National Council on Teacher Quality to continue syllabus lawsuit against UM System

BY KOICHI SHIRAYANAGI

COLUMBIA — The president of the National Council on Teacher Quality said Tuesday that her organization will continue to appeal court rulings that say the University of Missouri System does not have to disclose teacher syllabuses under the state's Sunshine Law.

A ruling from the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District filed Tuesday states that professors teaching courses in the University of Missouri System are not required to release their syllabuses to the Washington, D.C.-based education advocacy group under Missouri's Sunshine Law.

"We just got this decision and are weighing our options but will aggressively pursue all options before us, as we remain convinced that the merits of the case are on our side," said Kate Walsh, president of the National Council on Teacher Quality.

The council had made an open records request for course syllabuses in October 2011 for a nationwide survey on teacher preparation programs. After surveying faculty members, the university denied the council’s request in July 2012, saying that syllabuses are the intellectual property of the faculty who created them. The state Sunshine Law, which dictates which government records and meetings are public, exempts intellectual property from disclosure rules.

The National Council on Teacher Quality initially sued the UM System in Boone County Circuit Court in July 2012 after the organization could not reach an agreement with the system on the release of course syllabuses. Circuit Judge Kevin Crane ruled in July 2013 that the university would not have to release the syllabuses.
In a decision written by Judge Lisa White Hardwick, the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District affirmed a lower court ruling exempting course syllabuses as protected intellectual property. The court left open the possibility of future appeals in federal court, stating that as a state appeals court, it could not rule on the organization's claim that its use of copyright-protected syllabuses constitutes fair use under the Federal Copyright Act.

The National Council on Teacher Quality works with U.S. News and World Report, which republishes the council's surveys on education, Walsh said.

The organization has used the court system to get information for surveys in the past.

"In the courts in Minnesota, we had the exact same case, and we won both in the district and appeals level," Walsh said.

Although UM System spokesman John Fougere said it was too early to comment on any future appeals, he said system President Tim Wolfe's office was pleased with Tuesday's ruling.

"In responding to the NCTQ's request for course syllabi, we felt it was important to respect the rights of the faculty members who created the syllabi," Fougere said. "We are glad that both courts to review this matter have concluded that we have acted lawfully."

Cottage Industry on Preventing Sexual Assault

August 27, 2014

By Jake New

NO MU MENTION

A quick search for terms like "campus safety" and "sexual assault" on the Apple App Store reveals dozens of applications marketed toward worried college students. Circle of 6 allows users to send text message alerts to six pre-selected friends. VizSafe lets users post and watch videos of areas they might feel are unsafe. OnWatch provides a suite of
safety and reporting tools -- for $19.99.

And it's not just mobile apps. From risk management firms to prevention programs to products like fingernail polish that can detect date rape drugs, students and administrators have an increasing number of supposed prevention methods to choose from. Driven by a greater level of legal and federal scrutiny in recent years, a cottage industry is growing around campus sexual assault.

Companies and firms dealing with sexual assault prevention have been expanding rapidly over the past few years, following the release of the Education Department's Dear Colleague letter in 2011, said Dana Bolger, co-founder of Know Your Title IX, a student advocacy group. The letter served as the federal government's call to action about campus sexual assault, Bolger said, and "schools started getting scared the law might actually be enforced for once."

In the last decade the University Risk Management and Insurance Association's membership has more than doubled. One of the largest firms, the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management, has worked with 3,000 campus clients, according to its co-founder and president, Brett Sokolow. The Association of Title IX Coordinators, or ATIXA, was also founded by Sokolow and has trained more than 2,000 Title IX investigators since the Dear Colleague letter announced that the federal government would be leveraging Title IX to combat campus sexual assault. NCHERM is also a law firm, currently representing 50 colleges and universities.

NCHERM helps universities deal with more than sexual assault, Sokolow said, but he has seen a definite uptick in that portion of the center's work since the release of the letter.

"I think the increased complexity of many issues, regulations, laws, and responsibilities, has created a heightened need for consulting expertise in a number of arenas," he said. "The way that Title IX impacts on campus sexual violence and other forms of discrimination is technical, complex, and challenging. It is natural for campuses to turn to experts for advice, and for many colleges, we are their lawyers or have the expertise that can help them as they wrestle with complicated and layered issues."
At George Washington University, one consultant has even become a temporary, de facto Title IX coordinator.

The university's previous coordinator left the university in November and, since May, Ann Franke, president of the consulting firm Wise Results LLC, has taken on some of her duties while the university tries to fill the position. Franke declined to comment on her role at the university, but said as a consultant she usually refers colleges to free or cheap resources rather than expensive in-person training. Universities should use caution, she said, when considering pricey consultants and programs that offer "prepackaged solutions" or who have taken public positions that may cast doubt on their objectivity.

"Many reasonably priced sources of advice exist about preventing and responding to campus sexual assault," Franke said. "Unless a consultant has the magic formula for ending all campus sexual assault, I'd be wary of firms charging large sums of money."

Despite their expense, groups like NCHERM and law firms like Pepper Hamilton have found success with college administrators. They're also finding a growing level of mistrust among students and survivors of sexual assault.

NCHERM has been on the defensive in recent months, issuing press releases to combat news articles and blog posts questioning the center's motives. Bolger said the mistrust of consulting groups stems from the firms' focus on protecting a campus's image rather than preventing sexual assault.

"They're all about eliminating risks to universities, which doesn't necessarily translate into eliminating risk to students," she said. "If instead their services prioritized student safety and equity, maybe things would be different. Right now, it feels a lot like they're profiting off students' rapes."

Sokolow, however, said the criticism is a result of NCHERM taking controversial positions such as pushing for rapists to be expelled and calling for honoring the rights of both complainants and respondents during campus investigations.

"You don't build a client base like ours unless you are trustworthy," he said. "We don't please everyone, but no one who is trying to change the status quo ever does."
Like consulting firms, there has also been an increase in sexual assault prevention programs since 2011, said Rob Buelow, an associate director at EverFi. Through consulting services and its online sexual assault prevention course called Haven, EverFi currently works with nearly 80 universities, including Dartmouth College, Duke University, and the University of California at Berkeley. The pricing of the program depends on the size of the institution.

"We're not chasing ambulances," Buelow said of EverFi. "Haven's been around in some form for six years. But I do see a number or programs popping up now as a result of the increased pressure on colleges. We think about prevention as a process, not a program. Colleges should think about prevention in the same way. Don't go with any vendors that are offering a one-stop solution."

On the less-controversial side of the industry are campus safety products and mobile apps, which are often marketed directly to students.

Several were actually created by young entrepreneurs still in college, and a handful were developed by universities. Undercover Colors, the nail polish that changes color when dipped in a drink that's been tampered with, was created by four male undergraduates at North Carolina State University. LiveSafe, an app that allows students to report and keep track of crimes on campus and has been downloaded about 26,000 times, was developed by a survivor of the 2007 shooting at Virginia Tech. Bolger said products like these are "well-intentioned," but she questioned their effectiveness, saying that the majority of them place the burden on the victim to prevent his or her own rape, rather than on bystander prevention or on the perpetrators.

"They completely ignore that most victims are raped by someone they know and trust," she said. "How will dialing a phone number help a victim of dating violence? Who do you call when the person trying to rape you is a friend?"

Recently, two teams of students at the Integrated Innovation Institute at Carnegie Mellon University created mobile apps that do focus on bystander prevention.
NightOwl is a social platform that allows students at parties to message the host or other guests about song recommendations, food choices, and any safety issues they spot. The messages disappear after the party is over. Spot (A Problem) lets users send messages about safety concerns to a designated risk manager at events like fraternity parties. The message is sent to both an app on the manager's phone and a wristband.

Jonathan Cagan, co-director of the institute, said he teaches students that products can be marketable and help tackle difficult social challenges at the same time.

"One of our big drivers for many years has been that students should understand that their skills can have a positive impact on society," Cagan said. "We think it's fabulous if students want to work for a car company or a consumer products company. That's what we train them for. But they can also use those same skills to solve some really hard societal problems."

Cagan said the next step for the student teams is to find corporate sponsors and partners to help produce and sell the apps.

"If you want to make a difference, you have bring those products to market," he said. "But you can do it for impact, not for profit."

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August 25, 2014

**A Scripted Response to Sexual Assault**

By Monica Vendituoli

**NO MU MENTION**

Jen crosses her arms as she begins to tell her friend Marissa about her night.

"I passed out at that guy Alex’s house like an idiot and ... he um…," Jen starts.

"He what, Jen?" Marissa asks.
"He apparently had sex with me when I was passed out," Jen says. "I woke up this morning with nothing on."

"Oh Jen, this is really serious," Marissa says.

Freshmen at about 170 colleges will watch that scene this month or next as part of Think About It, an online course aimed at preventing sexual violence. Proposed federal rules expected to be published in November would require institutions to offer prevention programs to new students, as well as employees, but many campuses have already begun. A few must do so under settlements resolving federal investigations of compliance with the gender-equity law known as Title IX. Elsewhere, students have pushed for more prevention training, or administrators have hastened to adopt it.

The University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Roanoke College, San Diego State University, Virginia Tech: Those are among the institutions that now require students to take online courses to raise awareness of sexual violence. Stepping up prevention is just one way colleges are responding to pressure from activists and government officials as the institutions grapple with their legal obligation to examine and resolve students’ reports of rape.

While some colleges are creating programs of their own, many are buying online courses produced by technology companies and other groups. One of the more popular programs on the market is Haven, which nearly 400 colleges have purchased since the education-technology company EverFi introduced it last year, updating the five-year-old SexualAssaultEdu. Other common choices are Think About It, a product of the employment-law service LawRoom; MyStudentBody, offered by the nonprofit Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation; and Every Choice and Not Anymore, created by the company Student Success. The courses, which students typically take on their own, cost colleges $2,500 to $50,000 a year, depending on the number of participants.

Gloria Laureano thinks training students is a good investment. "We knew that we needed to do something more with education on prevention around sexual assault and consent," says Ms. Laureano, dean of students at Winston-Salem State University,
which uses Haven. "What I found," she says, "is it plants a seed in a student’s head." The college then follows up with in-person training on bystander intervention.

Nadir Nibras, a junior at Oklahoma State University, worked last spring with a recent graduate on a student-government bill encouraging the university to offer more prevention education. This academic year Oklahoma State is requiring all incoming students to take a 45-minute online course. Those who do not will have holds placed on their registrations.

**What the Programs Say**

A screening of the online prevention programs reveals a number of similarities among five of the most popular ones—Every Choice, Haven, Not Anymore, Think About It, and a program created by the University of Montana called Personal Empowerment Through Self Awareness, or Petsa.

All five cite statistics on sexual violence, including the figure that one in five women will be sexually assaulted in college, from a 2007 study by the National Institute of Justice. One-third of dating violence, says Every Choice, occurs while a bystander is present.

The programs depict nearly identical scenes of a college house party. In Haven, Every Choice, and Not Anymore, actors drink clear liquids from plastic cups in living-room areas with faint music in the background. Petsa uses animated characters who crowd around a table with a mix of cups and martini glasses, while Think About It’s animated students play beer pong. The common message is that alcohol is a tool perpetrators use to incapacitate victims so they can’t say no or fight back, and that victims can’t be blamed if they’re assaulted, even if they’ve been drinking.

Typically, a male student tries to get a female student to drink more alcohol as fellow partiers look on uncomfortably. All of the programs then illustrate how bystanders can intervene and protect the woman. In one scene, a friend jumps into a conversation, distracting the potential perpetrator by asking him to get a drink and if he's enjoying the party.
All of the programs try to dispel "rape myths," like that if women wear revealing clothing, they are asking for sex. And all offer lessons on consent, often using analogies. Not Anymore compares nonconsensual sex to forcing someone to eat a cheeseburger they don’t want, while Think About It likens having sex with someone who is too intoxicated to consent to taking a drunk person’s cellphone.

Not Anymore also incorporates testimonies from real victims of campus sexual assault. One is Julia Dixon, who graduated from the University of Akron in 2011 and filed a federal complaint against the institution for allegedly mishandling her report, including by discouraging her from pursuing the campus judicial process. Her assailant, meanwhile, pleaded guilty in court to two charges of sexual imposition and assault.

On screen, Ms. Dixon breaks down in tears describing how she was raped in her dorm room after an acquaintance came by asking for some food. She recalls him laughing before he forced her to have sex. Watching the video is still upsetting, Ms. Dixon says, but she’s glad she shared her experience for other students to hear.

What Students Think
Students’ reactions to one of the programs, the widely used Haven, are mixed.

Frank Commisso, a freshman at Iona College, says he didn’t find the skits realistic. "The acting was horrible," he says. "It sounded like they were just reading off of a piece of paper."

"I guess if I could sum it up in one word I would say ‘cheesy,’" Mr. Commisso says.

In trying to seem cool, the programs may fail to connect with students. For instance, in Think About It, characters use the word "flippin’." Real students? Not so much.

While the proposed federal rules would require colleges to train students on bystander intervention, Kaylee J. Crawford, a freshman at the Art Institute of Chicago, thought Haven dwelled on it too much.
"It focused more on how to help other people," she says. "I would have liked to know more about how I could help myself in that situation."

Experts and vendors both emphasize that online sexual-violence-prevention training alone will not keep students safe or fulfill federal requirements. Continuing prevention programs are important, they say, and must be listed in colleges’ annual security reports.

"I hope schools wouldn’t think of this as a checkbox," Anne Hedgepeth, government relations manager at the American Association of University Women, says of online training. "You really need to think about who are your students, what are the issues facing them, and how do you reach them."

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE
COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

University of Missouri names permanent chief operating officer

By Ashley Jost

Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at 10:09 am

University of Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced Monday that Gary Ward will be MU’s chief operating officer effective Sept. 1.

Ward, who is approaching 10 years with the university, has been the interim chief operating officer since Jan. 1 after Jackie Jones’ retirement.

The title of Ward’s new post changed in March. Previously, the COO was formerly called the vice chancellor for administrative services. Ward’s role requires him to oversee an array of campus service operations, including campus facilities, the police department, environmental health and safety, KOMU, KBIA, Show-Me State Games, the clubhouse and catering, printing services and the golf course, among others.
When Loftin changed the job title, he shifted some of the vice chancellor for administrative services’ budget office duties to the newly created chief executive officer, Rhonda Gibler.

In a news release, Loftin recognized the work Ward has done during the last several months.

“His track record of utilizing existing campus resources and developing new, efficient and effective means to help us maintain a safe and vibrant campus — such as the Mizzou Stewardship Model he created to renovate several buildings and improve the teaching and laboratory space for our faculty and students at significant cost savings — made my decision easy,” Loftin said in the release.

During his time as interim COO, Ward reorganized multiple advisory committees within his departments and organized and presented the most recent campus master plan to the Board of Curators.

“I would like to thank Chancellor Loftin for having the confidence in me to serve as the vice chancellor of operations,” Ward said in a news release. “I look forward to working closely with faculty and students as we structure our services and products to help meet Mizzou’s academic goals. My staff and I take our responsibilities of maintaining the safety, functionality and beauty of the state’s flagship university very seriously and will continue to ensure that we are spending our public dollars wisely and in a way that will benefit all our faculty, staff and students.”

Before taking the interim position, Ward was associate vice chancellor-facilities and oversaw the completion of more than $500 million in construction projects, the addition of 2.2 million gross square feet to campus and the establishment of the MU Sustainability Office during 2009.

Ward couldn’t be reached for comment yesterday morning.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Ward takes permanent place as MU chief operating officer

Tuesday, August 26, 2014 | 8:39 p.m. CDT; updated 8:51 p.m. CDT, Tuesday, August 26, 2014

BY LISA CONLEY

COLUMBIA — Gary Ward will be the permanent vice chancellor of operations and chief operating officer for MU. Ward has been in the position on an interim basis since January, after Jacquelyn Jones retired.

Ward directs university planning and facilities operations, according to a release from the MU News Bureau.
The news release lists his duties as providing administrative oversight of financial and service operations for: Campus Facilities; the MU Police Department; Parking and Transportation Services; Printing Services; the MU Sustainability Office; Environmental Health and Safety; the Missouri Theatre and Jesse Auditorium; the A.L. Gustin Golf Course; the University Club and Catering; KBIA/91.3 FM and the University Concert Series; and KOMU/NBC.

Jones was vice chancellor of administrative services. Ward's job title change reflects Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin's renaming and restructuring of upper-level jobs at MU.

Earlier this year, Loftin renamed the job of MU budget director held by Rhonda Gibler to vice chancellor of finance and chief financial officer and expanded her duties.

Other changes included naming Hank Foley as senior vice chancellor for research and graduate studies at MU. He also is executive vice president of academic affairs, research and development for the University of Missouri System.

Leona Rubin was named associate vice chancellor for graduate studies at MU and associate vice president for academic affairs and graduate education for the UM System.

More recently, Ellen de Graffenreid was named vice chancellor of marketing and communications at MU.

Still to come is the hiring of a successor to Provost Brian Foster, who retired last year. That job also comes with the title of executive vice chancellor of academic affairs.

The chief operating officer position was created to deal with all operational aspects of the university, Ward said.

"For an institution that is so large and so complex, it's a really smart strategy," Ward said.

Ward, 53, joined MU in August 2005. As associate vice chancellor of facilities, he oversaw completion of more than $500 million in MU construction projects, according to the news release.

Ward said he wants to develop a relationship with faculty and students and learn how to support them.

"I want operations to be known as good stewards," he said.
Ward's permanent status will be official Sept. 1. His annual salary will be $210,000, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

Loftin appoints Gary Ward as permanent operations chief

Ward hopes to address student and faculty’s facility needs.

By Isabella Alves

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin appointed Gary Ward as MU vice chancellor of operations and chief operating officer on Tuesday.

In this position, Ward will oversee several key departments at MU, such as Campus Facilities, MU Police, Parking and Transportation Services, Sustainability Office, KBIA, KOMU-TV and Environmental Health & Safety.

Ward said one of his goals is to address student and faculty needs and further their experience at MU.

“The only way we can is by having conversations with people,” Ward said.

Ward said he also hopes to improve lab safety and coordinating with MUPD.

“We try to make sure officers are on campus and in Greek Town as much as they can,” Ward said.

Ward said alcoholism among students is another issue that needs to be addressed, and encourages students to take part in the RSVP Center’s Green Dot program.

“We want our degree from MU to be a spotless degree, we want people to look at us with awe,” Ward said.

Ward’s new appointment will become effective Sept. 1. He took over the position on interim basis after Jackie Jones retired from the position in January.

While in the position as an interim, Ward implemented the Mizzou Stewardship Model, which focuses on highlighting the educational and research outcome of renovations.
“When we renovate a building, people need to understand that it is for students and faculty,” Ward said.

Tate, Switzler and Gwynn halls have been renovated through the stewardship model in the past. The renovation of Swallow Hall started in June as part of the Renew Mizzou project.

Ward said he believes he was offered the position permanently because he strives to develop relationships and be as transparent and inclusive as possible.

Ward received his bachelor’s degree in environmental design and master’s degree in business administration from the University of Oklahoma.

After his education, Ward worked for the Cavin Design Group in Oklahoma and went on to become the director of physical plant operations at Penn State University before he came to MU in 2005.

**MU faculty survey finds higher dissatisfaction among faculty of color**

Faculty Council Chairman Craig Roberts hopes to find out why faculty of color had higher rates of neutral or dissatisfied responses and address the issue.

By Clarissa Buch

**Faculty members of color have higher rates of dissatisfaction with MU, according to a recent university survey.**

While most results were positive, faculty of color had higher rates of 'neutral' or 'not satisfied' responses.

These were among the findings of the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE), a faculty-driven, research initiative based at Harvard University, which administered a survey between late 2012 and early 2013 to gauge the needs and satisfaction of the MU faculty.

Out of 1,195 faculty at MU at the time, 608 responded to the survey — 132 of whom were of color and 476 were white.

When asked to rank “MU as a place to work,” 57 percent of faculty of color responded with “very satisfied” or “satisfied,” 24 percent with a neutral response and 19 percent with “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied.”
Out of the white participants, 70 percent were satisfied, 15 percent neutral and 14 percent dissatisfied.

Faculty Council Chairman Craig Roberts said it is currently unknown what causes the higher rates of dissatisfaction, but he said he hopes to determine what it is.

“MU needs to look at what is causing this dissatisfaction and see if they can address it,” Roberts said. “I don’t detect it as racism in the MU faculty; it’s something else, and we need to figure out what it is.”

Interim Provost Ken Dean said that COACHE gave MU the opportunity to survey all MU faculty, including non-tenure track faculty.

“We felt like it would be a much more representative group because it’s everyone now, not just tenured and pre-tenure faculty,” Dean said.

COACHE recommended that MU create a faculty committee to analyze the results, which were divided between tenured, pre-tenure and non-tenure track faculty members, Dean said.

Jeni Hart, associate professor of educational leadership and a member of the committee that analyzed the results, said MU’s results were similar to other universities around the country: results were mostly positive, but showed lower satisfaction rates among female faculty and faculty of color compared to their white male colleagues.

“Our faculty as a whole is a pretty satisfied bunch,” Hart said. “However, it is important to note that this was a snapshot in time, and the results today might look a little different.”

Roberts said the Faculty Council has already started discussing how to address the issue.

“The ivory tower is not the ebony tower,” Roberts said. “We need to find out why and fix it.”

Tara Warne, senior research analyst and a member of the committee, said the committee identified promotion, mentoring and professional development as areas which need the most improvement.

Hart said a faculty member's specific department or college is what is most important to them, and efforts to make change should be focused at those levels as well as the campus level.

Deans were given reports of their own colleges and were encouraged to have discussions with faculty about making improvements at both the college and department levels, Dean said.

“In the weeks and months ahead, I will continue to check with each dean on what they’re doing with recommendations and actions,” he said.

Dean said the results were also shared with the UM System’s human resources department to give them an idea of what concerns the faculty have.
“We want to increase those who are satisfied and decrease those who are dissatisfied,” he said. “In general, the results were pretty good, but there’s always room for improvement.”

Warne said the plan is to conduct another survey in 2016 and make improvements before that time.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Mizzou unveils expanded east side of Memorial Stadium

BY TOD PALMER

08/26/2014 9:31 PM

COLUMBIA - Approaching Memorial Stadium from the east, it’s impossible to miss two giant graphics depicting football scenes — one against a game-day backdrop with Missouri coach Gary Pinkel hovering in the upper left corner and another featuring Academic Hall’s six iconic (and ionic) columns — that adorn the east-side expansion project’s new light towers.

“The large graphics on the outside really give it some pop,” said J.E. Dunn vice president Tom Heger, who oversaw the project.

The striking images — measuring 35 feet high by 53 feet wide — are among the highlights unveiled Tuesday during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the $45.5 million project, which university officials and representatives of contractor J.E. Dunn said would be completed on time and on budget for Saturday’s season opener against South Dakota State.

“We were trying to create a dominant SEC atmosphere for Mizzou, and I think we really achieved that,” said Populous project manager Algen Williams, who helped design the expansion project. “They wanted it to be an SEC stadium, if you will, so we brought the exterior façade closer to the road and elevated the structure, the towers, on the sides to try and make it as dominating as possible.”
The east-side expansion, which took 16 months to complete, features more intimate club and loge seating areas compared to the spacious suites added on the press-box side before the 2013 season.

“It’s smaller and more intimate, but the premium level really is the crown jewel,” said Heger, who also worked on Mizzou Arena’s construction 10 years ago. “It spans from one side to the other and you literally can’t see from one side to the other with a little bit of a curvature.”

**MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin’s suite has moved to the southeast corner of the Columns Club, which sits below the Tiger Terrace — an upper deck of bench seating that was added as part of the project.**

“I think it turned out great, and it looks great to have people in there,” said J.E. Dunn superintendent Shannon Burrow, who was in charge of the construction site day to day and identified himself as a Missouri fan from Concordia, Mo. “Anywhere you go in the place, there’s not a bad seat in the house in my opinion.”

The original plans called for no suites in the Columns Club, but Loftin, who typically mingles throughout the crowd during games, wanted a place where his Deans could bring donors and other dignitaries.

“We only put one suite in here, because the chancellor wanted to move out on this side when he saw how great it looked,” MU senior associate athletic director for operations Tim Hickman said.

The new seating bumps Missouri back to its pre-construction seating capacity of approximately 71,000.

“Basically, those 1,200 seats have funded about $72 million worth of projects that we’ve been doing over the last two years,” Hickman said. “It generates the mortgage payments on those bonds and we’re above all of our proformas and hitting all those numbers. We’re excited and it’s helping our program grow.”
Workers will put the finishing touches on the project, including the final modifications to the new ribbon advertising boards and drain plugs in drinking fountains during the next few days.

“There were definitely challenges along the way,” Heger said. “Last winter was very cold and there was a lot of snow, which presented a lot of challenges because we were finishing up the concrete towers in the middle of winter. We had a lot of workers who were working in below-freezing, teens, 20-degree weather and they were out here six days a week pouring concrete. This project is really a testament to those workers, who had the dedication to get the job done.”

The Columns Club also can be used for recruiting functions, banquets or wedding receptions.

“It’s a little bit better space than anywhere we have in our sports park for stuff like that,” Hickman said.

Some tickets remain available for the new premium seating areas, which is only accessible to season-ticket members.

“We’re ecstatic,” Hickman said. “It looks great, and I think our fanbase is going to love it when they see it.”

Hangovers Are About Half Genetic

Some people get hangovers after a night of drinking, while others don't, and the reason may be in their genes, a new study of twins in Australia suggests.

Researchers looked for links between the study participants' genetic makeups and the number of hangovers the individuals reported experiencing in the past year. The results showed that genetic
factors accounted for 45 percent of the difference in hangover frequency in women and 40 percent in men.

In other words, genetics accounts for nearly half of the reason why one person experiences a hangover and another person doesn't, after drinking the same amount of alcohol, the study said. The other half probably comes from outside influences unrelated to DNA, such as how quickly a person drinks, whether they eat while they drink and their tolerance for alcohol.

The researchers also found that the people who had the gene variants involved in an increased risk of having hangovers also drank to the point of being intoxicated more frequently than people who didn’t have the hangover genes. That is, the genes that dictate how frequently a person gets hungover may also underlie how frequently someone gets drunk in the first place. This suggests that the findings could contribute to future research on alcohol addiction.

"We have demonstrated that susceptibility to hangovers has a genetic underpinning. This may be another clue to the genetics of alcoholism," study leader Wendy Slutske, a psychology professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia, told Live Science in an email.

People who are less susceptible to having a hangover might have a greater risk for alcohol addiction, the researchers said.

In the study, about 4,000 middle-age people from the Australian Twin Registry participated in a telephone survey, reporting their experiences with hangovers and alcohol consumption. The participants recounted how many times they had gotten drunk in the past year, along with their "hangover frequency," which is the number of days in the previous year they felt sick the day after drinking. They also reported their "hangover resistance," which was whether or not they had ever experienced a hangover after getting drunk.

The researchers found a strong correlation between identical twins in reports of hangover frequency as well as hangover resistance, suggesting that the genetic similarities of some twins played a part in their hangover susceptibility.

Research into the biology of hangovers has gotten more attention in recent years, but there's still surprisingly little work on the topic, Slutske said.

"With drinking alcohol, it is not 'one size fits all,'" Slutske said. "People are different in their ability to consume alcohol without experiencing adverse consequences, such as having a hangover."

**Can Medicine Help People Stop Drinking?**

The new findings suggest that people who frequently consume alcohol should observe the way their bodies react to it, she said. "It is not a good idea to try to pace your drinking to the people around you, because you might be more susceptible to hangover than the other people that you are drinking with," Slutske said.
The study was limited, because people's memories of their drinking and hangovers may not be completely accurate, she noted.

One of the next steps will be to identify the specific genes that contribute to hangover susceptibility, Slutske said. If the genes associated with alcoholism also underlie hangovers, identifying these genetic risk factors could help prevent addiction in the future.

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Farm income seen falling 14 percent from record 2013 levels

By ALAN BJERGA and MEGAN DURISIN • Bloomberg News

CHICAGO • Lower prices for corn and soybeans will drive the profits of U.S. farmers down to an estimated $113.2 billion in 2014, a decline of 14 percent from last year's record, according to the Department of Agriculture.

The forecast for this year's income is up 18 percent from a February estimate as livestock revenues may reach an all-time high, the USDA said in a report on its website.

Gains in farmland values that climbed 8.1 percent this year are slowing. While rising hog and cattle prices have aided livestock producers, record grain and oilseed harvests are dragging profits, said Pat Westhoff, an agriculture economist at the University of Missouri at Columbia.

"It's a reversal of fortunes," Westhoff said. "We had several years of incredible crop-sector income, but now it's livestock," he said. "You're starting to see some softness some places, and in some cases farmers are going to have trouble covering their expenses."

Neil Jorgensen, a farmer and livestock producer in Callaway, Neb., expects to fetch more than $2 a pound for about 100 young cattle that he plans to sell in December, when they reach about 750 pounds. That would be the highest ever, he said.
"I've never seen anything like that before," said Jorgensen, 60, who also grows about 400 acres of corn and soybeans. Prices for grains used in animal feed are lower this year, and the hay crop looks "pretty good" statewide, he said. "It's going to be a good year."

Income from crops will be up 6.1 percent from the February forecast, to an estimated $200.9 billion, while livestock will rise 14 percent to $209.6 billion.

The outlooks were raised because of "more optimistic price expectations" this year for both crops and livestock than the February forecast, the USDA said in its report. Soybean futures in Chicago have slumped 21 percent in 2014, while corn fell 14 percent. Hog futures climbed 11 percent, and cattle prices are up 10 percent.

Expenses for this year including seed, fertilizer and animal feed will be $368.4 billion, up 5.8 percent from the February forecast and 4 percent from 2013.

Scott Bahler, 50, who grows about 1,700 acres of corn and soybeans in Remington, Ind., said that while increased yields will help offset some of the fall in grains prices, this year will be "a reality check" for farmers.

"There's no doubt that more bushels will make up some of the difference," Bahler said. "They won't make up nearly all of it. We've definitely been blessed the last few years."

**The Maneater**

**Johnston Hall, Sabai reopen after renovations**

Although renovations in Johnston have reduced bed count, ResLife officials hope they improve overall quality of student life.

By [Annabel Ames](mailto:annabel.ames@umanews.com)

Starting this fall, nearly 300 women will call the recently renovated Johnston Hall, an all-female residence hall, their home.

Renovations in the building began in fall 2012 to revamp the space. New fixtures, flooring, air conditioning systems, study spaces, wireless internet and an exterior entrance to Sabai, Johnston’s in-house dining facility, were added.

Although Johnston underwent a substantial renovation in 1947, it was due for an update, Residential Life Director Frankie Minor said. The university began discussing the most recent renovation informally in 1997. A plan detailing the hall’s specific needs was drafted in 2001.
“It was their time to have renovations done,” Minor said. “It needed upgrading to meet the needs of today’s students and tomorrow’s students.”

The renovations in Johnston aim to improve the quality of student life rather than to increase the number of beds, he said. The number of beds in the hall was reduced from 330 to about 300.

In addition, the construction of Virginia Avenue South housing is expected to add about 331 beds to meet the university’s growing enrollment by 2015.

“It’s about reducing capacity slightly to provide students with the types of facilities that they need,” Minor said.

Mackenzie Patterson, a freshman living in Johnston this year, said the motion-activated, energy-efficient hallway lighting is one of her favorite aspects.

“Everything is brand new, so it’s cool knowing that you’re the only one that’s used anything so far,” she said.

Patterson also said she likes how the new building feels modern while maintaining artifacts from Johnston’s history, such as the old doors that found a new home near the elevators.

Sabai, the Asian-cuisine dining facility located in Johnston, has also received a facelift.

In the past, students had to walk through Johnston’s lobby to enter Sabai, but a new exterior entrance will allow Sabai to operate even when the residence halls are closed.

The upgrades will also add additional seating, private dining areas, booth seating, a new menu and a culinary kitchen that may soon host cooking classes and demonstration nights with the chefs, said Michael Wuest, Campus Dining Services spokesman.

He said the darker wall colors, large columns and dome light fixtures will mark the facility’s transformation into a sleek and warm space.

“You’ll feel like you’re in downtown New York in an upscale Asian restaurant,” Wuest said. “Now when you walk in, you’ll see a really inviting entrance. It has a little attitude and elegance to it.”

He said the updated Southeast Asian-inspired menu will feature recipes from around Asia, including China and Thailand, and will allow for more customization.

New additions will include various types of noodle bowls, wontons, Chinese cuisine and ginger molasses cookies.

“You’ll smell the different flavors and your mouth will water,” Wuest said. “Students can take a moment to get away from the bustle of life (and get) a really great taste of flavors from around the world.”