unless you are very intentional about it, you'll probably carry forward the habits you already have," Curl says. "If you want to be active in retirement, be active now."

MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION: A BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

BY Jim Anderson, Jim Heeter, Dan Mehan and Joe Reagan

One in five jobs in Missouri is linked to health care. Hospitals and clinics are among the largest job providers in most communities and a vital part of our state’s economy. The industry is so robust that you may not have noticed that they have eliminated nearly 1,000 positions in the last six months, and are implementing a hiring freeze on 2,145 more positions. Why? They are facing $4 billion in federal funding cuts over the next five years. The 10-year impact of these cuts is equivalent to eliminating 5,000 jobs or nearly $2 billion in capital investments.

This might be reason enough for us to support Medicaid transformation in Missouri. Part of the reasoning behind the hospitals' loss of federal funding is that more low-income Missourians were supposed to be covered by Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, thus reducing their uncompensated care costs. But since Missouri has not yet opted to expand Medicaid, the number of uninsured Missourians has stayed the same while hospitals receive less money to care for them.
So who picks up the tab? In short, we do. Hospitals shift some of their uncompensated care costs to private payers, resulting in a “hidden health care tax” that businesses and individuals pay through higher premiums. If Medicaid is not expanded in Missouri, an additional $1.1 billion is projected to shift to the private health insurance market from 2012 to 2021.

If you think this is unfair to businesses and workers, consider the fact that Missouri has an opportunity to receive $2.2 billion annually by 2022 through Medicaid expansion to insure more low-income individuals and reduce the cost-shift to private payers. Missouri businesses and individuals pay federal taxes and deserve to see their hard-earned money returned to Missouri, not sent to one of the 25 other states expanding health coverage while they are left with a higher tab for uncompensated care.

The cost of inaction is clearly high. But what if Missouri does accept federal funding and transform Medicaid? The University of Missouri estimates that an additional 22,000 jobs would be created by 2020, increasing labor income by $5 million. We’re not economists, but that certainly sounds better than doing nothing and eliminating 5,000 jobs.

And what about the health and productivity of our workforce? Insured workers miss half as many work days as uninsured workers. Three out of four uninsured Missourians are in a working family. In fact, a single working mother of two earning $10 per day (not per hour) makes too much to qualify for Medicaid coverage in Missouri. Helping her, and approximately 300,000 other low-income Missourians gain health coverage, would help improve the health, stability and productivity of our workforce.

We hope by now you can see why this issue is so important to more than 65 chambers of commerce, business organizations and municipalities across Missouri. Medicaid transformation is a smart business decision for our state and its taxpayers.

Jim Anderson is president and CEO of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce. Jim Heeter is president and CEO of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. Dan Mehan is president and CEO of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Joe Reagan is president and CEO of the St. Louis Regional Chamber.

MU swimming and diving recieves SEC honors

Thursday, April 10, 2014 | 8:30 p.m. CDT

BY MISSOURIAN STAFF

COLUMBIA — The Missouri swimming and diving team received four Southeastern Conference season honors Thursday.

Missouri diving coach Jamie Sweeney was named Co-SEC men's diving coach of the year. The award, shared with Auburn coach Jeff Shafer, is Sweeney's
third conference coach of the year award in his career. He won the SEC men's diving coach of the year award outright in 2013, and he earned the Big 12 women's diving coach of the year award in 2011.

Three Tigers athletes also received awards. Senior diver David Bonuchi and sophomore diver Lauren Reedy were named to the All-SEC second team. Freshman swimmer Ellie Suek was named to the All-Freshman team.

Bonuchi, a Columbia native, ended his career as the most decorated Tiger in the history of the program. The diver received 10 All-American honors. The maximum number of All-American honors a diver can receive during the course of a college career is 12.