Kadlec, long-time Missouri fixture, dies at 86

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
10/29/2014 7:50 PM

COLUMBIA, MO. - John Kadlec, the University of Missouri sports icon whose Tigers career spanned more than a half-century as player, coach, administrator and broadcaster, has died. He was 86.

The school said Kadlec, known as "Mr. Mizzou," died early Wednesday. Football coach Gary Pinkel said in a statement that Kadlec "was a ball coach, plain and simple."

Kadlec played for coach Don Faurot in the 1940s and served as assistant under Dan Devine and Al Onofrio. He was a radio game analyst for 16 seasons, beginning that stint as an emergency replacement, and was also long-time director of the Tiger Scholarship Fund.

In 1996, Kadlec was inducted into the school's athletic Hall of Fame. In 2005, the grass practice fields behind the Mizzou Athletics Training Complex were named in his honor.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/entertainment/article3455876.html#storylink=cpy
Kadlec was 'Mizzou through and through'

By Dave Matter dmatter@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8508

COLUMBIA, Mo. • Unlike any person who came before him or after, John Kadlec was a touchstone to the greatest eras, moments and people in the history of Mizzou football. Over time, Kadlec became one of those iconic figures.

Kadlec, who turned 86 last week, died early Wednesday morning at Boone Hospital in the company of his four children. The longtime assistant coach and radio broadcaster had battled health problems the last few years after suffering complications from knee replacement surgery.

“Everyone called him ‘Mr. Mizzou,’ and he was an ambassador for the University of Missouri his whole life,” Missouri coach Gary Pinkel said. “I was very fortunate to be around him. He had a huge influence on his players, thousands of players. I’d see them at reunions and they just embraced him. I feel so fortunate and blessed that I had a guy like that in my life. I’m going to miss him dearly.”

Kadlec, a St. Louis native who played at South Side Catholic High School (now St. Mary’s), began his college career at St. Louis University but transferred to Missouri. There he became an all-conference offensive lineman under legendary coach Don Faurot, earning letters from 1948-50.

He later joined the MU coaching staff and worked under Faurot, Dan Devine and Al Onofrio, serving two terms at Mizzou from 1952-60 and 1966-78. Kadlec, an offensive line coach, was on the staff for eight wins over top-10 opponents during the 1970s. He was part of 15 of Mizzou’s 30 bowl games as a player, coach and broadcaster.

Along the way, he became the program’s primary recruiter in the St. Louis area. Among the hundreds of players he brought to Missouri was the program’s first African-American player, running back Norris Stevenson, and one of its greatest stars, tight end Kellen Winslow.

Kadlec later worked in Kansas State’s athletics administration before returning to his alma mater in 1986 to direct Mizzou’s Tiger Scholarship Fund. In 1995, he joined Mike Kelly in the radio booth for what was supposed to be a one-time role as the team’s color analyst.

Joe Castiglione, athletics director at the time, talked Kadlec into becoming Kelly’s sidekick for the 1995 season when Winslow abruptly quit two days before the Tigers opened against North Texas.
After the game, Castiglione persuaded Kadlec to keep the job for the rest of the year. He became a fixture on the broadcast and called games alongside Kelly through the 2010 season.

"That was in his wheelhouse," Castiglione said. "He had such a unique style that related to everybody. And I could tell it was resonating with our fans everywhere I went because people brought it up."

When Missouri clinched last Saturday’s win over Vanderbilt with a late touchdown pass, Kelly told listeners, "As our dear friend John Kadlec would say, ‘It’s time to start the bus.'"

“I can’t think of anybody who’s had or will ever have the longtime devotion to Mizzou both as a servant and certainly as a coach,” Kelly said.

Athletics director Mike Alden said Mizzou is working on some ways to honor Kadlec during Saturday’s home football game against Kentucky. MU held a moment of silence for Kadlec before tip-off of Wednesday night’s men’s basketball game at Hearnes Center.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Our Lady of Lourdes in Columbia.

“Coach Kadlec was Mizzou through and through,” Alden said. “A true Missourian.”

When Kadlec returned to Mizzou in the 1980s, he worked closely with Castiglione, who spent 17 years in the athletics department — the last five as director. Castiglione, now Oklahoma’s athletics director, described Kadlec as “a second father.”

“He was a partner, a colleague, a friend, a teammate,” Castiglione said. “I was proud to be by his side and proud to have him by mine.”

“John was great example of how one can live life to its fullest,” he added. “He was just an authentic man and ever the gentleman.”

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

John Kadlec, better known as Mr. Mizzou, dies at age 86

BY TOD PALMER | THE KANSAS CITY STAR | 10/29/2014 9:37 PM

During more than 50 years at Missouri as a player, coach, administrator and broadcaster, John Kadlec was dubbed Mr. Mizzou.

Mr. Mizzou died Wednesday at age 86 in Columbia.
“John Kadlec was a special person,” Missouri athletic director Mike Alden said in a release from MU. “He was one of those rare people who made everyone feel special. The way he could light up a room was really something to see.

“He loved Mizzou so much and was such a blessing to those of us who had the good fortune of being part of his life. I worked closely with Coach on many issues over the years, and he never hesitated to be direct, supportive and straightforward. His honesty and candor were his trademarks.”

Kadlec was among the first people Gary Pinkel met when he took over the football program in 2001.

“He was someone I could always talk to. He always had some great wisdom to share, and he was always there for me in the toughest times,” Pinkel said. “He was a ball coach, plain and simple, and he loved Mizzou with all he was worth. It’s hard to put into words how much he’ll be missed.”

Kadlec, a St. Louis native, arrived at MU in 1947 to play football for Don Faurot. He stayed on as a graduate assistant after his playing career ended.

Kadlec, who coached the freshman team until 1954, was promoted to be a varsity assistant in 1954.

He worked on Doug Weaver’s staff at Kansas State during 1960-66 before returning to the Tigers as an assistant coach under Dan Devine and Al Onofrio during 1966-77.

“He had a huge influence on all his players,” Pinkel said. “Thousands of players, I’d see at reunions, these guys just embraced him. I feel so fortunate and blessed to have a guy like that in my life, so we’re going to miss him dearly. But I certainly feel grateful that I have an opportunity to know him the time I did.”

Kadlec returned to K-State in an administrative capacity after his coaching career wrapped up before coming back to MU in 1986 as the director of the Tiger Scholarship Fund.
When the color analyst job for the Tiger Radio Network came open unexpectedly a few days before the 1995 season opener, Kadlec joined Mike Kelly for what turned into a 16-year on-air partnership.

“I can’t imagine a more dedicated servant to the University of Missouri than John Kadlec,” Kelly said. “He was such an impressive man, all the years he devoted to Mizzou and to the football program he loved so much, and the impact he had on the lives of thousands of people, including me, was just amazing. He was a devoted husband, father and friend to so many. It’s heartbreaking to lose him, but somebody like Kaddy will never be forgotten.”

Kadlec, a 1996 MU Athletics Hall of Fame inductee, retired from the radio booth in 2010.

The practice fields behind the Mizzou Athletic Training Center were renamed in Kadlec’s honor in 2005.

“Coach Kadlec touched many people in his life, and everyone he touched, he made them feel special,” said special assistant to the athletic director Gary Link, who also calls Tigers basketball games. “I will always remember his ‘crooked smile’ and the twinkle in his eye, and he will live in my heart forever.”

Missouri fans are encouraged to share their memories of Kadlec on Mizzou Athletics’ Facebook page.

“I’ll always treasure my time with him and his family,” Alden said. “There will never be another person like John Kadlec. We will miss him.”

There will be a visitation for Kadlec from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 903 Bernadette Drive in Columbia. The funeral mass is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Our Lady of Lourdes.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/sports/college/sec/university-of-missouri/article3440879.html#storylink=cpy
'Mr. Mizzou' John Kadlec dies

By Joe Walljasper

Wednesday, October 29, 2014 at 11:31 am Comments (1)

John Kadlec — the man who earned the nickname “Mr. Mizzou” after serving the University of Missouri athletic department as a player, assistant coach, administrator and broadcaster — died early Wednesday morning in Columbia at the age of 86.

“The greatest thing about Coach is, he’d start a story and say, ‘Have I told you this before?’ ” said Gary Link, the former Missouri basketball player and current broadcaster who called Kadlec a father figure. “Well, if anybody starts a story with, ‘Have I told you this before?’ they probably have. But never once did I stop him from telling those stories, and I got just as much fun out of hearing the stories the second, third or fourth time as I did the first time.

“What you saw is what you got. Just a genuine good, good man.”

Kadlec, who usually wore a smile, was a beloved figure in the state. He connected the Missouri football eras from Don Faurot to Gary Pinkel. The St. Louis native was an all-conference lineman for Faurot in the 1940s; an assistant under Faurot, Frank Broyles, Dan Devine and Al Onofrio through the 1977 season; an athletic administrator at MU beginning in the 1980s; and the analyst for football radio broadcasts for 16 years beginning in 1995.

“He was an ambassador for the University of Missouri his whole life and certainly his last years,” Pinkel said. “I was fortunate to be around him. He had a huge influence on all his players. Thousands of players, I’ve seen them at reunions, these guys just embrace him. I feel so fortunate and blessed to have a guy like that in my life. We’re going to miss him dearly.”

His broadcasting career started by accident — and against his will — after Kellen Winslow decided before the 1995 season he didn’t want to continue the job. Joe Castiglione, the athletic director at the time, asked Kadlec to fill in.

“John said, ‘OK, Joe, I’ll do it, but I don’t want to,’ ” said MU radio broadcaster Mike Kelly, who shared the booth with Kadlec. “That one-week favor to Joe turned into 16 years of joy for me and memories and stories and moments I’ll cherish.”
Kadlec’s passion for Missouri and his excitement for the football team’s successes were apparent
on the broadcasts. Kelly recalled seeing Kadlec’s eyes well up when Missouri ended a 14-year
streak of losing seasons with a victory at Colorado in 1997.

Kadlec was a 1996 inductee into the MU Athletics Hall of Fame, and in 2005, the grass practice
fields behind the Mizzou Athletics Training Complex were named in his honor. Service
information was not finalized this morning. Fans are invited to share their memories of Kadlec
by visiting the Facebook site http://bit.ly/KadlecFB.

No cause of death was listed on the MU athletic department’s news release about Kadlec.

“I think he just wore out,” Link said.

Kadlec had wanted to get married in the summer of 1950, before his senior season at MU. Faurot
talked him out of it. But after the season, Kadlec exchanged vows with his wife, Dolly. She
preceded him in death in 2011. Kadlec took her death hard, and his health deteriorated in recent
years.

“Doll’s death was really, really hard for him,” Link said. “He always said, ‘I was supposed to go
first.’ Coach and I are pretty religious, and I said, ‘Coach, we don’t get to pick that.’ Shortly after
Doll passed, he said, ‘I’m ready, I’m ready, I’m ready.’ I said, ‘Coach, God will let you know
when you’re ready.’ She’s been gone about 3½ years, and we were fortunate to have Coach
during that time. There wasn’t a week that went by that we didn’t have a conversation about the
Doll.

“I said, ‘You’ll see her someday.’ The great thing is, now he’s back with her. On this beautiful
sunny day, they’re reunited, and Coach is back with the person he loved more than anyone else.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

John Kadlec, 'Mr. Mizzou,' leaves more than 50-year legacy at university

Wednesday, October 29, 2014 | 8:16 p.m. CDT; updated 6:34 a.m. CDT, Thursday, October 30, 2014

BY KATIE JOHNS, KAYLA PIEDIMONTE

COLUMBIA — John Kadlec spent 16 years doing a job he was only supposed
to do for one day.

He took over as color analyst for the Tiger Radio Network as a favor to then athletics
director Joe Castiglione, Mr. Kadlec’s son, Johnny Kadlec, said. The previous color
analyst had resigned, and Castiglione needed someone new.
Mr. Kadlec agreed to do it just once. Castiglione, however, had another idea.

"The next day he came in and he goes, 'You don't have to worry about it, I found someone else,' and my dad asked, 'Who's that?'" Johnny Kadlec said. "Castiglione said, 'You.'"

**John Kadlec of Columbia died Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2014, of heart failure. He was 86.**

He was born on Oct. 23, 1928, in St. Louis to Frank and Lillian Kadlec. He married Mary "Dolly" Jacobi on Feb. 3, 1951.

To many Missouri athletics fans, John Kadlec is better known by his unofficial nickname, "Mr. Mizzou."

"He just kinda earned that nickname through all his service and dedication to Mizzou," Johnny Kadlec said.

Mr. Kadlec first came to MU to play football for Hall of Fame coach Don Faurot in 1947, according to a [statement released by the MU athletics department](http://example.com). After graduating, he became an assistant coach for the Tigers. He served two stints in that position, from 1952-1960 and again from 1966-1977.

Mr. Kadlec then went to work as a director of development for Kansas State for a number of years. In 1986, he returned to Columbia to serve as the director of the Tiger Scholarship Fund.

He began working as a color analyst in 1995 alongside Mike Kelly and stayed in the position until he retired following the 2010 season.

Mr. Kadlec was inducted into the MU Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame in 1996 and the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in 2005.

In a press release, Gary Pinkel talked about how much Mr. Kadlec meant to him and MU.

"For me personally, he was someone I could always talk to, he always had some great wisdom to share, and he was always there for me in the toughest times," said Pinkel. "He
was a ball coach, plain and simple, and he loved Mizzou with all he was worth. It's hard to put into words how much he'll be missed."

Chad Moller, media relations director for Mizzou Athletics, noted the decades of service that Mr. Kadlec gave to MU.

"The fact that he gave over 50 years of his life to Mizzou in various ways, you're not going to stick around a place you don't like," Moller said. "He was loyal."

There was more to Mr. Kadlec, though, than football. He was also a dedicated family man.

"One memory I have is how much love he showed me and my three sisters," Johnny Kadlec said. "He always had time for friends and family. He was awfully busy, but he always made time for us."

In his free time, Mr. Kadlec enjoyed spending time with his four grandchildren and fishing, Johnny Kadlec said. He always had a a smile on his face and a gleam in his eye.

"He was a special man. Our hearts are all heavy around here and our thoughts and prayers go out to the family," Moller said. "We'll miss him."

Mr. Kadlec is survived by his four children: Judy Rechterman, Peggy Collins, Johnny Kadlec and Joan Melegrito.

His wife, Dolly, died earlier.

Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday at Our Lady of Lourdes, 903 Bernadette Drive. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the church.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Central Missouri Food Bank, 2101 Vandiver Drive, Columbia, MO 65202; John and Dolly Kadlec Society, 1 Champions Drive, Ste. 200, Columbia, MO 65211; and Fr. Tolton Catholic High School, 3351 E. Gans Road, Columbia, MO 65201.
Yakov Smirnoff visits MU campus for sitcom fodder

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Branson funnyman Yakov Smirnoff hopes that some time spent in University of Missouri classrooms will provide fodder for an upcoming TV sitcom.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports that Smirnoff is scheduled to visit Columbia and observe classes focused on relationships as research for a new series under development.

The Russian-born comic says “Happily Ever Laughter” is being produced by the company behind such TV hits as “The Cosby Show,” “That ‘70s Show” and “Roseanne.” Smirnoff portrays a Midwestern comedian who is also a college professor and marriage counselor.

Smirnoff’s official biography says he has taught part-time at Missouri State University and Drury University in Springfield. He also has a master’s degree in psychology from the University of Pennsylvania.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/news/state/missouri/article3466370.html#storylink=cpy
Purple handprints symbolize MU's pledge against sexual violence

Wednesday, October 29, 2014 | 8:07 p.m. CDT; updated 11:35 p.m. CDT, Wednesday, October 29, 2014
BY MEGAN BEDFORD

COLUMBIA — **Purple paint-stained palms marked a pledge against sexual violence taken Wednesday by about 50 MU students, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and other administrators.**

The gesture was the centerpiece of an event called "These Hands Are Not for Hurting," sponsored by the Missouri Students Association.

At the event, students, faculty and staff dipped their hands in purple paint and imprinted them on a banner to pledge support for each other.

The pledge is part of an ongoing campaign launched in mid-September by MSA. The campaign launch video, *[Enough is Enough,]* was shown at Wednesday's event before guest speakers, Loftin, Danica Wolf, who is the coordinator of the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center, and MSA Vice President Matt McKeown spoke about the importance of preventing sexual violence.

"Putting your mark on this banner will signify that your hands will not be used to hurt others," McKeown said.

Loftin was the first to cover his hands in the sticky purple paint and leave his print.

*I can't hire enough police, I can't hire enough security staff, I can’t buy enough lighting, I can’t do enough stuff to actually make this campus as safe as it must be,"* Loftin said.

*But you can. Your leadership is absolutely the answer.*
As they walked through the Student Center, several students diverged from their route to examine the large table set up with platters of purple paint. Many immediately stood in line to imprint their hands on the banner.

MU Director of Athletics Mike Alden and Sarah Reesman, senior associate for the athletics department, participated as well as several student athletes.

"Having all of these different student groups here, athletes, student leaders, people from Greek Life, non-Greeks, all the different organizations coming together under one umbrella cause, I think, is such a beautiful thing and truly shows the idea of One Mizzou," Cate O'Brien, an MU junior, said.

Cale Sears, an MU senior, said that vocal support is important for survivors who many be healing.

"Everyone thinks (domestic abuse and sexual violence) is a hush hush subject. It happens in the privacy of our own homes, so no one wants to talk about it," Sears said.

"But the only way we can help strengthen these survivors is by talking about it and letting them know that they are not alone and that we are supporting them to be able to heal."

*Supervising editor is Katherine Reed.*

---

**Second MU provost candidate speaks at forum**

By Ashley Jost | Wednesday, October 29, 2014 at 10:59 am | Comments (1)

A second University of Missouri provost candidate addressed questions about shared governance and the push to increase MU’s Association of American Universities standing at a Wednesday morning forum.
John Wiencek, interim provost and vice president of academic affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University, told a 70-person audience of mostly faculty members his personal story before fielding questions for more than an hour.

Wiencek used his experience as an administrator — at the provost, vice provost, dean and department levels — at two institutions, the University of Iowa and Rutgers University, to illustrate his knowledge of the Association of American Universities.

The AAU is a prestigious education organization of which MU is a member. For years, MU administrators have stressed the importance of moving up in the ranks within the AAU by increasing federal research dollars coming in and faculty members publishing their research.

“"I spent 23 years at AAU institutions. I understand what it means to be in the AAU,"” Wiencek said.

While AAU stressors are a part of faculty life at MU, Wiencek said the university’s mission to educate.

“I really like the University of Iowa model: ‘Value teaching first,’ ” he said. “If you don’t want to teach students first, we don’t want you here.”

The message resonated with faculty members.

“I’m very pleased he is thinking about things that aren’t just research,” Angela Speck, associate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, said after the forum.

Wiencek said the university has top-level programs in journalism, plant sciences, agriculture and a few others, but the medical school is not the driving source of research dollars like it is at other universities. He also said the College of Engineering needs attention. “You have strengths and weaknesses, no different from any other campus,” Wiencek said. “But there should be more investments in engineering and the medical school.”

Wiencek said he is a leader who believes in open communication, leading by example and being direct about his expectations.

With a wife and two younger children, Wiencek said he hopes wherever he goes next will be a place he can settle down at for at least a decade.

Before his current appointment, Wiencek was the senior vice provost for administration and strategic initiatives and a professor in the Virginia Commonwealth Department of Chemical and Life Science Engineering.

Before going to Virginia Commonwealth, Wiencek held positions at the University of South Florida, the University of Iowa and Rutgers University, according to his curriculum vitae.
Wiencek received his bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from the University of Cincinnati before getting his master’s and doctorate degrees, also in chemical engineering, from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

During an all-faculty council meeting Tuesday evening, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said two additional provost candidates will visit campus. He said his goal is to have the new provost announced by mid-November.

**COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN**

Provost candidate Wiencek addresses MU's AAU rating, focus on Title IX

Wednesday, October 29, 2014 | 5:45 p.m. CDT; updated 9:28 p.m. CDT, Wednesday, October 29, 2014

Provost candidate John Wiencek answers questions during an open forum for students, staff and faculty on Wednesday. ◐ HANNAH BALDWIN

BY CAITLIN HOLLAND

**CORRECTION: MU Provost candidate John Wiencek was dean of the College of Engineering at the University of South Florida and began as an assistant professor at Rutgers University. An earlier version of this story had both titles incorrect. Comments Wiencek made at a forum Wednesday have also been clarified.

COLUMBIA — John Wiencek, a candidate for provost at MU, described himself as an academic for his whole career.

*He was dean of the College of Engineering at the University of South Florida from 2007 to 2013. In August 2013, he became a senior vice provost and professor at Virginia Commonwealth University. Since May, he's been the interim provost there.

*Wiencek fielded questions at an MU forum of mostly faculty, students and administrators Wednesday morning. Wiencek, who started his career in academics as an assistant professor at Rutgers University, said that at some point before he retires, he would like to return to teaching.

"I want to retire as a faculty member," he said.
Now, though, Wiencek said he wants to establish a home for a decade, a place to raise his kids.

**He spent most of the 90-minute forum answering questions about his background and experience and how they fit the university's search criteria for a provost. He addressed several topics, including MU's Association of American Universities standing, staff and faculty diversity, Title IX and MU's strengths and weaknesses.**

Wiencek is the second candidate for provost at MU, following Brian Foster's retirement in December 2013. Michele Wheatly, the first provost candidate, had her open forum Oct. 23.

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin will ultimately decide which candidate is the next provost, or chief academic officer.

**AAU standing**
Wiencek said that in conversations he's had during his visit, a big topic is MU's growth as a member of the Association of American Universities. The AAU is an invitation-only association of leading research universities. There are 62 universities in the AAU, and they are evaluated in a range of categories including competitively funded research support and faculty awards, fellowships and memberships.

"You (MU) are in a pretty solid place, but you should be concerned about continuing to push excellence," he said.

He said that during his time at the University of South Florida and Virginia Commonwealth University, two nonmember universities, both were "knocking on the door trying to get into the AAU."

*Wiencek said opportunities exist to take a leadership role to define excellence where the AAU now struggles to do so.*

**Diversity**
Wiencek started by addressing the obvious.
"I'm just going to lay it on the table in case you haven't noticed," he said. "I'm white. I'm a male. I'm a chemical engineer."
He said that though it is the university's decision to find the best fit for provost, all of a candidate's attributes should be considered in deciding who should be the next provost.

Wiencek said a provost’s staff should be diverse in terms of academic background, race, gender and sexual identity.

**Title IX**
Wiencek drew parallels between MU’s ongoing Title IX efforts and those at Virginia Commonwealth, giving the example of having all faculty and staff designated "direct reporters."

He said universities should respect victims and the victim’s choice to decide how to pursue matters of sexual violence, especially if victims are not ready to take legal action or have their confidentiality exposed.

"I'm kind of curious as to how we got here, how this is all of a sudden a crisis situation," he said.

**MU’s strengths and weaknesses**
Wiencek noted MU’s strengths in plant sciences, journalism, humanities and social sciences.

He said that at the universities where he has been a faculty member or administrator, the medical schools drive the research, but he doesn't see that at MU.

Wiencek said the big question is where to spend the most money: to invest in areas of strength or improve areas of weakness. He said he tends to play on the university's strengths, with the goal of getting more programs up to a No. 1 status as the university evolves.

Prior to Wheatly's open forum, provost search committee chairwoman Judy Wall said she could not give a timeline for other potential candidate visits to MU or a final decision on a provost selection.

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*
Editorial: State must fund critical MU renovations

With three buildings in need of extensive repairs, state funding is imperative in putting the projects in motion.

McKee Gymnasium was built in 1922. Yankee Stadium began construction that same year. Since then, Yankee Stadium has been renovated regularly, seriously remodeled, demolished and completely reconstructed. McKee, however, has remained relatively the same.

McKee, Waters and Mumford halls rated 0.8, 0.8 and 0.5 on the Facilities Conditions Needs Index, respectively, which means that 80, 80 and 50 percent of the buildings need to be replaced. Renovating the three buildings are expected to cost $15 million, $22 million and $24 million, respectively.

These buildings are only three of 30 MU buildings that require critical renovation, and plans for these projects cannot be drawn up until the necessary funding has been received. Earlier this month, the state finally allocated money to renovate Lafferre Hall, which had been the most critical campus building on the FCNI at 0.91. It’s a start, but the backlog of needed repairs that’s built up and been largely ignored by Jefferson City has become staggering.

It is imperative that the state of Missouri grant the university the necessary funding to properly renovate or replace these buildings.

As Gov. Jay Nixon asked in a news release, how are students expected to prepare for success in the 21st century in buildings that were built early in the 20th? The fact that some of these buildings, such as McKee, have only received regular maintenance repairs to keep the building structurally intact is ludicrous. As indicated by the FCNI, these buildings need extensive, long-overdue updates.

Have we forgotten what happened at University Village? After Mackey Mitchell Architects recommended a demolition of University Village in 2008, MU completed nearly 4,500 work orders beginning in 2009 just to keep the complex up. But the maintenance work only temporarily relieved several structural and facility needs at University Village. What came after was a balcony collapse that killed Columbia fireman Bruce Britt.

This should be a wake-up call for the state: Providing funds to extensively renovate buildings is not only important for learning purposes, but for safety purposes as well. Students and university officials lobbied for years to procure funds to renovate Lafferre Hall. As the largest educational...
institution in the state, we shouldn’t have to lobby for years in order to receive the funding we need to keep the rain out of our buildings.

Granting MU the funding it needs would not only benefit the university and its students, but the state as a whole. The projects provide immediate, localized economic stimulus to Missouri businesses by hiring architects, engineers and construction workers to design, plan and carry them out.

The continued cuts to higher education funding has lead to MU bolstering its fundraising efforts. The university announced earlier this year that it had broken the record for most funds raised in a single year with $160 million raised during fiscal year 2014. MU is a public university. We should not have to break fundraising records just to provide students, faculty and staff with the resources and infrastructure they need.

In March, it was reported that the university has a staggering list of deferred maintenance projects totaling nearly $500 million. Having a small wish list of construction projects is normal for an institution of our size. Having a list of this magnitude is ridiculous.

As the state’s land-grant institution, MU’s entire purpose is to serve the state of Missouri and its citizens, but it can’t effectively live up to that mission with buildings that are in such detrimental state.

After the Academic Hall fire of 1892, Board of Curators President G.F. Rothwell famously wrote, “Let these columns stand. Let them stand a thousand years.” In the case of McKee Gymnasium, Waters Hall and other critically deficient buildings, letting them stand a thousand years will take some work.

Pressure on the Presidents

October 30, 2014

By Scott Jaschik

NO MU MENTION

Twenty-eight percent of public four-year college and university presidents say they feel pressure from their governors to conduct their presidencies in ways that differ from their judgment about what's best for their institutions.
That is among the findings of the latest snap poll of presidents -- conducted by Gallup and *Inside Higher Ed* -- on breaking issues. A total of 620 presidents responded to the latest survey. They were assured anonymity, but their answers were grouped by sector. The latest survey was conducted amid the latest push by allies of Texas Governor Rick Perry to force out Bill Powers as president of the University of Texas at Austin, and amid growing debate over the use of climate surveys as one tool to combat sexual assault on campuses. (Powers survived, but in part because he was agreeing to retire anyway, just on his schedule instead of the governor's.)

The results showed that a considerable minority of public university presidents (but very few private college presidents, who typically have less interaction with state politicians) appear to have a tough balancing act with respect to their governors. And the results showed mixed feelings about climate surveys.

**Politics and the Presidency**

Only 6 percent of private college presidents have said they felt pressure from their governors to change their approaches to their presidencies. Among presidents of public institutions that part of systems, 41 percent said they felt pressure from the system office to conduct their presidencies in a particular way.

Of course, state government isn't the only possible source of outside pressure. A significant minority of all presidents (37 percent) report feeling pressure from at least one branch of the federal government. But private college presidents are more likely than those at public institutions to feel that way, perhaps as a result of the high value many private institutions place on their independence, and the deep skepticism of many private college leaders about the Obama administration's plan for ratings of colleges.

**Presidents Reporting Pressure From Federal Government**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Despite the political pressures, the survey showed that most presidents are not worried about being removed from office, and only very few are worried about it. But public presidents are more concerned than are private presidents.

The presidents were responded on a five-point scale. (Those who said that they didn't know are excluded below, so figures do not add up to 100.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>5 (very concerned)</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1 (not at all concerned)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Climate Surveys**

Most college presidents back the idea of conducting campus climate surveys related to sexual assault. But that doesn't mean their institutions are actually conducting the surveys, the new poll found.

Proponents -- including senators pushing legislation in Congress -- argue that the information collected can help colleges understand whether their students feel safe, whether they have confidence in security and judicial systems, and whether parts of campuses are perceived as hostile or dangerous. Critics -- including the American Council on Education -- have said that it would be difficult to develop meaningful national surveys and that the effort might not help anyone.

The results of the poll show that while 60 percent of presidents believe all colleges should conduct surveys, only 21 percent said that their institutions have done so in the last two years. And only 37 percent of those whose institutions have not conducted such a survey in the last two years have plans to do so in the next two years.
Perhaps not surprisingly, given that only a minority of institutions are conducting the surveys, a majority of presidents opposes the Congressional legislation that would require them.

**College Presidents on Sex Assault Surveys**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you support the call for all colleges to conduct campus climate surveys on sexual assaults?</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you favor a policy that mandates campus climate surveys for all colleges?</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has your institution conducted such a survey in last two years?</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For those who answered previous question No, do you plan to conduct a survey in the next two years?</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>