UM curators approve Title IX changes

By Ashley Jost

Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 9:06 pm

The University of Missouri Board of Curators ratified a string of changes Thursday to the university’s governing document related to Title IX policies and investigations.

UM System President Tim Wolfe gave a short update on Title IX training and policy implementation at Thursday’s curators meeting in Kansas City. The board unanimously approved the changes, which Wolfe first issued as executive orders last month.

Wolfe has set a goal of making the UM System a leader in Title IX policies and training. Wolfe told curators he “put his money where his mouth is” and the system has spent more than $1 million to address the issue, including hiring a consultant for policymaking guidance and training.

Almost half — $495,000 — went to the consultant, the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management, according to an email from UM System Spokesman John Fougere. The other $515,000 is going to the four campuses to begin implementation of Title IX policy changes. Fougere said the $515,000 came from the UM System’s strategic funding budget.

Among the changes the curators approved Thursday is an outline of the procedures the Title IX office on each campus will follow to investigate sexual discrimination and assault cases, including a tentative 60-day time frame for investigations, details on the appeal process and possible outcomes for the accused.

Title IX refers to the federal law that prohibits sexual discrimination, including sexual assault, on college campuses.

After Wolfe’s April executive order designated every employee a mandated reporter — meaning they are obligated to report any Title IX violation they hear of — there were questions about who was exempt from that status. Employees with a legal obligation or privilege of confidentiality, such as health care providers, counselors and lawyers, are exempt. Campuses can also designate nonprofessional counselors or advocates as exempt, but those individuals are required to report to the campus Title IX coordinator once a month to relay non-personally identifiable information about violations.
Student conduct proceedings will also change. The new rules create a way to deal with students or student organizations facing discrimination claims.

Wolfe said there have been more Title IX reports on the four campuses as more emphasis is placed on investigating cases.

More than 100 people have received Title IX training across the system, Wolfe told the curators. That includes campus Title IX coordinators, deputy coordinators and investigators. Training for other mandated reporters is forthcoming.

Wolfe said he’s heard criticism about the university moving too fast on the policy changes.

“I will gladly take the criticism if we can save one more person from being sexually assaulted,” Wolfe told the curators. Though the Collected Rules and Regulation changes were approved by the curators, the administration is still “receptive to justifiable changes,” Fougere said in an email.

Curator Wayne Goode applauded the policy change effort and suggested the board consider an annual or biennial review of the Title IX policies.

MU ratifies changes to sexual misconduct policy

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri Board of Curators has ratified changes to how sexual misconduct and discrimination allegations will be handled on the university system's campuses.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports the curators voted Thursday to approve changes first issued as executive orders last month by President Tim Wolfe.

The changes include a tentative 60-day period for investigating sexual misconduct allegations and creating a way to deal with students or organizations that are accused of discrimination.

Sexual assault, stalking and dating violence are prohibited under Title IX, the federal anti-discrimination laws.

Wolfe said more than 100 people on the system's four campuses have received training on handling sexual misconduct allegations. He says other mandated reporters will be trained in the future.
KANSAS CITY — In an update Thursday to the University of Missouri System Board of Curators, UM System President Tim Wolfe said he's been criticized for too quickly changing the way the system handles Title IX reporting.

He said he will gladly take "criticism from core constituencies" if it means saving one person from being sexually assaulted.

The curators unanimously approved updates to the Collected Rules and Regulations, which were recommended by the Mental Health and Sexual Assault Task Force.

The updates — announced in September and already in effect — were made in an attempt to strengthen the university's sexual misconduct and discrimination responses, according to previous Missourian reporting. The changes include simplifying requirements for reporting, making it mandatory for any employee of the university that becomes aware of sex discrimination to report all information to the Title IX coordinator.

Wolfe explained the timeline of action taken to improve the system's handling of Title IX issues and what's still to come. He said the task force was given the job of taking an inventory of resources on each campus, assessing the situation with a risk management company and, based on that assessment, making recommendations to improve safety overall.

Wolfe said reports submitted to Title IX offices across the system's campuses have increased. He said that's positive, considering national statistics suggest 88 to 90 percent of victims don't come forward.
The ultimate goal, Wolfe said, is providing a safe and secure environment for all students — something he classified as "a never-ending journey."

Before the vote, curator John Phillips echoed that sentiment, stating that the UM System's work is not done. He said the system needs to clarify who are and are not considered mandatory reporters, as well as who are considered limited reporters for students and employees.

He said the new student conduct hearing process needs to be revisited to determine if it really is the right answer for the system.

Wolfe told the curators about the "It's On Us" campaign launched by the White House on Sept. 19. The campaign goal is to shift the culture around sexual assault on college campuses. Wolfe said some of the system's student leaders have already taken the campaign pledge to make that change.

He also played the Missouri Students Association video "Enough is Enough," in which students speak out against sexual violence and assault in the MU community. He said the video is one of many innovative ideas coming out of the UM System.

While the language of Title IX reporting requirements continues to change at the national level, Wolfe said the UM System is giving advice and trying to keep up.

MU professor sues interim provost over faculty irresponsibility case
By Ashley Jost

Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 10:43 am Comments (3)

More than four years after the start of his legal and internal battle with the University of Missouri, Greg Engel is filing a lawsuit alleging a high-ranking academic official broke the rules by recommending the removal of Engel’s tenure.
Engel, James C. Dowell associate professor of electrical engineering, filed the lawsuit Friday against MU interim Provost Ken Dean, citing “malfeasance and evil wrongdoing” related to Dean’s role in a faculty committee’s review of charges that Engel disrespected students and was an ineffective teacher. Engel is asking for $5 million in punitive damages.

The lawsuit alleges that Dean avoided the Academic Tenure Regulations laid out in the Collected Rules and Regulations, the governing document by which the university operates, and instead used a separate faculty bylaw as a way to provide “a recommendation by the provost to seek the removal of tenure” in the faculty committee review process.

Dean was serving as deputy provost during the time the suit addresses.

Engel’s battle with administrators began in early 2010 when superiors accused him of stalling on a research project and reassigned a $2 million federal earmark he had secured. Later that year, three female Asian students came forward with charges of racial and gender discrimination. A separate student committee cleared him of the discrimination charges. A faculty committee heard Engel’s case in 2011 after his colleagues leveled a “faculty irresponsibility” charge against him.

The electrical engineering professor was suspended from teaching duties for more than a year, although he continued to do research. In early 2012, he filed a lawsuit against his chairman, then-Dean Jim Thompson, and the UM Board of Curators seeking $5 million in punitive damages. A motion hearing for the 2012 case is scheduled for Monday.

Dean was rarely mentioned in reports about Engel’s case at the time. However, the new lawsuit — which requests a jury trial — said Dean was instrumental in the faculty committee’s work.

When the faculty irresponsibility charge was filed against Engel, Dean was responsible for presenting the charge to the committee of seven faculty members. The suit alleges Dean said in his closing arguments that the provost’s office was seeking Engel’s tenure removal, which was later denied. The lawsuit accuses dean of “acting in a duplicitous manner” by advising and supporting those trying to strip Engel of his tenure while also presenting arguments before the faculty committee ruling on the irresponsibility charge.

The committee did not find Engel guilty, ruling there wasn’t enough evidence to prove guilt.

Dean was served with the lawsuit Tuesday, Engel’s lawyer George Smith said. Smith also represents Dylan Kesler, an assistant professor of the Fisheries and Wildlife Department in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources suing over his tenure denial.

Dean declined to comment on this story.
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The National Science Foundation has awarded the University of Missouri $1 million in two grants to install a supercomputer for data-intensive research and fund a cyberinfrastructure engineer.

Officials hope the added manpower and equipment will lead to a network of data analysis for all of the University of Missouri System campuses to access, the Columbia Daily Tribune reported (http://bit.ly/1sNADCK).

This would be very similar to a virtual cloud system where information — in this case, research data — can be called down to a computer that is connected to the secured cloud.

"Research advancements sometimes are hampered by the ability to process the huge amounts of data scientists are collecting," Chi-Ren Shyu, chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in the College of Engineering and director of the Informatics Institute at the school, said in a news release.

He added that researchers with tasks that hinge on computer data have to rely on outside ways to "crunch" the data, which adds weeks and months to the timeline.

"With the advancement of cloud computing and Big Data technologies, researchers can cut that time and produce results more efficiently," he said in the statement. "The advanced equipment provided by this grant will enable scientists and engineers to team with computational researchers to understand the bottleneck of data analytics and identify efficient hybrid computer cloud environments for faster and more accurate scientific discoveries."

Prasad Calyam, assistant professor of computer science and leader of the cyberinfrastructure engineer project at the University of Missouri, said the three-year, $600,408 grant is matched with about $26,000 from the school to help fund the new supercomputer.

The college has a version of a supercomputer now, and much — though it has yet to be determined how much — of that machine will be retired and removed from the campus' information technology hub and replaced with what the university buys with the grant and added commitment.
Details about the machine the school will purchase are yet to be determined, Calyam said, but he said the school probably will get a mixture of brands for different parts of the operation, rather than buying everything from one place. This allows the school to buy what will work with the existing infrastructure at the university. The exact speed and size of the network space is undetermined as well.

When the old parts are transitioned out and newly purchased parts are brought in, that process will happen in phases to help make the transition of existing data easier.

Supercomputers are not new technology for universities.

A website, top500.org, which ranks supercomputers internationally by speed, includes many of the universities that have received grant money for the major purchase such as the University of Missouri.

According to the website's June rankings, the University of Texas' Advanced Computing Center in Austin ranks in the top 10 as No. 7. The Austin-based supercomputer is capable of more than 5,000 teraflops. Flops, which stands for floating-point operations per second, is a measure of computer performance. By comparison, the fastest supercomputer on the list, the National Supercomputer Center in China, is capable of almost 34,000 teraflops.

The only other U.S. higher education institutions with supercomputers ranking in the top 50 is Purdue University in Indiana. Several more across the country made the top 100 list.

The second National Science Foundation grant is about $400,000 to hire a cyberinfrastructure engineer who will collaborate with researchers to create tools to adapt to the new network. Calyam said it's an expansive role that will include working to understand how researchers can better work with cloud computing.

Grants awarded to promote Missouri produce

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JEFFERSON CITY, MO. - More than $450,000 will go to farmers markets and organizations across Missouri to help grow and promote local produce.

The Missouri Department of Agriculture on Thursday announced 14 groups will receive block grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's specialty crop funds.
The money will help educate residents about crops that are grown in the state, including wild leeks and the pawpaw fruit.

Planned initiatives include money for Kansas City community gardens, beekeeper classes and farmers markets.

**Both the University of Missouri and Missouri State University are set to use the money to research local grapes and other berries for use in wines.**

Other recipients of the grants include the Columbia Farmers Market, EarthDance Organic Farm School and the Missouri Vegetable Growers Association.


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**Drug, device makers paid local doctors $4.6 million last year**

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 11:15 am Comments (15)

Drug and medical device manufacturers paid Columbia physicians and the University of Missouri Health System more than $4.6 million in the last five months of 2013.

The information is part of a massive release of data Wednesday by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under regulations imposed by the 2010 Affordable Care Act. The government website for the Open Payments portal includes 4.4 million payments totaling $3.5 billion to more than half a million doctors and 1,360 teaching hospitals.

The data are available at [http://cms.gov/OpenPayments](http://cms.gov/OpenPayments). Data released in 2015 will list payments for all of 2014.

CMS officials said in a news release that the site is intended “to help consumers understand the financial relationships between the health care industry, and physicians and teaching hospitals.”
Mary Jenkins, public relations manager for University of Missouri Health System, said MU Health already publicly reports all commercial relationships and collaborations involving MU physicians on its website, www.muhealth.org. Collaborative and commercial relationships, if they exist, will be listed under the physician’s educational background on the MU Health website.

She said MU Health views the CMS Open Payment portal as “another useful information source for patients and their families.”

“We believe consumers need and deserve accurate data from multiple sources to make important health care decisions,” Jenkins said.

Some drug and device companies have been disclosing individual physician payment records for several years.

Meanwhile, the American Medical Association said it remained “very concerned” that the data lack the context needed to help most people make sense of the information. The data release is more than 60 columns wide.

In addition, 40 percent of the 4.4 million payment records don’t list the names of physicians that received the money. The missing data will be included in updated releases, CMS officials said.

The data include payments and the value of items ranging from free meals that company sales representatives bring to physicians’ offices, speaking fees paid to doctors on behalf of a company’s drug, and compensation for research and consulting services.

Companies say their payments to physicians are necessary for research and to educate the public about how products should be used.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

GEORGE KENNEDY: Good neighbors reflect on 175-year relationship

Thursday, October 2, 2014 | 9:21 p.m. CDT; updated 6:32 a.m. CDT, Friday, October 3, 2014
BY GEORGE KENNEDY

There was a nice little celebration Monday afternoon in downtown Columbia. It didn’t get much publicity, but a hundred or so of us gathered in front of the iconic Keys to the City sculpture outside city hall to mark what was described as “175 years of cooperation” among the university, the city and Boone County.
In less than an hour, we were treated to three mercifully short speeches and were introduced to about a dozen descendants of the families whose financial pledges lured the university to town in 1839. I heard a bit of revisionist history, a little politicking and maybe even a hint of discord to come.

You know the official story, which was retold succinctly by Mayor Bob McDavid. With the location of the state’s new university up for grabs, a handful of the county’s leading citizens pledged a total of $118,000 (equivalent to $3 million today) in guarantees to persuade the legislature — apparently as susceptible to fiscal blandishment then as now — to pick our village.

(Much the same tactic, with local government standing in for individual citizens, was employed, 170 years later, to attract American Airlines to Englewood International Airport. So far, acquiring the university looks to have been the better deal.)

Joe Mosley, Monday’s master of ceremonies, supplied an addendum. He told us that James Rollins, leader of the campaign, heard that the shysters of Howard County were artificially inflating the value of their pledged property in hopes of outbidding Boone. So Mr. Rollins countered by inflating the value of his. Joe noted that a few of the boosters later defaulted on their pledges, and one woman lost her home.

What if the Howard County chicanery had worked, I wondered. We’d probably be what Fayette is today, with the Baptist Female Academy, now called Stephens College, and Christian, now Columbia, College as our centers of higher education.

Booche’s might be on the square in Fayette, but maybe we’d at least have Emmitt’s. For sure, the Odle Brothers and Opus would be someone else’s problems.

Columbia’s “incentives package,” as Mayor McDavid characterized it, prevailed. He didn’t add that, had the Founding Families only thought of it, they could have created their own Enhanced Enterprise Zone and used sales taxes to cover the pledges.

Nearly two centuries later, we have a “thriving downtown,” the mayor said, crediting it to the neighboring campus and the influx of student apartments.

Then he put in a plug for his proposal to raise the property tax to expand our understaffed police and fire departments. After all, he said, the city and the campus have “shared needs.”
The mayor’s one complaint, which he raised with a smile that seemed a bit forced, was that the “mayor’s trophy,” alleged to be the prize of the Tigers’ victory Saturday over South Carolina’s Gamecocks, hasn’t made it to the mayor.

Presiding Commissioner Dan Atwill had no tax increase to promote, so he praised city and campus cooperation in cleaning up Hinkson Creek. If he had read conservation activist Ken Midkiff’s complaint a few weeks ago that the creek is still polluted and likely to remain so, he didn’t mention it.

Newly installed Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin was just as positive. He offered the historical tidbit that the main campus quadrangle was once fenced to keep out the cows. Today the cows are sequestered, and the campus is an official botanical garden, with more plants (42,000) than students (about 35,000).

MU isn’t always the “easiest of neighbors” to downtown, he said. “But consider the alternative.”

As the ceremony wound down, he presented his counterparts with commemorative books, each gold-wrapped, of course.

Chancellor Loftin concluded with what he said was his favorite line. I was expecting M-I-Z…. Instead he recited, “We’re in this together.”

He did not, however, hand over the trophy.

George Kennedy is a former managing editor for the Missourian. He writes a weekly column for the Missourian.
Police officers called to Aspen Heights more than 300 times this year

Thursday, October 2, 2014 | 7:57 p.m. CDT; updated 6:35 a.m. CDT, Friday, October 3, 2014

Columbia police were dispatched to Aspen Heights 326 times between Jan. 1 and Oct. 2. About 22 percent of the calls were for disturbances or noise complaints. There were two reports of shots fired. Not all of these dispatches resulted in a police report.

Source: COLUMBIA POLICE DISPATCH DATA

* Includes animal bite (1), assist medics (1), assist officer (3), civil matter (6), exhibitionist (1), foot patrol (2), forged prescription (1), fraud (3), littering (1), missing person (1), missing vehicle (1), other offense (1), recovery property (2), special assignment (5), traffic stop (6), warrant (2).

TRACEY GOLDNER
BY JACK HOWLAND, KENDALL FOLEY, MATTHEW PATSTON
COLUMBIA — Last Saturday’s shooting at Aspen Heights reflects an ongoing trend of police intervention at the apartments.

Since January 2014, there have been 326 calls placed to Columbia police from the housing complex, according to police dispatch data. These include a variety of offenses including four assaults, 11 burglaries, 22 disturbances, 23 larcenies and six acts of vandalism.

By comparison, the Reserve at Columbia and the Cottages of Columbia have had 43 and 80 calls, respectively. The Cottages is located 0.3 miles from Aspen Heights.

Aspen Heights has 972 beds compared to 676 at the Reserve at Columbia and 512 at the Cottages of Columbia.

Not all dispatches result in police writing a report.

When told about the data, Columbia Police Lt. Jason Jones said, "It does seem to be a high number."

Lt. Scott Young with Columbia police said it feels as though police have been dispatched to Aspen Heights often. Officers experienced problems there last year as well, Young said.

"The complex I lived at last year never had an issue this serious," MU junior Andrew Kendzior said of the shooting last weekend. Kendzior has lived at Aspen Heights since August. He lived at the Reserve at Columbia last year.

"It's obvious that (Aspen Heights is) either doing something wrong or have been historically unlucky," he said.

In February, after police had been called to the complex 248 times in the previous six months, a forum was held to discuss the ongoing problems at Aspen Heights and other complexes. Officials from law enforcement, Columbia and MU suggested methods to prevent crime, according to previous Missourian reporting. They included precautions such as locking car doors, keeping blinds closed and using alarm systems. The meeting was not open to residents.
Aspen Heights spokesman Stuart Watkins said new policies have been put in place since then. Lighting has been increased throughout the property and security cameras were added. Aspen Heights continues to contract a third-party security firm in addition to two courtesy officers who live on site, Watkins said.

In February, the month the forum was held, there were 41 calls to the complex. From March through September, there were an average of 36 calls made each month.

"All I know is that Aspen has put their security guards at the main gate and everyone is now required to show ID when entering the complex," Kendzior said. "What they think that is going to solve, I have no clue."

Lindsey Howard moved to Columbia this year and has been an Aspen Heights resident since August. She said that the administration has been handling safety after the shooting "very well," citing the gate security guards as evidence that Aspen Heights is being proactive about residents' safety.

Following the Saturday morning shooting, representatives from the complex sent out a statement to residents saying that Aspen Heights was cooperating with Columbia police. It also read that "this type of behavior will not be tolerated and we will move forward in the eviction process for any residents involved."

Christopher Herron and Leonard Jordan Jr., both 19, were arrested in connection with the shooting of a 22-year-old woman at the complex.

"(Aspen Heights) sent everyone an email explaining what happened, but I feel that they never took any responsibility for it," Kendzior said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Boone County expects to have zone weather alert system in place by spring

Thursday, October 2, 2014 | 8:47 p.m. CDT; updated 7:36 a.m. CDT, Friday, October 3, 2014
BY KAROL ILAGAN

COLUMBIA — The Office of Emergency Management expects a more targeted alert system to be in place in Boone County next spring. The revised protocol will allow the activation of outdoor warning sirens in areas only under threat of a tornado.
The National Weather Service issued a tornado warning Wednesday afternoon for southern Boone County, including Ashland. But because of the county’s current blanket alert system, outdoor warning sirens were activated across the county, even in areas far from the threat.

That could change once the Office of Emergency Management completes its policy review in the next two months and submits a revised policy to all municipalities in the county for feedback.

With the revised policy, the county would have the capability to activate sirens in certain areas in certain situations. The Office of Emergency Management is planning to create three different zones – north, central and south – in addition to the countywide alert option. This way, sirens may be activated, for example, in the North zone only if only the northern area of the county is under threat.

Josh Creamer, deputy director of emergency management, said the Office of Emergency Management is about to complete a draft "activation procedure" that will provide details of the revised alert system. He said the office hopes to finish the policy in the next two months, after which it will be presented to individual municipalities in Boone County for feedback. He expects to have the system in place in advance of the severe weather season in the spring, starting with a public education campaign.

“We would like to build a consensus to make sure that people agree with the overall approach,” Creamer said.

Centralia City Administrator Matt Harline said it would be a good idea for the sirens to sound in the general areas where the tornado could be. “People get siren fatigue,” he said.

Hallsville Mayor Cheri Reisch said that while too much warning is better than not enough warning, the zone alert system would be beneficial to isolate areas where attention is most needed.

To his understanding, Creamer said the Office of Emergency Management has not received any negative feedback from any municipality regarding the policy revision.
The Office of Emergency Management began its review of the countywide alert system in March. In June, the office started drafting the revised policy with Columbia's 911 dispatch center because the latter is in charge of activating the siren for the City of Columbia and Boone County.

Creamer said the Office of Emergency Management has taken time to revise the policy to consider all issues and potential scenarios.

“We want to make sure that in this process we don’t inadvertently create a situation where somebody in the future will not be alerted of a potential weather risk because there was a gap in the process,” he said.

**MU's automated alert system was activated twice on Wednesday afternoon, too — about the same time the outdoor sirens were sounded for southern Boone County.**

"We want to make sure that we are keeping the campus safe," MU spokesman Christian Basi said. He said the MU alerts are activated automatically any time the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for Boone County.

*Kenzie Pendergrass contributed to this report.*

**“Mean girl” behaviors can be reduced, study finds**

Researchers at the University of Missouri say they have developed a strategy that appears effective in cutting "mean girl" behavior.

Reporting in the Journal of Child and Family Studies, the researchers described a 10-week program they said helped combat the "mean girl" behaviors, such as gossiping, rumor-spreading, exclusion and rejection.
Students in the study participated in one 70-minute session each week. Sessions included interactive discussions, examples from the media, role-playing exercises, journaling and goal-setting.

"This study represents a first step in helping school personnel meet the intervention needs of a diverse group of relationally aggressive girls," said Melissa Maras, the study's co-author and assistant professor in the university's College of Education.

Bethel farmer with brain injury continues working

By DEBORAH GERTZ HUSAR

BETHEL, Mo. (AP) — Chris Allen remembers coming to in a hallway at the Rusk Rehabilitation Center in Columbia in the midst of the medical staff's conversation.

"They were talking about this poor guy who had a hemorrhagic aneurysm," Allen said. "I thought, 'He must be in a hell of a shape.' Then I realized it was me."

The moment was Allen's first clear memory in more than a month after suffering the aneurysm, a burst blood vessel in his brain, on Aug. 31, 2010, in the garage of his home, followed days later by a stroke.

The combination left the Bethel farmer with a brain injury, and four years later, "the brain still isn't right," Allen told the Quincy Herald-Whig (http://bit.ly/1ticJK2).

"I'm grateful to be alive, most times, but it's a long-term thing," he said.

A farmer loses a limb in a farm accident. Another suffers a spinal cord injury off the farm, is disabled by a stroke, or deals with debilitating arthritis.

Both want to stay active on the farm — and they can with help from the Missouri AgrAbility Project.

"They're not going to let this disability or whatever is going on in their life stop them from doing what is their passion," said Karen Funkenbusch, director of the program offered through University of Missouri Extension and Mizzou's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

The challenges to remain productive on the farm might differ, but "the common thread has been AgrAbility has helped them," Funkenbusch said. "The second common thread is the Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has funded adapted/assistive devices for these farmers to remain gainfully employed in
production agriculture despite their disability, and challenges or barriers have been removed because of those devices."

She said a common misconception is that AgrAbility only serves farmers with severe physical disabilities.

But "having arthritis for some folks is just as disabling as someone who has a spinal cord injury," Funkenbusch said.

The program provides services for any Missourian with a disease, disability or disorder who is engaged in farming, ranching or another agriculture-related occupation.

Funkenbusch said more women on the farm are seeking help from the program.

"They might have diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, or already trying to prevent a secondary injury and not wanting to get in the same situation as their husbands," she said.

In jeans, boots and cap, Allen looks every bit a farmer. His speech is clear as he talks about getting ready for this year's harvest, but he records a conversation on an iPad, a tool he calls his "portable brain," to make sure he'll remember it the next day.

"For me, short-term memory is the tough part," Allen said. "You talk to somebody over the phone and remember what was going on. That makes it easy to plan the next day. If you get up the next day and can't remember anything you've done the day before, it makes it impossible to plan stuff."

The iPad that Allen carries came through the Missouri AgrAbility Project.

The brain injury changed Allen and his lifestyle, but not his love of farming.

Early in his recovery, Allen knew he needed to get back to the farm. He had crops to harvest and cattle to feed. Four years later, he continues to raise corn, soybeans, hay and cattle — with help.

A utility vehicle, once considered a luxury, became a necessity for Allen to get around the farm and haul equipment. Electric hydraulic vales on two pieces of equipment ease the wear and tear on his arthritic shoulders.

"If I've had a long day and am worn out, my memory is a lot worse," Allen said. "There's just a lot of things people take for granted. I know I did for a lot of years. I never wrote anything down."

Most important on the farm is the computer, another luxury item that's become a necessity to record things Allen might not remember.

"At harvest time, at the end of the day, I describe what I accomplish. I walk around the combine when I shut it down, say I need fuel, need oil, need to tighten this, need these wrenches. The next morning, I play that back,
get the truck loaded," Allen said. "I sing the praises of the iPad, but it's a damn poor second" to his brain before the injury.

Allen remembers little of what happened in 2010, but his partner, Sherry Nelson, fills in the blanks. Alerted by a phone call from one of Allen's friends, she found him that day on the garage floor and called the ambulance.

A social worker, Nelson already understood how the medical system works, and fortunately for Allen, knew how to advocate for patient care — once she got over the initial shock.

"You start to figure out what you need to do next, to ask the questions you need to ask and not take everything at face value," Nelson said.

Allen spent 3 1/2 weeks at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis before moving to Rusk in Columbia, where he spent 2 1/2 weeks. Convinced he was fine, Allen just wanted to get back to the farm, but "he didn't realize how hard it was to do all that thinking stuff," Nelson said.

Activities as simple as walking initially exhausted him. Communication remained a challenge.

"If I was talking to you and had something to tell you, I might get halfway through it and run out of gas, forget what I was going to say," Allen said. "That was the way my brain worked at the time."

He was home by mid-October 2010. Friends and neighbors harvested that year's crop, pitched in to care for the cattle, and helped in other ways while Allen continued therapy.

However, the big strides made in the early days of his recovery began to taper off. It took more work to see improvements, and Allen was resisting spending more time in therapy.

"It got to a point where we were fighting more than making any progress, and I thought he just has to figure out he needs some help," Nelson said.

Allen got through planting season in 2011, thanks to buying a bigger planter to speed the work, and then the harvest.

"Then he started talking about he needed more help. That's when we went to AgrAbility," Nelson said. "At that point, I don't want to say he was whipped, but he was whipped enough. Part of it was he didn't have the physical stamina he did at one time, and part of it was mental fatigue impacted his physical stamina."

Plenty of reminders, large and small, indicated that things had changed.

That first weekend at home in 2010, the couple decided to grill steaks. Allen started the grill, like he always did, but had no idea how to cook the meat.
"It didn't occur to me that maybe he didn't remember how to do that," Nelson said. "I ended up cooking the steaks."

Trying to measure the length of a disk's axle to get a replacement, Allen found he couldn't read a tape measure, something he'd done since childhood.

Always working seven days a week and into the night on the farm, he'd be falling asleep in a chair at 5 p.m.

"He was getting better. He sounded like his old self. The behavior, the mannerisms were there, and yet it's a different person," Nelson said. "Where you see somebody who has a brain injury, maybe from a wreck or something that happened at birth, I don't think you realize how much that has had an impact until you see a person who went from being 100 percent independent to being 100 percent dependent and they start moving back in that independent direction."

Changes readily apparent to Nelson might be missed by others.

Six months after the aneurysm, a psychologist told the couple that if he hadn't seen Allen's records, he wouldn't have known anything was wrong. Because Allen had no physical impairment, the brain injury's lingering effects would have looked like quirks in his personality.

Allen's short-term memory has improved, Nelson said, but it's not what it once was. He still struggles with time and timelines. He can take things the wrong way in conversation and be easily misunderstood.

"He's not very good in the morning. It just takes him awhile to where he's functioning well enough," Nelson said.

AgrAbility funding comes through the farm bill but is competitive among state projects. The Missouri project recently was funded again for four years.

"We're a line item in the federal budget," Funkenbusch said. "Congress wanted the AgrAbility program to increase the likelihood farmworkers with disabilities would experience success in production agriculture and prevention of a secondary injury."

The program began in Missouri in 1994 and is available in 24 states, though Illinois is not one of them.

Funkenbusch wants to boost awareness of the program.

Just as important is making sure professionals understand what the farmers need to stay on the farm.

Allen has spoken to professionals at AgrAbility and brain injury conferences.

"A lot of people don't understand brain injury. Doctors are saving a lot of people, and after a month, they decide the case is closed, he's better, we saved him ... but it's a long-term thing," he said. By working together,
"we probably can help each other out and have a better idea of what might be a real help to us, be more efficient."

The couple has been together for nine years. Unlike many others dealing with the challenge of brain injury, they've stayed together.

"We have our bad days, we have our good days. Apparently, the good days are still outnumbering the bad," Nelson said. "It's just not the same relationship it was at one time. Every once in a while, I see little flashes, but it's real different from what it was."

Allen continues to surprise her — even with his willingness to share his story at public events.

"It's not, 'You get over it.' It's there," Nelson said. "It may improve. I think it's continuing to improve still."

Uncertainty After Autonomy

October 3, 2014

By Jake New

NO MU MENTION

While facing a skeptical Senate committee during a hearing in July, Mark Emmert, president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, insisted that the NCAA would soon have a way to finally adopt several long-discussed reforms addressing how college athletes are treated.

"I believe we will end up in the right place in a couple of months," Emmert said at the time.

He was referring to a change in NCAA governance that would grant a greater level of autonomy to the five wealthiest conferences. In August, the Division I Board of Directors gave that autonomy to the 65 member universities of the Atlantic Coast, Big Ten, Big 12, Pacific 12, and Southeastern Conferences, granting them the ability to
make their own rules concerning issues such as allowing full-cost-of-attendance stipends, offering four-year scholarships, and providing better health care for athletes.

But nearly two months later, lawmakers, college athletics advocacy groups, and -- to a lesser degree -- even members of the five conferences remain skeptical that granting autonomy has cleared the path for any real change. And some worry that the changes in governance may just push the NCAA even further from its stated educational mission, prioritizing more profitable revenue sports over the non-revenue sports that most align with the association's theoretical amateurism model.

Last week, the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics – an alliance of 63 faculty senates at Football Bowl Subdivision institutions, more than half of which are in the big five conferences – sent a letter urging Division I presidents and chancellors to call for a vote to override the board’s decision. The only way many of the 65 universities will be able to afford new benefits for athletes will be to redirect money from non-revenue sports, the coalition argued.

At least 75 Division I presidents must agree to call for an override vote by Oct. 6 in order for one to take place, though overturning the decision is still believed to be unlikely.

"It has become clear in the month since the restructuring model was announced that for the vast majority of Big 5 schools -- those whose programs do not generate profits -- the costs of the new athlete benefits are likely beyond their means without resorting to cuts in precisely those sports that most clearly reflect the academic mission of the NCAA," the COIA wrote.

The Drake Group, another faculty-led group focused on sports issues, released a similar call to action earlier this month and cited similar concerns.

Along with the now-familiar refrain that the autonomy would increase an already-widening gulf between higher- and lower-resource institutions, the Drake Group also stated that funneling more resources into basketball and football would come at the expense of non-revenue sports. In an August report, Moody’s Investors Service estimated that adopting the autonomous conferences' proposed changes would create
an additional $3.5 million in expenses per institution.

Colleges outside the five conferences will not have to adopt those same rules, but they will be allowed to if they choose and may feel compelled to do so if they wish to remain competitive with the institutions in the Big 5 leagues.

"The power five conference members may be well equipped to absorb incremental costs, but other universities with less profitable programs will become less competitive," the report stated. "The cost-of-attendance stipend, for example, will give the powerful conference members an additional recruiting tool that others will lack."

**Who Can Afford the Reforms?**

Not all of the 65 colleges that make up the five wealthiest conferences are similarly well-equipped, either. In the Big 12, for example, the sports program budgets of the high and low spenders are separated by at least $80 million. Though it is touted as one of the first reforms the newly autonomous conferences will tackle, not all of the Big 5 league colleges even agree on providing full cost-of-attendance stipends. Some in the Atlantic Coast Conference, which includes more private institutions than the other leagues, favor a need-based stipend. There's also disagreement about whether the new benefits should be provided to all college athletes or just sports like football and men's basketball, the teams that actually bring in the theoretical revenue that would be shared.

While some colleges have focused on football and basketball, others have focused more broadly on all so-called head-count sports, which include women's sports like tennis, basketball, and volleyball.

Even then, the sheer amount of scholarship players on football teams could cause such efforts to run afoul of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Further complicating matters, a recent antitrust ruling against the NCAA would allow for revenue sharing specifically with men's basketball and football players.

Kirk Schulz, president of Big 12 member Kansas State University, said the O'Bannon ruling could affect what the Big 5 institutions decide, saying that "women's sports should have high-quality coaching facilities, but then we have this court decision saying that we should have extra money going to men's basketball." Schulz said that while
he’s supportive of the idea of autonomy, he doesn’t think the voting process “is going to go as smooth as everyone thinks it is.”

“The $120 million programs are going to have a different perspective than the $50 million programs,” Schulz said. “I think we’re in for a rocky road. We also have to realize and continue to realize that we all live in a big tent together and we have to make sure the rest of Division I feels good with what we’re doing. We can’t have a big stick, start waving it around, and then wonder why everyone’s pissed off.”

Indeed, Division I colleges outside the "Power Five" remain particularly apprehensive of the changes in governance, and the motives behind it. Patrick Harker, president of the University of Delaware and one of just two Division I board members who voted against autonomy, expressed exasperation at how NCAA governance as a whole is organized. The association's governance structure is designed around football, a sport that generates revenue only for the highest-profile programs. It is the leagues, not the NCAA, that control the big-time football playoff.

"Governance is designed around FBS football," Harker said. "What's the one sport that contributes the least to the NCAA? FBS football. It's the one sport that literally contributes nothing and actually takes money away when you calculate the cost. We designed the governance around that."

'Created a Monster'
Peter Roby, athletics director at Northeastern College, said even if the five conferences are able to pass reforms like providing full-cost-of-attendance stipends to football and basketball players, the move is not an altruistic one. Instead, Roby said, the reforms are an attempt at solving problems that wealthier conferences themselves created. Those colleges have created a monster, he said, and now they have find a way to feed it.

"Part of the reason people feel they have to provide more in terms of cost of attendance is because kids are participating in university athletics year-round," Roby said. "They're not going home for the summer like they used to. They’re on campus, in class, in the weight room. If these schools hadn't been so hell-bent on keeping such a competitive advantage, maybe these kids could be home working and putting money in their pockets."
The time commitments of college athletes has been an issue that the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics has pushed colleges to address for more than a decade, said Amy Perko, the commission's executive director. Perko said that the commission hopes autonomy will allow the five richest conferences to revisit some of its past recommendations.

"We recommended in 2001 and again in 2010 that colleges reduce the time demands on athletes, but it never gained much traction at all," she said. "There was never a legislative proposal. There really is opportunity here for some really different approaches. But it's not yet clear what direction the Big Five leaders are going to go in. It certainly could take an intervention outside the current structure to develop remedies that will support college athletics in the future."

If the five conferences can't make autonomy work in the way Emmert said he hoped it would, that intervention could come from the U.S. Senate. At the July hearing, Senator Jay Rockefeller, who chaired the meeting, pointedly reminded the NCAA that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation had jurisdiction over college sports.

In a letter sent to the presidents of the 65 colleges that make up the "Power Five" conferences earlier this month, Rockefeller and two other senators wrote that they were "increasingly frustrated with the lack of meaningful progress by the NCAA and its member institutions." The senators asked that the colleges respond to a questionnaire about the colleges' newly granted authority by Oct. 17.

"We intend to monitor your progress to see whether the very schools and conferences that are often blamed for much of the problems plaguing intercollegiate athletics today effectively utilize the new flexibility you have been granted to implement meaningful reforms to better protect student-athletes," the letter reads.