University of Missouri curators choose leaders

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

12/12/2014 1:01 PM

University of Missouri curators chose new leaders at a board meeting Friday in St. Louis.

**Donald Cupps of Cassville was elected to a one-year term as chair. Pam Henrickson of Jefferson City was elected vice chair. They begin their duties as members of the curators’ executive committee on Jan. 1. Both are graduates of the University of Missouri, Columbia.**

Cupps, who is a senior partner at Ellis, Cupps and Cole and attorney for the city of Cassville, was appointed to the Board of Curators in January 2011. He had been serving this year as board vice chair and will succeed Don Downing of St. Louis, whose term as chairman expires at the end of this month.

Henrickson, also appointed to the board in 2011, is a partner in the Jefferson City law firm of Goller, Feather and Henrickson.

The nine-member board is the governing body for the University of Missouri System, which has campuses in Kansas City, Columbia, Rolla and St. Louis. Its members are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Curators serve six-year terms, with three terms expiring every two years.
Three seats open on MU board of curators

By Ashley Jost

Saturday, December 13, 2014 at 12:00 am Comments (4)

Three members of the University of Missouri Board of Curators wrapped up their six-year terms Friday morning, making way for Gov. Jay Nixon to fill their vacancies.

Curators Wayne Goode, David Bradley and Chairman Don Downing were presented with resolutions honoring their time as members of the UM System’s governing board. Appointments are staggered so three of the nine board members cycle off every other year.

The timeline on appointments for the three vacancies is undetermined, but Nixon’s spokesman Scott Holste said in an email that the administration is “working right now” to address the impending vacancies.

The appointment of David Steelman, a lawyer from Rolla, last month marks the first time in several years the board positions have all been filled. Steelman’s position had been vacant since January 2013 after the Missouri Senate failed to confirm the candidate, Michael Ponder of Cape Girardeau, that Nixon appointed. Steelman’s appointment is awaiting Senate confirmation.

Prior to that, the Fourth Congressional District’s representative on the board also was vacant for almost two years after Bo Fraser resigned from the board in December 2010. The governor attempted to place Craig Van Matre, a Columbia lawyer, in that seat, but the Senate rejected his appointment in 2012. In January 2013, Nixon appointed current curator Ann Covington, and the Senate later confirmed her.

UM System President Tim Wolfe said he hopes the board vacancies will be filled quickly.

“If a seat is open, a standing curator can extend their time in that role if they have the time available,” he said. “So there is the possibility of having a full set of curators, but I can’t comment on the timeliness.”

Downing said he thinks it’s “time for fresh ideas on the board,” and said Nixon’s office has notified him that they are focused on finding new appointments.

The curators also elected board leadership for the coming calendar year.
Don Cupps, former vice chairman, was elected as the chairman, and curator Pamela Henrickson was elected as the incoming vice chairwoman. Cupps, a bank director with Commerce Bank, is from Cassville. Henrickson is a partner at Goller, Feather & Henrickson, Attorneys & Counselors at Law LLC, a Jefferson City firm. Both of the board’s new leaders were appointed by the governor in 2011.

With each new board chair comes a new year-long theme. Chairman Downing focused on building alternative sources of revenue. Cupps announced Friday morning that his focus would be “the year of the student, or to steal the phrase from one of our chancellors, ‘it’s all about the students,’ ” he said, borrowing a phrase MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin often uses on Twitter.

Cupps said he still is fleshing out what goals he plans to set for the year that fall within his theme, but among the issues he hopes to address are student and parent satisfaction, safety, retention, four-year graduation rates and what the campuses can do to make students more successful.

He said he’s open to input for other ideas.

Curators discuss university leadership, alternative revenue

The board elected a new chairman for 2015.

The UM System Board of Curators reconvened Friday morning to discuss university leadership and alternative forms of revenue.

President’s report

UM System President Tim Wolfe presented a report on how the UM System is moving from “good” to “great.”

Wolfe emphasized the importance of leadership, innovation and creativity. He talked about the leadership abilities of the four chancellors in the UM System and how they have been working to improve their individual campuses.

One of the leadership initiatives Wolfe pointed to included Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin’s work on securing joint funding for research at the Bond Life Science Center. Wolfe also commended University of Missouri-St. Louis Chancellor Thomas George for maintaining a peaceful atmosphere on campus and promoting open forums in light of the events in Ferguson, Missouri.
When speaking about his long-term goal, Wolfe said he wants to eventually allow more qualified students to have access to resources on UM System campuses.

Wolfe said his goal is to allow students with a 3.0 GPA to get into any college in Missouri, and receive a full ride scholarship to any college in Missouri with a 3.7 GPA. He wants to set the precedent by starting this in the UM System.

“(I’m) making a promise to every family and every student in the state,” he said. “I believe that future is a reality.”

**Board chair report**

Chairman Don Downing addressed fundraising, alternative forms of revenue for the system and how the money is spent.

Downing said repair and renovation costs make up the largest portion of system spending. He said there have been 25 new projects, which have doubled the amount of money spent from $800 million to $1.6 million this past year.

Downing said due to declining state support, finding alternative funding has become more essential than ever.

UMSL and MU have fundraised a record amount this past year. Downing said he would like the annual average alumni donation of $600 to $1,100.

Downing said he believes the UM System could raise an additional $14 million if every alumni donated about $500 more.

Downing said one alternative form of revenue includes E-learning. He said the UM System leads the country in providing for students who cannot take traditional classes while still generating revenue.

Downing also discussed public and private partnerships with businesses, receiving support from businesses, even if those entrepreneurs did not attend any of the UM System universities.

**Retiring board members**

Three curators officially retired on Friday after serving on the board for six years.

David Bradley acted as the vice chairman in 2011 and served as the board chairman in 2012. He was noted for being an active and enthusiastic spokesperson, and for always keeping conversation between the board and the alumni.

Wayne Goode served as vice chairman in 2012 and chairman in 2013.
Secretary of the Board of Curators Cindy Harmon said Goode was a proponent for increased research, intellectual property and efficient processes across the UM System.

“I think it’s important that all members try to look for things that aren’t normally brought to us,” Goode said. “Look in this very complicated university system we serve and see what you can find to improve things, and make sure we’re doing everything we need to do.”

Downing, who is also retiring, was vice chairman in 2013 and served as chairman in 2014. Harmon said Downing was an important advocate of alternative revenue sources, reasonable tuition and improving faculty salaries.

New chairman elected

The board unanimously elected Don Cupps as its chairman for 2015 and Pamela Henrickson as the vice chairwoman.

“The thing I respect about the board is that we respectfully disagree at times,” Cupps said after being elected. “We come together and make hard decisions.”

Cupps said the chairman customarily creates a theme for the year, and his theme for 2015 is the “year of the student.”

“I would like the board to challenge each institution about different issues that affect the students,” he said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Chancellor to revitalize MU Strategic Operating Plan committee

Sunday, December 14, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CST; updated 5:57 p.m. CST, Sunday, December 14, 2014
BY ISABELLE GUSTAFSON

COLUMBIA — MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said he plans to revitalize the MU Strategic Operating Plan committee after the start of the new year and appoint new faculty and administrators to fill existing vacancies. The committee will evaluate the plan twice per year.

"(The plan) is never meant to be final," Loftin said. "It will be continuously evaluated."

Three and a half years remain on a total of five fiscal years in MUSOP, MU’s most recent version of the university’s systemwide strategic planning process.
"The thrust of the plan is to bring to Mizzou great students and enable them to be successful academically," MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

Loftin hopes the committee will be able to seamlessly extend MUSOP to transition into the next years of the plan.

In addition to this, the committee will help evaluate the plan and recommend and react to proposals to revise the plan, Basi said.

Loftin said he has listened to faculty concerns and, about a year after he was introduced to it, is looking at making MUSOP his own.

"There has been a lot of change in a short period of time," he said. "I wanted to give it a chance before I changed it."

In a recent interview, Loftin outlined both specific and long-term plans for the university.

Loftin said he and UM System President Timothy Wolfe "engage daily" and frequently discuss the plan.

One of the highest priorities, Loftin said, is recruiting and retaining the best possible faculty members. Many of the smaller plans within MUSOP center around this overarching goal. For example, good faculty leads to better research, which leads to elevating MU's profile in the Association of American Universities.

The Association of American Universities, or the AAU, is an invitation-only international organization of the top research universities. It has 60 U.S. members and two in Canada. MU is the only public AAU member in Missouri.

A faculty buyout plan for tenured professors announced in September is meant to advance MU's profile in the AAU. Eligible faculty can retire early, which will "free up dollars and allow us to reinvest in new faculty," Loftin said. The results of the buyout will be announced in January, he said.

Another priority within MUSOP is campus renovations. They directly tie in to faculty and student needs, Loftin said. And with this year's enrollment higher than ever, and a
38,000-student enrollment goal that Loftin said he inherited, space is only getting tighter.

But Loftin said he thinks people misunderstand from where that growth will come. He said growth won't necessarily come from the bottom, or freshman, class. It could also come from transfer, graduate and international students.

Loftin said the biggest concern right now is laboratory space.

"We don't have much more to give there," Loftin said. "The biggest major here is biology."

Plans for the renovation of engineering building Lafferre Hall are underway, and there is a backlog of buildings that the university will renovate when the budget permits. That's where the Budget Allocation Advisory Council comes in. Loftin announced its formation last month, and members are being trained by Vice Chancellor for Finance Rhonda Gibler and her staff to advise the chancellor on the campus' budget.

"MU is a system of shared governance," Loftin said. "This type of council worked well at Texas A&M."

Members will be fully trained by the start of the new year, he said.

In light of MU's 175th anniversary this year, Loftin also plans to work with faculty, staff, students, retirees, members of the Columbia community and alumni to come up with a 25-year statement for "what the University of Missouri should be when it turns 200" in 2039.

This statement will not be a detailed plan, like MUSOP, but an overall vision for the university's future. He said he will announce a steering committee later this month that he will personally chair.

"When we share a common view of our future, we become more of a family that works together," Loftin said.
ST. LOUIS — University of Missouri System officials used a presentation on tuition increases to the Board of Curators on Thursday as an opportunity to talk about legislators’ higher education funding policies.

A 1.8 percent increase is proposed for in-state undergraduate students for all campuses except St. Louis, where a 9.1 percent increase is proposed. Missouri law limits public schools from increasing tuition at a rate higher than the consumer price index, a rule the UM System’s new chief financial officer questioned in his presentation at the curators’ meeting at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

The tuition increase at UMSL is significantly greater than other schools because, unlike other campuses, the cost of activity, facility and health fees are rolled up into the cost of tuition. UMSL students in the 2011-12 school year approved a referendum to add a $17.25 per-credit-hour fee starting in fall 2015 to help fund the construction of a new recreation and wellness center. A student referendum like UMSL’s is an exception to the CPI restriction, UM System CFO Brian Burnett said.

“We have to have a conversation at some point about Senate Bill 389,” Burnett said about the legislation that created the tuition-cap statute. Schools can surpass the CPI limitation with approval from the Missouri commissioner for higher education.

Burnett used a three-legged stool analogy for how the university is funded: tuition and fees, state funds and outside gifts.

“2010 was the first year that students were paying more of their share for an education than the taxpayer,” Burnett said. That gap has only widened since as state dollars continue to dwindle relative to the cost of education.

What students pay in tuition has grown, on average, “25 percent among public universities,” Burnett said. “Here, it’s 9.5 percent. You haven’t chosen to raise tuition to meet the decline in state funds.”
For the current school year, in-state undergraduates pay $10,286, and in-state graduate students pay $6,548 to attend MU. Out-of-state students, undergraduate and graduate, might see a 3 percent increase to the current $24,312 cost for undergraduates and $6,548 for graduate students.

Curators also heard proposed increases for some supplemental fees for campus activities, facilities and health.

At MU, that increase is the estimated CPI, 1.8 percent. MU has proposed a 4 percent increase in housing fees and a 1.9 percent increase to the cost of dining plans. MU’s proposed increase to housing and dining is slightly larger than the other three UM System campuses.

Rhonda Gibler, chief financial officer at MU, said the proposed rate increase for room and board was reviewed by the Residence Halls Association, made up of students from all of MU’s residence halls. The increase covers extra costs the school is paying for food and utilities to meet demand, as well as debt payment.

UM System touts $48 million in savings

By Ashley Jost

Saturday, December 13, 2014 at 12:00 am Comments (3)

Saving money while searching for ways to increase revenues was a theme this past year and will continue to be a theme as the University of Missouri moves ahead, administrators stressed to the Board of Curators this week.

Brian Burnett, UM System chief financial officer, highlighted a slew of ways the university system managed to save about $48 million this past year, and how administrators plan to continue with those cost savings while looking for more in the coming years.

The $48 million comes from an array of cost reduction and management efforts with the majority, $26.1 million, coming from the refinancing of the system’s existing debt between this year and last.

“Because of the low interest environment we were able to refinance existing long-term debt that yielded savings,” Burnett, who came to the UM System in August, said. Administrators are using savings like that to supplement state dollars for capital projects across the four campuses, including renovations to Lafferre Hall at MU.
Burnett also highlighted savings made through purchasing decisions. The UM System and the University Health System created a program that increased advisory oversight over spending on medical and surgical equipment. Those advisory efforts resulted in contract negotiating and other actions that saved $9.3 million during fiscal year 2014, which ended in June.

Additional savings came from converting paper processes to electronic services. Burnett said the paper-based forms for hiring, promoting and transferring employees was converted to an online system, saving about $2.5 million in annual operating costs.

This isn’t the end of cost saving efforts, Burnett stressed. Looking forward, administrators are expecting the recent 28 percent cap placed on the benefits rate — the percentage of an employee’s salary the department they work for pays back to the UM System so the system can then pay for medical benefits — to be a large cost saver.

That three-year cap started with fiscal year 2015 in July, and is expected to save $9 million this year, $18 million in fiscal year 2016 and $27 million in 2017, according to a news release.

“We have always prided ourselves on being good stewards of public resources, and in our ability to identify continued cost savings and revenue enhancement each year,” UM System President Tim Wolfe said in a statement. “Not only does this demonstrate our commitment to utilize well the resources that are invested in us, but also illustrates our continued effort to rethink normal business processes, seek new revenue streams and continually think about how to deliver our mission in the most effective and efficient ways.”

Saving money while searching for ways to increase revenues was a theme this past year and will continue to be a focus for the University of Missouri, administrators stressed to the Board of Curators this week.

Brian Burnett, UM System chief financial officer, highlighted a slew of ways the university system managed to save about $48 million this past year, and how administrators plan to continue with those cost savings while looking for more in the coming years.

The $48 million comes from an array of cost reduction and management efforts with the majority, $26.1 million, coming from the refinancing of the system’s existing debt between this year and last.

“But of the low interest environment we were able to refinance existing long-term debt that yielded savings,” Burnett, who came to the UM System in August, said. Administrators are using savings like that to supplement state dollars for capital projects across the four campuses, including renovations to Lafferre Hall at MU.

Burnett also highlighted savings made through purchasing decisions. The UM System and the University Health System created a program that increased oversight for spending on medical and surgical equipment. Those efforts resulted in contract negotiations and other actions that saved $9.3 million during fiscal year 2014, which ended in June.
Additional savings came from converting paper processes to electronic services. Burnett said the paper-based forms for hiring, promoting and transferring employees was converted to an online system, saving about $2.5 million in annual operating costs.

This isn’t the end of cost saving efforts, Burnett stressed. Looking forward, administrators are expecting the recent 28 percent cap placed on the benefits rate — the percentage of an employee’s salary the department they work for pays back to the UM System so the system can then pay for medical benefits — to be a large cost-saver. That three-year cap started with fiscal year 2015 in July, and is expected to save $9 million this year, $18 million in fiscal year 2016 and $27 million in 2017, according to a news release.

“We have always prided ourselves on being good stewards of public resources, and in our ability to identify continued cost savings and revenue enhancement each year,” UM System President Tim Wolfe said in a statement. “Not only does this demonstrate our commitment to utilize well the resources that are invested in us, but also illustrates our continued effort to rethink normal business processes, seek new revenue streams and continually think about how to deliver our mission in the most effective and efficient ways.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Missouri Supreme Court won't hear syllabus case
Friday, December 12, 2014 | 4:13 p.m. CST

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA — The Missouri Supreme Court will not hear a public records lawsuit filed by an education advocacy group that wanted access to professors' copies of course outlines.

The National Council on Teacher Quality sued in October 2012 to compel the release of University of Missouri course plans. A Boone County court ruled that the course plans are closed records protected by federal copyright law and an appeals court upheld that ruling.

The council sought the records as part of a nationwide project to evaluate what aspiring teachers learn in college.

Several journalism organizations had supported the council's efforts, arguing the lower court ruling restricted Missouri's open records law.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reported Thursday that the state Supreme Court declined to hear the case.
MU employees choose new health plan

By Ashley Jost

Friday, December 12, 2014 at 2:00 pm

ST. LOUIS — Almost of half of eligible University of Missouri employees switched to a new health insurance plan that encourages them to use MU Health Care services.

Betsy Rodriguez, vice president of human resources with the University of Missouri System, said during a presentation Thursday to the Board of Curators that 47 percent of the almost 13,000 eligible employees in Mid-Missouri chose the new plan. Enrollment ended Oct. 31.

UM System employees who live in a nine-county area in Mid-Missouri had the choice of a new medical plan, called the custom network plan. The plan’s premiums fall between existing plans. The monthly premium for an employee and family is $322, versus the cheaper option, the Health Savings Plan, at $238, and the more expensive plan, the preferred provider option, at $426.

UM System spokesman John Fougere said of those eligible for the custom network plan, 6,069 chose the new plan, 2,078 chose the Health Savings Plan, 3,798 chose the PPO plan and 885 waived coverage.

Because the plan is new, UM System administrators won’t know how much money employers and the system itself is saving for at least a year.

Rodriguez said administrators were pleased with the amount of interest in the new option. The system is exploring similar programs in St. Louis, Kansas City and Rolla for those regions’ employees.

“We explored the options in the other areas, and our original intent was to use a similar approach for all campuses,” Fougere said in an email. “However, viable products were not available for the other campuses for 2015. We will be looking at that again when planning for 2016, but it will depend on how those markets develop.”

Another change this year was a revamped wellness incentive. The two-tiered program — available to employees who use any UM System health plan — lets participants choose wellness challenges, from getting a flu shot to not smoking, to earn as much as $450.
According to Rodriguez’s presentation, 14,056 employees took advantage of the incentive program, which is 75 percent of those eligible.

Gant cleared to play for Mizzou

December 13, 2014 10:40 am  •  By Dave Matter

UPDATED: 11:50 a.m.

COLUMBIA, Mo. • Missouri freshman forward Jakeenan Gant has been reinstated and will be available for Saturday's game against Xavier, MU announced. Gant was withheld from Mizzou's first nine regular-season games while the school reviewed questions about his eligibility. Those questions were related to undisclosed benefits, MU announced in its 55-word statement.

Gant, a four-star prospect originally from Springfield, Ga., scored 12 points with 11 rebounds in 33 combined minutes in Mizzou's two exhibition games.

Missouri and Xavier tip off at 3 p.m. at Mizzou Arena on ESPN2.

On Friday, Mizzou declined to comment on speculation that Gant would be reinstated for the Xavier game. ESPN's Jeff Goodman reported Saturday morning that Gant had been reinstated, citing an anonymous source. Shortly after ESPN's report, Mizzou declined to confirm the report, then released its brief statement confirming that Gant had been reinstated.

STLToday.com will have more on this developing story.

Steckel leaves Mizzou for Missouri State

By Dave Matter

COLUMBIA, Mo. • For 14 years at Missouri, assistant football coach Dave Steckel led on that he didn’t like talking to the media. Reluctant as he may have been, he usually spoke with more candor and insight than most of Gary Pinkel’s assistants, usually coated, though, with enough orneriness to keep timid reporters at bay. He put that reputation on display Sunday in Springfield, Mo., where he was introduced as Missouri State's new head coach.

“If you publish any print of a tear in my eye,” he told reporters, “you will never get an interview again.”

He was kidding — probably.

Steckel, who served in the U.S. Marines before he launched his coaching career, has always worn a tough exterior, but cracks in the armor are no match for his deepest affections. The Bears are getting one tough
Marine. The Tigers are losing a beloved leader, a 57-year-old career assistant who choked back tears several times Sunday.

Steckel paused to collect his emotions when he talked about his wife Mary Beth their daughter Amanda, his longtime boss, his departed Mizzou players and his new charges at Missouri State.

“You guys probably didn’t get a choice in this matter,” he said to the Missouri State players he’ll inherit. “I understand that. But what you have to understand is that I had a choice, and I chose you guys. We’re going to do this and do this together.”

The Springfield News-Leader reported Saturday that Missouri State was set to introduce Mizzou’s defensive coordinator as its new coach, but Steckel said he didn’t decide to accept the job until 15 minutes before his press conference. Earlier in the day, he was on Faurot Field coaching the Tigers in practice, after which he declined interview requests. Mizzou players and coaches were unsure of the coordinator’s plans.

“Y’all are in the same shoes I am,” defensive end Shane Ray said. “I don’t know anything. ... Hopefully Coach Stec makes the best decision for him and his family. We support whatever he does.”

Steckel later said he told Mizzou players he was headed to Springfield and promised to send them text messages once he made a decision. He broke down several times Sunday talking about the team he’ll leave behind. Steckel has been Mizzou’s linebackers coach since 2001 and took over as coordinator in 2009.

“I love those guys,” he said.

He won’t be gone long. Steckel will continue to coach Mizzou through the Jan. 1 Citrus Bowl against Minnesota. He said he’ll work mornings and afternoons with the Tigers and spend his nights working for Missouri State. He’ll start with building a coaching staff.

On Sunday, Mizzou linebackers decided collectively to decline interviews after practice, but following Steckel’s press conference, middle linebacker Michael Scherer posted a heartfelt message on Twitter: “It's hard to see Coach Stec go but I am happy for him and no one deserves this more than him. There is no other coach in the country that I would have wanted to play for the past 3 years. He has treated me and everyone else in this program like one of his own. I will miss you and I love you Coach.”

“We’re so happy for Stec having the opportunity to run his own program,” Pinkel said in a prepared statement. “He’s wanted to be a head coach for a long time now, and it’s exciting for all of us that he’s got his chance. Stec is going to do a great job at Missouri State, and I’m just so appreciative for all of the great things he’s done to help us build our program at Mizzou.

“We’ve worked together for close to 20 years and it’s going to be strange to not have him around. We’re grateful that he’s able to stay with us through our bowl game, and it’s going to be important for us to send him out the right way.”

Now, for the third time since the end of 2012 season, Pinkel needs to hire an assistant coach. Memphis defensive coordinator Barry Odom, a former Mizzou player and assistant coach, figures to be a leading candidate. Defensive line coach Craig Kuligowski would be a natural in-house option.

“If Coach Stec were to leave and Coach Kul would take the reins, I think he has a great understanding of our defense,” Ray said. “He’s respected by all the players. He has great production in the D-line room. Coach Kul would be no drop-off. He would handle business well.”

Kuligowski declined interview requests Sunday. The Tigers return to practice on Friday.
In Springfield, Steckel is taking the unconventional path in more ways than one. MSU plays at the Football Championship Subdivision level, where there’s less national exposure and the budgets and revenues are smaller. While the Tigers have thrived recently in the SEC and played on college football’s biggest stage, the Bears haven’t reached the FCS postseason since 1990. Steckel’s Mizzou salary is $600,000. At Missouri State, he agreed to a five-year deal with a base salary of $270,000.

“It’s not about the money,” he said. “If I was worried about money I’d still be at Mizzou. ... Don’t bring up my money. I don’t care about money. I care about supporting my wife and my daughter and coaching football.”

With that line, the assembled crowd applauded their new Marine, hoping his track record follows his candor from Columbia to Springfield.

A few more notes from Steckel's introductory press conference:

• Steckel will put an emphasis on recruiting players from the state of Missouri then branch out into Oklahoma, the northern part of Arkansas and Dallas, where he's recruited heavily for Mizzou. "There’s a lot of great players in the state of Missouri," he said. "Kids always dream about playing major college football. I respect that. Mizzou can’t get them all."

"Recruiting is like shaving," he added. "If you don’t do it every day you don't look very good."

• Steckel interrupted a reporter who called him Coach. He used the occasion to teach the reporters something that everyone who covers Mizzou has learned. "Everyone calls me Stec," he said. "It’s without a K." "You know why I tell you that?" he said. "I'm sure there are some coaches in this room and I know there's lots of coaches around the country. There’s one Stec."

• What's the difference between being a coordinator and a head coach? Not all that much, he said. "To me this is football," he said. "There’s a whole lot of people out there who make a whole lot of decisions that are a whole lot more important than mine. ... I have to worry about a whole team instead half a team, but it’s still football. And I’m excited to do this."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU students protest police brutality, stage die-in at Daniel Boone City Building

Friday, December 12, 2014 | 5:27 p.m. CST; updated 11:03 p.m. CST, Friday, December 12, 2014
BY BRIELLE GREGORY

COLUMBIA — Cars honked along Broadway on Friday afternoon as protesters shouted from the corner of the Daniel Boone City Building.

"Turn it up, don't turn it down," the crowd said. "We do this for Mike Brown."

About 30 MU students marched from Speakers Circle to city hall to protest police brutality and bring racial awareness to the Columbia community.
The event comes a day after a student led initiative called "Wage Peace," which advocates similar goals, marched from the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center to the Mel Carnahan Quadrangle.

About half of the students went inside city hall to stage a die-in, where they laid on the floor to represent the crime scene of a shooting. The remaining students stayed outside, yelling chants and telling stories of times they experienced racism.

MU student Evonnia Woods was accused of a drive-by shooting at 17 because she had the same type of car as the suspect.

Woods, an organizer of the event, said student demonstrators were criticized for only taking action on campus and not within the city. Friday's protest was meant to bridge that gap, she said.

The die-in was a demonstration of civil disobedience meant to disrupt the business day and bring attention to the issue, Woods said. The event was entirely student organized through social media and word of mouth.

"We just want to hold people accountable," Woods said. "(We protested here) to be visual. So they know that we're paying attention."

MU student Storm Ervin, another protest organizer, said she hopes demonstrating will bring positive effects, such as more police training.

"Too many people are unaware and unaffected," Ervin said.

As the protesters marched from city hall back to Speakers Circle after 30 minutes, many held up their hands or bore signs with messages such as "Black Lives Matter."

"I got my hands above my head, please don't shoot me dead," the marchers chanted.

MU student Shelby Anderson, a protest organizer and active member of MU4MikeBrown, said she's seen more and more people show up to demonstrations and hopes people continue to support and stand for the cause.

"People realize we are here," Anderson said. "We do matter."
One in Five?

December 15, 2014

By
Jake New

NO MU MENTION

If there's a conversation taking place about the prevalence of campus sexual assault in the United States, the phrase "one in five" is usually within earshot.

"It is estimated that one in five women on college campuses has been sexually assaulted during their time there," President Obama said in January. Obama has cited the statistic multiple times throughout the last few years, as have Vice President Biden and the U.S. Department of Education. Senators use the statistic when writing legislation or holding hearings. Pundits and columnists have opened many an editorial with it, and it's a favorite of student activists, frequently appearing on hand-written signs at protests and marches.

For many it's a number that has helped galvanize a movement -- an encapsulation of just how large the problem of campus sexual assault is. But for others, including some sexual assault prevention advocates and some who question the current focus on sexual assault on campus, the statistic can be a distraction, a lightning rod that generates more arguments than solutions and overshadows other research on the topic.

And many question just how accurate the figure is. John Foubert, founder of sexual assault prevention group One in Four, said the proliferation of one-in-five “drives him nuts.”

“It’s so widespread because the of the Obama administration’s use of it,” he said. “I think they probably got some bad advice about which stat to cite because there are more reliable stats out there. The one in five statistic, it’s from reputable researchers and a reputable study, but you can’t really use those findings to generalize the whole United States.”

That’s because the statistic comes from a 2007 study that is based on a survey of just two colleges. Funded by the National Institute of Justice, the "Campus Sexual Assault Study" summarizes the online survey results of male and female students at two large
public institutions. Nineteen percent, or about one in five, of the female respondents said they had experienced an attempted or completed sexual assault since starting college.

**Defining Sexual Assault**

Other critics have focused not so much on the limited scope of the survey, but rather its broad definition of sexual assault, which includes kissing and groping. The study's definition of sexual assault includes both rape -- described as oral, anal, and vaginal penetration -- and sexual battery, which was described as "sexual contact only, such as forced kissing and fondling." Some argue that an unwanted kiss should not be conflated with other kinds of more severe sexual assault or rape.

A version of that debate recently appeared on ABC's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos" during a discussion about *Rolling Stone*’s article about sexual assault at the University of Virginia. When CNN’s Van Jones mentioned the one in five statistic, Rich Lowry, editor of the *National Review*, interrupted her to call the stat “bogus.” “That statistic is based on a survey that includes attempted forced kissing as sexual assault,” Lowry said. “That is not a real number.”

“Can I kiss you?” Jones replied. “Can I kiss you here against your will? That’s an assault. That is a sexual assault.”

Laura Dunn, executive director of sexual assault prevention group SurvJustice, said the fact that some people still balk at the idea of unwanted kissing being considered sexual assault is a result of the criminal justice system frequently focusing on only the worst kinds of sexual violence. It’s caused a particular image of sexual assault to form in people’s heads, she said, and it’s an image denies a much broader expanse of offenses.

“People who deny this issue don’t believe something like an unwanted kiss is harmful, but it is,” Dunn said. “I think there’s an idea in our society that says if a man’s not using a gun or beating a woman, then it’s O.K. to be pushy and aggressive, or to wait until she’s drunk. We really think of some sexual aggression as really not that bad, and that mentality extends to the survivors as well. In these surveys, if you use broader legal terms, you actually get less reporting.”

Indeed, when a survey doesn’t include specific examples of what researchers mean by rape and sexual assault, the rate of sexual assault is much lower because most survey respondents, she said, only include rapes and not other forms of assault.

A report released last week by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and based on the National Crime Victimization Survey, found that the rate for sexual assault among college women is 6.1 in 1,000. If one in five is considered by some to overestimate the rate of sexual assault, the opposite is true for the NCVS numbers. Even the bureau itself has expressed doubts about the survey’s ability to accurately count cases of sexual assault, and earlier this year it asked the National Research Council to look into the matter.

The council’s conclusion: by using "ambiguous" words and phrases like "rape," the bureau is likely undercounting rape and sexual assault. Studies have repeatedly shown that many young women who are survivors of rape and sexual assault have trouble
identifying it as such.

**Similar Findings**

Another point of confusion that surrounds “one in five,” is what it’s actually referring to. The original study suggests that one in five college women have experienced a completed or attempted sexual assault, again with a definition that covered just about any unwanted physical interaction. The percentage of women in the study who specifically experienced completed sexual assaults was 13.7 percent. That some of the assaults were not actually completed is often omitted by pundits and politicians, but it’s an important distinction, Dunn said.

“Only about one-third of campus rapes are completed,” she said.

Despite the Campus Sexual Assault Study’s shortcomings as a national barometer of the issue, other research has yielded similar findings – though with some caveats. A [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/hteasurfac/docs/2006sexualassaultSurvey.pdf) found that the rate of women who experience sexual assault is one in five, though that rate is for all women in instead of just those going to college. That survey, too, has been questioned for its classification of having sex while intoxicated in any way as a sexual assault.

Then there’s the statistic that gives John Foubert’s organization its name: one in four. That comes from a Justice Department survey of 4,000 college women in 2006 that found that nearly one-quarter of college women have survived rape or attempted rape in their lifetime, a figure that doesn’t account for sexual assaults that are not rape. While the study is of college women, the rape could have occurred at any point in their lives.

“I think it helps to have reliable statistics as it helps people understand how massive a problem this is,” Foubert said. “It helps people realize that this is not just happening two or three times a year on a particular campus. This is widespread. I hope people would be concerned if this was even just happening once a year, but that fact is that it’s happening far more than that, and we need reliable research to demonstrate that.”

A national survey conducted by the Medical University of South Carolina in 2007 found that more than 12 percent of college women had been raped, not just sexually assaulted, which is about the same percentage of women in the one-in-five study who said they were raped. The researchers calculated that about 5 percent of college women are raped annually, an estimate that is backed up by separate research by the American College Health Association. That’s about 300,000 female students raped every year, vastly larger number than what the Bureau of Justice Statistics calculates.

According to its new report, 30,000 college women were raped in 2013.

While 30,000 is a much smaller number than 300,000, many advocates say colleges should view even 30,000 as a terrible figure, representing far too many female students whose rights have been violated and whose well-being has been endangered, and one that should not be viewed as acceptable.

More research still needs to be done to get a better sense of just how prevalent campus sexual assault truly is, Dunn said, but she believes the few available numbers are
already painting a bleak and clear enough picture.

“I believe in the one in five statistic wholeheartedly because I am a survivor and I remember how many of my friends disclosed that it had happened to them too,” she said. “Most women don't doubt this statistic because we are aware in our conversations how common sexual violence is in our experience.”

'Yes Means Yes' becoming norm on NY campuses

December 13, 2014 10:11 am  •  By CAROLYN THOMPSON

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Administrative policy may be the new pillow talk on college campuses across New York.

A universal "affirmative consent" standard is now part of a sexual assault prevention policy adopted across the state's public university system, spelling out for students that only "yes" — not silence or a lack of resistance — is the cue for sexual activity.

The so-called "Yes Means Yes" standard could spread to private campuses next year by way of legislation favored by Gov. Andrew Cuomo as states face pressure to improve their handling of campus sexual assaults.

Supporters say it takes away the ability of someone accused of assault to claim confusion about the accuser's wishes, while reminding and empowering students to talk about consent before engaging in sex.

"It's not about policing, it's about educating," said Andrea Stagg, an associate counsel for the State University of New York who was on the working group that wrote the sexual violence prevention policy for the system's 64 campuses.

On SUNY's state-operated campuses, there were 238 cases of sexual violence or assault during the 2013-14 academic year, SUNY statistics show. Complaints can be adjudicated either through campus disciplinary proceedings, campus police or outside law enforcement agencies, depending on the wishes of the victim.

A Justice Department report released Thursday said only about 20 percent of all campus sexual assault victims go to police, adding to a national conversation that has gotten louder with President Barack Obama's September launch of the "It's On Us" awareness campaign and a recent Rolling Stone article describing an alleged gang rape at the University of Virginia. The magazine has since said it couldn't stand by its reporting.

"All we're saying is that in order for some type of sexual activity to occur with consent, everybody who's participating in that act has to actively consent," said SUNY associate counsel Joseph Storch, a member of the
working group. "Not that they were so drunk that they weren't able to fight the person off. Not that they were asleep and someone took advantage of them."

California adopted a "Yes Means Yes" measure in August and New Jersey and New Hampshire are considering the standard.

Students say getting an out-loud yes adds a potentially awkward level of formality to intimacy, even if they agree it's necessary.

"It's a conversation that does need to happen before anything does happen," said Buffalo State College senior Katherine Middleton. But "it makes it almost seem more like a business deal than an act that happens."

At private Colgate University in Hamilton, senior Emily Hawkins said she'd welcome a state law that extended the policy to all New York campuses, if only to get people to take it seriously.

"Legislation brings legitimacy to these types of things," she said. "It seems unnecessary to me to have to legitimize sexual assault prevention, but if law brings legitimacy, then yes, why not throw it on the books?"

Cuomo views the policy for SUNY's 463,000 students as a test case for the rest of the state.

Assemblywoman Deborah Glick, chairwoman of the chamber's Higher Education Committee, said the new standard will help men and women alike.

"Women have faced for centuries, 'she said no but I knew she meant yes,'" the Democrat said, "so this is a clearer definition and provides for greater clarity for all parties involved."

A spokesman for Sen. Kenneth LaValle, Glick's counterpart in the Republican-controlled state Senate, did not respond to requests for comment, nor did a spokesman for the state GOP.

But the state's Conservative Party chairman, Michael Long, called the policy "meaningless."

"After something happens, it becomes he said or she said," Long said. "If you want to talk about giving permission for sexual activity — I'm not trying to be cute here — one would have to get a sexual consent form signed. Maybe an official consent form signed would mean something."

Missouri scholarships sought for online university

December 13, 2014 4:38 pm  •  By DAVID A. LIEB

NO MU MENTION

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — When Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon spearheaded the formation of a state-sanctioned online university, he envisioned that its students would eligible for the same state financial aid as those at traditional public universities.
Nearly two years later, that has yet to happen, and a proposed rule change that would make state scholarships available to students at the online Western Governors University-Missouri is facing opposition from some other colleges and universities.

A legislative committee is to meet Wednesday to determine whether it will attempt to block the scholarship change.

Opponents have both a technical and practical argument.

The Independent Colleges and Universities of Missouri, a collection of 21 private institutions, contends that any scholarship change should require the passage of a law, not merely a rule from an agency. Some higher education institutions also fear that a scholarship expansion could ultimately result in less aid for their students as the state’s resources are spread thinner.

Missouri's scholarships already "are woefully underfunded," said Bill Gamble, a lobbyist who is executive director of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Missouri. Making more people eligible could "lower that amount of the pot per student," he said.

Gamble said his group doesn't have anything against Western Governors University but is concerned that the proposed rule could be used by other out-of-state institutions seeking to tap into Missouri's scholarship money for students taking courses online or at branch campuses.

The Access Missouri program, which is the state's main financial-need-based scholarship, hasn't been fully funded for several years. About 51,000 students are expected to receive grants this year, but those at public universities and private institutions are getting the minimum allowed under state law — $1,500 — instead of the maximum $2,850.

Students at Western Governors University-Missouri are not currently eligible, because the online institution is not considered to be located in Missouri. The headquarters for the Western Governors University system is in Salt Lake City.

The state Department of Higher Education is proposing to redefine "located in Missouri" to accommodate the nonprofit online university that was established under a February 2013 executive order by Nixon. An accredited institution whose main campus is elsewhere would be covered by the new definition if it has a building in Missouri, employs at least 25 Missouri residents, enrolls at least 750 Missouri students, has a Missouri-based oversight board and agrees to supply data to state officials.

Western Governors University-Missouri meets all those criteria, said Chancellor Angie Besendorfer. It has a facility in Clayton, employs 83 Missouri residents and has more than 1,300 Missouri students, she said.

Those students already can receive federal financial aid. If they could get state scholarships — as WGU students already can do in Indiana, Tennessee and Washington — then they could reduce their federally backed loans, Besendorfer said. That could greatly ease the financial pressures on a 36-year-old parent who is representative of the school's typical student, she said.

The Council on Public Higher Education in Missouri, composed of the state's 13 public universities, has taken no official position on the proposed rule change. Executive Director Paul Wagner said the group isn't opposed to WGU-Missouri students getting state scholarships, but is concerned "that there might be lots of other similarly situated institutions out there who would want to come and take advantage of it."

The Legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules is to hear testimony Wednesday about the scholarship rule change. The panel has the power to temporarily a block rule, but a permanent rejection can occur only if a resolution is passed by the full Legislature and enacted by the governor.
New university counsel to advance campus' impact

December 13, 2014 8:16 am • LAUREN KIRKWOOD

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — When attorney Michael R. Poterala decided he wanted to shift from civil litigation to in-house work, he wasn't specifically looking to go into higher education.

But when he took a position in the general counsel's office at Michigan State University, the pace and variety of the work seemed to make it a great fit. Now, 16 years later, Poterala has made a career out of handling universities' legal needs.

In January, he will join the University of Maryland, College Park, as general counsel and vice president of legal affairs, after serving as deputy general counsel at North Carolina State University for almost four years.

"The expectation is for College Park, as the flagship campus, to really have a big impact — a positive impact — on the state of Maryland," Poterala said. "Those are exciting things to work on, to try to help translate all that work that's done out into the community."

After earning his degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1988, Poterala worked at two Detroit law firms for about a decade before joining Michigan State. During his 13 years there, he held a variety of legal and administrative positions, including associate general counsel, assistant vice president for research and graduate studies and executive director of MSU Technologies, the university's technology commercialization office.

Poterala also ventured into the classroom. As a visiting professor at MSU's College of Law during the 2010-2011 academic year, he taught sports and entertainment law.

"I enjoyed everything about that. I'm still in touch with many of the students," he said. "I really enjoyed that opportunity to be in the classroom."

At its core, Poterala said, a university is a collection of a large number of different entities, each of which has different legal needs. That's a big part of why legal work at the university level appeals to him, he said.

"We've got people who are scholars in all kinds of different fields, people doing research in all kinds of different areas, clients responsible for managing the finances of the institution and the physical plant and utilities, and a big and successful athletic department — all of those operations are unique," he said.

At North Carolina State, one of the biggest projects Poterala worked on was the formation of LINC, or Leaders in Innovation and Nonwovens Commercialization. The nonprofit serves as a manufacturing incubator for technologies developed at the university's Nonwovens Institute, which focuses on development of engineered fibers for commercial, consumer and industrial use.
Poterala was also involved with tech commercialization at Michigan State. For three years, he ran the technology transfer office, negotiating licenses for new technologies and expanding the office through new hires.

In addition to his legal roles, Poterala also chaired a counseling panel at that provides advice to N.C. State's student-athletes and their families on transitioning to the world of professional sports.

"Its sole mission is to be a resource for aspiring professional athletes, to help them deal with the legal and business aspects of the industry," he said. "We've got a group of people who are former pro athletes or coaches or experts in personal finance, and we put on educational programs and hold one-on-one counseling."

Eileen Goldgeier, vice chancellor and general counsel at N.C. State, said the role of deputy general counsel was a new position when Poterala joined the university in 2011. Since then, he's worked to ensure the university's legal department enhances, rather than limits, opportunities at the school, she said.

"A lot of in-house counsel tell you what you can't do; I wanted to be the office that told people how they could accomplish what they want to do," she said. "He understands what faculty are doing, what faculty want to do, and how they want to do their research and innovate and be creative."

University of Maryland President Wallace D. Loh cited those same factors in announcing Poterala's appointment last month, calling him a "rare find."

"He helps clients solve problems without being over-protective, has strong innovative and entrepreneurial instincts, while remaining mindful of the law and risk management," Loh said in a statement. "He is a welcome addition to campus."

Poterala said he expects to be in his new office in College Park on Jan. 12, ready to get to know a new group of students, faculty and staff members. If there's one thing he's learned from his experience working in higher education, Poterala said, it's that the goals of the university community should shape the legal department's priorities.

"You want to make sure you align your legal function to support all of those clients and help them be successful within different areas of inquiry and scholarship and innovation," he said. "You have to learn your client's business, learn their culture and adapt your techniques and services to best meet their needs. It's about active inquiry and active listening."