A potential drop in enrollment and the threat of punitive budget cuts by the General Assembly have the University of Missouri operating “in financial crisis mode,” a top campus official said Wednesday.

Gary Ward, vice chancellor for operations and chief operating officer of the Columbia campus, said during a meeting of the Regional Economic Development Inc. board that the university expects enrollment to drop by as much as 900 students next year. Ward, a REDI board member, said the loss of revenue from those students, many of whom would likely be paying out-of-state tuition, would be made worse by a reduction in state funding.

“They are very, very angry with the University of Missouri,” Ward said of lawmakers. “The discussion is all the way from a haircut to no funding.”

Interim UM System President Mike Middleton, making his fourth visit to the capital to repair the university’s image, said Thursday that the potential loss of tuition was $20 million to $25 million, which would be aggravated by any cuts in state funding.

“[T]he discussion is all the way from a haircut to no funding.”

“I still wouldn’t call it a financial crisis, but I may be too optimistic,” Middleton said.

Mayor Bob McDavid, also a board member, said local lawmakers are adding to the university’s woes and making budget cuts more likely.

“[O]ur university is getting beat up by our local legislators,” McDavid said. “It’s a shame the president has to go down and defend himself against local legislators in a public forum.”

The issue, Middleton said, goes beyond any concerns by local lawmakers. “It is not the local delegation,” he said. “I am learning about a lot of discontent down here.”

Freshman applications are down about 5 percent from last year at this time but are up from two years ago. The university has set a goal of increasing enrollment in Columbia to 38,000 from the current level of about 35,000.
The campus protests that resulted in the Nov. 9 resignation of Tim Wolfe as system president and discontent for other reasons that helped push Columbia campus Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin to resign the same day added to university woes with lawmakers. Many of them were already upset when they learned MU Health Care granted hospital privileges that allowed Planned Parenthood to resume offering abortions in Columbia.

The issues for lawmakers, Ward said, stem from “Planned Parenthood, the optics of things with graduate students or minority students, and of course we have a professor several legislators are demanding we fire.”

Discussions about faculty workload add fuel to the mix, Ward said.

The five House members representing Boone County — three Republicans and two Democrats — all said they will work to protect the university’s budget. The three Republicans — Caleb Jones, Caleb Rowden and Chuck Basye — signed a letter calling for Assistant Professor Melissa Click to be fired, and Jones issued a news release making the letter public.

Jones said the legislature tries to support the university. “I think there are some very serious questions about how the university is spending their money, and I think they are going to be examined and, I think, held accountable for what they are doing with the taxpayers’ dollars.”

The letter contained no threats, Rowden said, and he will not support budget cuts.

“What I have said all along is that things that have happened over the course of the last year, many of which were self-inflicted, is not a reason to not invest in the University of Missouri,” Rowden said.

Click should be fired, and athletes should not make their obligations to play a factor in protests, but that doesn’t mean the university should be punished with cuts, Basye said.

“It is going to be the low-level employees that get hurt the most, and those guys had nothing to do with what happened,” Basye said.

McDavid’s criticisms hit home, said Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia. “No one is saying there haven’t been problems, but people shouldn’t try to score political points with the University of Missouri, and there are folks who have done that.”

Webber said McDavid should say specifically who is too critical.

“I would like if McDavid would clarify which ones he is talking about because I don’t think I would be on that list,” Webber said.

Rep. Kip Kendrick, D-Columbia, said the delegation should close ranks and protect the university’s budget.
“More than ever the local delegation needs to work together and needs to be on the same page regarding the university, and I am not sure we are on the same page,” he said.

Curator joins call for dismissal of Melissa Click

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - A member of the board of curators for the four-campus University of Missouri system has joined the call for an assistant professor at the Columbia campus to be fired over a videotaped clash with reporters.

Curator David Steelman of Rolla described Melissa Click as "an embarrassment." But speaking before a meeting Wednesday, Steelman noted that he's not chairman of the board and isn't able to put her continued employment on a future agenda.

Click garnered national attention after she confronted a student photographer. The photographer was filming after the university system's president and the Columbia campus' chancellor resigned amid protests over what some saw as indifference to racial issues.

Click didn't immediately return phone or email messages from The Associated Press seeking comment.
Missouri curator wants university to fire Melissa Click

January 14, 2016 5:21 PM

By Covey Eonyak Son

Missouri legislators looking to ax University of Missouri assistant professor Melissa Click have an ally on the university’s board of curators.

Curator David Steelman, a Republican from Rolla, told The Star on Thursday he wants to see Click out of MU after she tried to remove a student journalist from anti-racism protests last fall.

“People of Missouri send their children to the campus and they have a right to expect that the professors are not reckless enough to jeopardize their physical safety,” Steelman said. “I believe we should have zero tolerance for the antagonism she showed to people with different opinions.

Students form a perimeter around the #ConcernedStudent1950 tent village and ask media to leave on Monday, Nov. 9. Freelance photographer Tim Tai was firm and polite in stating his First Amendment rights to be there. Communications faculty member Melissa C Mark Schierbecker

Click received wide criticism after a video showed her calling for “some muscle” to remove a reporter Nov. 9 from the Carnahan Quadrangle, where protesters had gathered. UM System Tim Wolfe had resigned earlier that day over protests about racism on campus. MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin also resigned later that day.

Click has since resigned a courtesy appointment with the MU School of Journalism and issued an apology for the incident, but remains an assistant professor in the Department of Communications.

On Dec. 18, more than 100 Republican lawmakers wrote an open letter to university officials demanding Click’s termination.

“As a professional representing our university, Click failed to meet the obligations she has to her supervisors, fellow professors, university students, and the taxpayers of Missouri,” the letter said.

Click did not respond to requests by The Star for comment.
Although he also wants to see Click fired, Steelman said the university, not the General Assembly, should resolve the situation.

“This whole letter is a red herring,” Steelman said. “I almost wish they hadn’t done it … The governor gave a statement that was essentially the same as the legislature’s, but he said he doesn’t want to micromanage the university. I think that’s a very reasonable approach.”

However, whether the board will discuss Click’s future at MU in future meetings is not up to Steelman, but Board of Curators Chairwoman Pamela Henrickson.

Steelman said he hopes more discussion will take place to at least further reprimand Click, even if she is not fired from the university.

“There’s always a way to debate these issues,” he said. “But the idea that a letter in her file is sufficient is absurd and indefensible to me.”

Curator joins call for dismissal of Melissa Click

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A member of the board of curators for the four-campus University of Missouri system has joined the call for an assistant professor at the Columbia campus to be fired over a videotaped clash with reporters.

The Columbia Daily Tribune (bit.ly/1PegjiR) reports that Curator David Steelman of Rolla described Melissa Click as "an embarrassment." But speaking before a meeting Wednesday, Steelman noted that he's not chairman of the board and isn't able to put her continued employment on a future agenda.

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State lawmakers concerned over possible MU budget cuts


State lawmakers are more than a week into the 2016 legislative session and in the Capitol chambers there's a growing dissatisfaction with MU and how its administrators have handled the events of last semester.

"They're upset with the university for a variety of reasons, but mainly, the inaction, or lack of action with Professor [Melissa] Click," said Rep. Chuck Basye, a Republican from Rochport.

More than 100 Republican lawmakers signed a letter calling for Click's termination, but MU has taken no action.

Legislators said many of their colleagues in the house are disappointed about Click and other issues regarding the university, and now, lawmakers have filed bills that would cut the university budget.

"There are legitimate threats of budget cuts to the university. I take those threats very seriously. I'm very concerned about the budgeting process," said Rep. Kip Kendrick, a Democrat from Columbia.

Kendrick said the university drives innovation in the state and a funding cut would be a big mistake, especially, since Missouri is already 44th in the nation for higher education funding.

"I'd hate to see any budget cuts hit Mizzou for any reason, to be honest with you. It's such a huge part of our community here in mid-Missouri," said Basye.
Curators to have 'largely closed' search for new president

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri's Board of Curators has decided to have a mostly closed search for the university system's next president.

The curators met Wednesday to discuss the process of replacing Tim Wolfe, who resigned in November after weeks of protests calling for his removal over his handling of racial tension on campus.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports (http://bit.ly/1RGOLcS ) curators said having an entirely open search for president might deter applicants because all the contenders' names would be made public.

The board also decided Wednesday to seek public input on what qualifications should be required from the next president.

The search timeline includes selecting a search firm by late February, which would develop a candidate pool by June. Curators said that timeline could be adjusted.

Search for next UM System president to be secretive and lengthy again

Tim Tai 17 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — The search for the 24th University of Missouri System president will again be confidential, the Board of Curators indicated Wednesday during a special meeting.

The board, which met via teleconference, discussed the search in a public session following a 4 1/2-hour closed executive session about updates on personnel matters. Chairwoman Pamela
Henrickson said. The board did not vote on any decisions in either session but agreed that the presidential search process should be largely closed. The curators left open the possibility of announcing finalists near the end of the search process.

According to a draft timeline of the search process, the curators will begin seeking a private company to identify a pool of candidates later this month. The curators will meet in February to select members of the UM System's search committee and will hold several public forums across the state from March to April to gather input on desired presidential qualifications. Candidates will be identified over the summer and the search committee will vet them into the fall.

In the meantime, former MU Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton will continue to serve as interim UM System president, the job he took on after former President Tim Wolfe resigned in November amid protests over his handling of racist incidents on campus.

The presidential search timeline was based on the one used to select Wolfe in 2011, said John Phillips, chairman of the board's compensation and human resources committee.

That selection process, which remained confidential until Wolfe was announced as president, lasted nearly a year. Phillips said during Wednesday's meeting that confidentiality would again be essential to the selection process.

"You'll have candidates withdrawing, candidates not putting their name in if it's too public of a forum," he said. Missouri does not require public universities to reveal the names of their presidential finalists.

One difference in selecting Wolfe's successor will be the omission of an advisory committee during the process, Phillips said. In 2011, the advisory committee made of about 20 faculty, students and alumni, was to evaluate the presidential finalists, but one of the two final candidates withdrew, diminishing the committee's role, Phillips said.

"Although it was an interesting concept, it ended up without really meaningful participation at the end of the process," Phillips said. "It didn't work right."

In place of the advisory committee, the board will expand the search committee to not only include its eight members and a student representative but to also include other students, faculty members and alumni. The board did not determine the exact number of additional search committee members Wednesday but agreed to select people representing all four UM System campuses.

But Phillips and curator David Steelman worried that including too many people on the committee runs the risk of losing confidentiality. "If you have 20 or 25 people, the likelihood of (the search) being confidential is not good," Phillips said.

In discussing the selection of a search firm, curators said they wanted a company with strong experience in academic searches and would consider experience vetting business candidates a bonus.
"The board is completely open-minded" on hiring someone with a business background versus one with an academic one, Henrickson said after the meeting.

But Henrickson wouldn't speculate how the protests that led to Wolfe's resignation would impact the candidate pool. At one point in the 2011 search, the pool included over 100 candidates.

"I'm sure it will affect it," she said. "Whether it affects it negatively or positively remains to be seen."

Missouri admits NCAA hoops violations, vacates '13-14 season

12:18 a.m. EST January 14, 2016

The University of Missouri admitted NCAA violations in its men's basketball program dating to 2011 and banned itself Wednesday from the postseason this year and vacated all 23 wins from the 2013-14 season.

The NCAA is still investigating and Missouri said it was working with the organization in hopes of limiting the punishment to its self-imposed sanctions, which includes the SEC tournament.

"We have faced this issue head-on," athletic director Mack Rhoades said. "These are not decisions we took lightly. We really felt like it was the right thing to do, and it will help put us in position to move this program forward."

Missouri was 23-12 in 2013-14, Frank Haith's final season. Haith left for Tulsa not long after the school received a verbal notice of inquiry from the NCAA in April 2014.

The Tigers won just nine games last season under new coach Kim Anderson and are 8-8 this season, coming off the worst loss in Mizzou Arena history — a 94-61 setback to Arkansas on Tuesday that Anderson said made him "embarrassed."

"A lot of things run through your head," Anderson said. "I'm disappointed that the actions of a few individuals have put our program in this type of situation."
Anderson said he wasn't aware of the investigation when he was hired and felt bad for forward Ryan Rosburg, the lone senior on the team. Rhoades said he was aware last March when he replaced AD Mike Alden and said he has "worked extensively from Day 1 to resolve this."

The school hopes the issue will be resolved this spring.

"Every kid's goal is to go the NCAA Tournament, so obviously when that's taken away there's disappointment," Anderson said. "I think we did the right thing. We felt like it was best to do it now and then move forward and put it behind us."

Haith was suspended for five games by the NCAA at the start of the 2013-14 season for inadequately monitoring former assistants interactions with a disgraced Miami booster and then trying to cover up a five-figure hush money payment to keep potential violations hidden.

The investigation found that Haith and Miami assistant coach Jake Morton paid Nevin Shapiro $10,000 after he threatened to expose previous improper contact with high school recruits and amateur coaches.

Haith's attorney, Scott Tompsett, said his client did not learn about the NCAA investigation last February when the NCAA contacted Tulsa to inform the school of it. Tompsett said Haith cooperated fully with the NCAA and has been informed that he will not be charged with any violations or wrongdoing.

"It has been Coach Haith's position throughout this investigation that he acted appropriately at all times and that he monitored his program and promoted an atmosphere of compliance," Tompsett said. "The fact that the enforcement staff has not charged Coach Haith with any violations validates our position."

The Tigers didn't practice Wednesday and Anderson said he told players to "reset your goals." He also said there was no need to "sugarcoat" the message.

"Who knows whether we would qualify for the postseason?" Anderson said. "Today, I would say I don't know."

Besides the postseason ban, the school has stripped itself of one scholarship this season and a second scholarship no later than the 2017-18 season, plus has restricted recruiting through 2016-17. It also said it would pay a $5,000 fine.

The school permanently banned one unidentified donor who the NCAA said provided impermissible benefits to three players and one recruit in 2013-14. The benefits included compensation for work not done at a business through a summer intern program, along with housing, $520 cash, local transportation, iPads, meals and use of a local gym.

"It is clear from our collaborative investigation with the NCAA that a former member of our athletics staff and members of our donor community violated NCAA bylaws, and we take those actions seriously," Chancellor Hank Foley said.
A second donor has been banned for two years after providing 11 players and three members of one player's family reduced rates at a hotel along with meals and a ride on a recreational boat. A student manager also provided transportation for multiple players to the hotel from the campus.

The school was hit with a third major infraction for failing to adequately monitor the internship program.

Two minor infractions were cited. A former associate head coach helped a recruit relocate by providing the phone number of the recruit's mother to the second donor to arrange for rental housing, and the first donor had multiple impermissible contacts with a recruit.

The school said there is no evidence that any current staff members were aware of the violations.

Anderson said he didn't think the self-imposed penalties would impact recruiting, then added, "Yeah, it makes it more difficult."

"This is a great school," Anderson said. "Obviously, we're a program that's rebuilding. The interest level in our program has been very good."

Mizzou hopes self-imposed sanctions appease NCAA

COLUMBIA, MO. • And now, Mizzou waits.

With Wednesday’s news that the University of Missouri imposed sanctions on its men’s basketball program for NCAA violations that took place under former coach Frank Haith, the school now waits to learn if the punishments are enough.

After a 19-month joint investigation into booster activity and other violations, Missouri came up with penalties it hopes will satisfy the NCAA’s Committee on Infractions. MU vacated wins from Haith’s record, placed restrictions on recruiting, cut scholarships and issued a postseason ban. But should the school expect added penalties from the Committee?

“It’s a strategic dance that they do,” said David Ridpath, an associate professor of sport management at Ohio University and a national expert on NCAA issues. “I’d say Missouri has sanctioned themselves pretty substantially. The typical approach is you don’t want to sanction yourself too much because 99 percent of the time the NCAA will add something.”
While consulting with outside counsel on appropriate penalties, schools in Missouri’s situation can’t “undershoot or overshoot,” Ridpath said.

Schools look to past cases for guidance, but there’s no perfect formula to predict the NCAA’s sentence.

“It’s not science. It’s art,” said Michael Buckner, an attorney whose Miami-based firm represents coaches and universities in cases involving the NCAA. “You really have to determine where that middle ground is.”

The Committee on Infractions generally tries to reach a decision on a school’s penalties in six to eight weeks, Ridpath said. From there, the committee accepts the self-imposed sanctions or adds more. In some recent high-profile cases, the committee has taken further measures.

In 2014, as part of an investigation into recruiting violations and faulty drug testing procedures, Oklahoma State’s football team reduced recruiting evaluations and official recruiting visits. The NCAA tacked on a year of probation.

Last year, Syracuse’s basketball team gave itself a one-year postseason ban for widespread violations. But the NCAA didn’t stop there, ordering the school to return NCAA Tournament revenue, reduce scholarships, serve probation, vacate wins and a gave a nine-game suspension to coach Jim Boeheim.

“Typically, then the Committee on Infractions comes after you much harder because their approach is, ‘You’re not taking this seriously.’ In Missouri’s case, I think they took substantial steps and I don’t anticipate much else being added.”

With the Tigers lagging in the Southeastern Conference standings and coming off a 33-point loss to Arkansas, some might scoff at Mizzou’s postseason ban as trivial. But Tigers coach Kim Anderson thought otherwise.

“Who knows if we would have qualified for the postseason,” he said. “Saturday (after beating Auburn), I would have said, ‘Yes.’ Today I would have said I don’t know. But there are a lot of basketball games left to play. Plus the SEC tournament, you’ll never know if the magic will happen there.”

One lingering question remains as Mizzou absorbs the latest blow of the Haith regime: How is Haith, who now is Tulsa’s coach, cleared of any wrongdoing? In three separate statements by Haith, his Kansas City attorney and Tulsa athletics director Derrick Gragg, Haith’s team made it clear he was not mentioned in the NCAA’s report.
“The fact that Frank Haith wasn’t named (in the report) doesn’t mean a whole lot to me in the sense that he’s still the one running the program,” he said. “It shows the NCAA is pretty reticent to name a head coach unless they can tie something directly to him.”

The NCAA’s 2013 overhaul of its enforcement structure played a role in that newfound reticence, Buckner said. Even though the new model holds head coaches accountable for assistant coaches who break bylaws, Buckner believes the new system requires a stronger burden of proof to slap head coaches with the dreaded “failure to monitor” verdict.

“They’re going to make sure that any allegation is corroborated by substantial information,” said Buckner, who represented Haith during the NCAA’s investigation into his time at the University of Miami, which resulted in a five-game suspension at the start of Mizzou’s 2013-14 season. “If they feel that doesn’t exist, they’re not going to allege that.”

Buckner did not represent Haith during the latest investigation into his Mizzou years but has kept up on the case through media reports.

“Based on what I know, the lack of naming Coach Haith in the allegations would definitely be reasonable and objective when you have boosters from outside the program that were engaged in the violations,” he said. “Normally what you find with ‘failure to monitor’ are individuals who directly or indirectly reported to the head coach. The booster situation is more of an institutional issue.”

That explains why Missouri slapped its own compliance department with a Level II major violation for failing to monitor a booster-run internship program in Georgia that was paying athletes improper benefits — and Haith’s name or any reference to his position doesn’t appear in the violations.

Hence Haith’s statement issued Wednesday: “I echo the sentiments of Missouri’s Kim Anderson in expressing disappointment that the actions of a few individuals have put the Tiger basketball program in this situation.”

“That seemed a little disingenuous to me,” Ridpath said. “But that’s what happens in most of these things.”
Podcast: Mizzou’s basketball sanctions and how they affect the program, Kim Anderson

January 14, 2016 12:57 PM

The Star's Blair Kerkhoff and Tod Palmer discussed the NCAA violations discovered in the Missouri men's basketball program and the effect the self-imposed sanctions will have on the struggling Tigers and coach Kim Anderson.

Listen to it here.

Annual Martin Luther King diversity breakfast focuses on unity and inclusion

Maria Kalaitzandonakes 5 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Racism, police brutality, social inequity and community-building were all part of the conversation Thursday at Columbia's diversity breakfast.

About 1,050 people gathered over eggs and cups of coffee for the 19th annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration. This year, the speeches and the dialogue around the breakfast tables focused on the lingering effects of Michael Brown's slaying in Ferguson, the Concerned Student 1950 protests at MU, and where the community should go next.

Keynote speaker, the Rev. Starsky Wilson from St. Louis, touched repeatedly on the notion that "we are all Ferguson," as long as racism continues in society.
The theme of this year's celebration was "Unity in our Community," which tied into the protests and tension especially at MU that came at the end of 2015.

Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church was given the group Columbia Values Diversity award for its charitable contributions. The church opened its doors to Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen, Room at the Inn shelter and Turning Point, a service organization for the homeless.

"This small congregation has made social justice their mission, just like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. did," Mayor Bob McDavid said as he announced the award.

The individual award was given to Barbra Horrell, a community leader who worked in minority recruitment and retention at MU and who in retirement committed herself to the preservation of Columbia's cultural history through her work with the J.W. "Blind" Boone Heritage Foundation, the James T. Scott Monument committee and the Sharp End committee.

Wilson, the keynote speaker, focused on the present and the future. As CEO of the Deaconness Foundation, co-chair of the Ferguson Commission and pastor of St. John's Church in St. Louis, he filled the huge banquet hall with his resonant voice when he listed the names of black people killed by police. He paused on each name, slowly and emphatically.

"Thinking about these issues can bring on gray hair, can make your suit a little tighter in the middle area, can even make you want to give up or give in," he said, and then sighed.
"Especially, on a weekend when you're supposed to have 'A Dream.'"

Wilson reminded the crowd that even though the world has come far since the days of King, in whose honor the breakfast is held, there is still much work to do.

"Pursue genuine community," he said.

He encouraged listeners to build communities by focusing on inclusion. "This doesn't just mean who's in the room, but who gets to speak, who sets the agenda," he said, to a roar of approval from the audience.

He talked about equity — "not just access, but the idea that we can have the same kind of outcomes for our lives."

After inclusion and equity are built on a community level, then comes advocacy of effective policies and building truly healthy relationships.

"Dr. King was not just giving speeches and quoting songs," Wilson said. "He was meeting with presidents and mayors and challenging their policies — pushing and prodding until he changed things."

The celebration included music from the Columbia Chorale and the Community Gospel Choir. Student writings on diversity also were presented in a video before the speeches.
Diversity award winner Horrell said she hoped the community would continue to focus on open communication and inclusion.

"I know there are so many folks who want to help make Columbia the best it can be," she said. "Sometimes they just don't know how."

*Supervising editor is Katherine Reed.*

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**College program seeks to address rural doctor shortage**

COLUMBIA, Mo., Jan. 14 (UPI) -- Predictions in the early 2000s about a nationwide doctor shortage due to aging, a drought in new doctors, and expanding demand for care being worse in rural areas of the United States came true, leading to many universities starting programs to address the issue.

The University of Missouri started a program in 2006 to address the shortage in 97 of 101 counties in the state, reporting in a new study that the Community Integration Program appears to have addressed some of the problem.

About 10 percent of physicians practice in rural areas, with less than 3 percent planning to practice in a rural community or small town, according to Jana Porter, associate director Area Health Education Center and Rural Track Pipeline Program at the University of Missouri.

"We developed the Community Integration Program in 2006 as part of our pipeline program to further encourage students to practice in rural settings after they graduate," Porter said in a press release. "We wanted to better understand what the students' experiences were with this service learning program, and if it might affect their decision to practice in a rural community."

From 2007 to 2013, 53 percent of students participated in the program, with 86 percent completing an 11-item post-experience questionnaire, according to the study, published in the journal Medical Teacher.
The students reported they felt more integrated into communities, had a greater understanding of community health needs and resources, and were more likely to be involved in community service as a result of the program.

"The more we are able to immerse students into settings where they have deeper, more meaningful interactions with their patients, the better they will understand the impact they can make as physicians," Porter said. "For those who already show an interest in serving a rural population, this program reaffirms that choice. However, if we can expand it to include those who would like to try the experience, we may attract additional students."

MISSOURIAN

Move to allow guns at public universities raises question about whether that will make us safer

Madeline McClain and Jack Witthaus 1 hr ago

COLUMBIA — Reaction is mixed, and the research is complicated. But, if a lawsuit or legislation prevails, this could be the year that people are allowed to carry a concealed weapon on MU's campus.

Right now, Missouri law prohibits concealing and carrying a firearm on a higher education campus without the consent of the school’s governing body. Keeping a gun in one's car on campus is OK, as long as it's not visible and the car is locked.

Currently, 19 states and Washington, D.C., prohibit people who have been granted permits to carry concealed weapons to bring firearms to college and university campuses. Most of the remaining states let the college or university decide on this issue, but eight states have laws that prohibit colleges and universities from banning guns in certain areas of campus. MU law professor Royce de R. Barondes recently filed a lawsuit against MU for prohibiting his right to carry on campus. Siyu Lei

The current law puts Missouri is the company of 18 other states that prohibit people from carrying concealed firearms on university or college campuses, according to the National Conference of State Legislators. Of the remaining states, 23 leave the decision of campus concealed-carry up to the individual school. The other eight states, including Kansas, allow concealed-carry on campus.
The actions of two Missouri state senators and an MU law professor, however, could end the ban, making Missouri the next battleground on the issue.

The legislation and the lawsuit


Their bills look similar to a law Kansas enacted in 2013 that permitted people to conceal and carry at colleges in the University of Kansas system. According to a December letter by KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, the school has been operating under an exemption from the law, but compliance will be mandatory starting July 1, 2017.

Munzlinger's bill would allow a higher education institution in Missouri to be exempt from the law, but it would be required to install security measures such as metal detectors and post security personnel at entrances and exits.

Meanwhile, MU law professor Royce de R. Barondes launched his effort to end the ban a few months before the legislators took action. His lawsuit, filed Sept. 19 against MU, argues that the UM System Board of Curators' prohibition of firearms on campus, including vehicles, is unconstitutional and invalid because it conflicts with Missouri state law.

If the ban is lifted, it will affect all UM campuses.

According to the lawsuit, the curators "maintain a gun ban using methods that make law-abiders more vulnerable to attack by law-breakers — a ban that unlawfully and unconstitutionally violates Plaintiff’s individual rights to keep and carry a firearm for self-defense."

Barondes could not be reached for comment, but, in a September segment of the weekday morning program "Fox and Friends," he said there are always concerns for one's safety.

"One doesn't know when an adverse event is going to happen," Barondes said. "You have to be prepared."

The Columbia attorney representing Barondes is one of his former students, Jennifer Bukowsky. She said she did not want to comment on the pending lawsuit.

However, she makes a number of policy arguments in the lawsuit pulled from a controversial study, and subsequent book, by John R. Lott Jr. that found that more guns deter violent crimes.

The study has been cited repeatedly by Lott and others on Fox News, CNN, C-SPAN, and in opinion-editorial pieces around the U.S.

However, Daniel Webster, a Johns Hopkins University professor of health policy and management, released a study that found a correlation between the demise of Missouri's "permit to purchase" law in 2007 and a subsequent increase in homicide rates.

That year, the Missouri legislature passed Senate Bill 62, which came in response to the April 2007 Virginia Tech massacre in which 32 people were killed. The bill expanded the "castle-doctrine" and eliminated a provision in Missouri law that had been in place since 1921: requiring people to get a permit from their county sheriff or police department for every handgun they buy.

An editorial in the St. Louis Post Dispatch quotes Webster as saying that the end of that permitting process "basically did criminals a huge favor."

A 2015 scorecard issued by the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence ranks Missouri in the top 10 in gun deaths and gives Missouri an "F" for its gun laws.

Scientific consensus on guns?

Stanford economics professor, lawyer and researcher John Donohue says the weight of current evidence suggests that allowing citizens to carry concealed handguns increases violent crime.

Studying crime is tricky because unlike an experiment, researchers of crime are forced to use observational data that is very sensitive to a researcher's study choices, Donohue said.

Observational data is extremely sensitive to the choices a researcher makes, said Devin Hughes, political writer and co-creator of Armed with Reason. "So it would be wrong to base strong conclusions or assumptions on a single study because different choices may produce different results."

"It is only when there are six, seven, eight peer-reviewed studies with different methodologies, using different sets of data, that it becomes pretty safe to say: 'OK, there is something going on here,'" Hughes said.

Too often, when the media talk about this issue, they pit a gun rights advocate against a researcher, Hughes said. "But the issue with this balanced approach is that there aren't all that many academics on the pro-gun side."

David Hemenway, a Harvard School of Public Health professor and director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center, conducted monthly surveys of 140 researchers in the field to see if there was a scientific consensus on any gun issues.

The surveys found that:
• 73 percent of researchers found that guns are not used in self-defense far more than they are used in crime.
• 71 percent of researchers believe that strong gun laws reduce homicide.
• 62 percent of researchers agree that more permissive gun carrying laws do not reduce crime.

"Do not get me wrong. There is still a lot of work to be done in this field — a lot of work," said Charles Branas, a researcher of epidemiology at the Perelman School of Medicine in Pennsylvania. "But what is clear in the research is that if there is a firearm present, it increases the lethality of the situation."

“This is not about higher crime rates but higher lethal crime rates,” Hemenway said. “Researchers are not saying guns cause crime, but what we are saying is that they make a crime more lethal.”

**Science versus belief**

Hughes said his research led him to create the Armed With Reason website. “I formed my opinions to the research," he said. "I grew up in very heavy gun country on a farm in Oklahoma. Had the research gone the other way, I would be writing very differently right now.”

Despite a scientific consensus, the average American either doesn't care about the studies, doesn't believe them or isn't reading them. An October Gallup poll found that 53 percent of Americans believe more concealed guns would make the U.S. safer.

The problem is that the statistics get complicated quickly, putting a burden on the average American to understand, and that's unfortunate, Donahue said.

People are required to go into statistics in a very detailed way, and most people just don’t want to or they don't know how to, Hughes said. "It gets very technical very fast; people give up, and then it becomes a 'he said/she said' type of thing."

Looking at the empirical data, there is one issue about which there is no ambiguity: suicide. More guns lead to more people completing the act, Donohue said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, firearms in 2013 were involved in more than 50 percent of all suicides. Of the 33,636 total firearm deaths that year, 11,208 were homicides, and 21,175 were suicides.

Donohue, Hemenway, Branas and Hughes all agree more research needs to be done. However lack of funding, constant negative feedback and low public impact are just a few of the barriers to new science, they said.

Hughes said there are hundreds of studies on guns and public health, but, compared to global warming or other public health fields, the research is pretty limited.
"Researchers receive a constant barrage of negativity, death threats, and, even when a researcher's study makes the headlines, it has very little impact in the public," Hughes said. "Who would want to get into a field like that?"

There is a lot of federal funding for AIDS, obesity and various other public health problems, but very little for gun research, Hemenway said.

**What the president said**

In a speech January 5, President Barack Obama announced a gun plan that included expanded background checks and stronger enforcement of existing gun safety laws.

He also talked about improving research on gun safety. "Congress actually voted to make it harder for public health experts to conduct research into gun violence; made it harder to collect data and facts and develop strategies to reduce gun violence," he said. That was an allusion to restrictions Congress voted to put in place in 1996, making it difficult if not impossible for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to research gun violence.

Obama drew a parallel to the impact research has had on reducing traffic deaths over the past 30 years.

"We do research when cars, food, medicine, even toys harm people so that we make them safer," Obama said. "And you know what — research, science — those are good things."

But where there is money, there is suspicion of bias. Studies by the Joyce Foundation, Johns Hopkins or Bloomberg have credibility problems for gun-rights supporters who say the liberal-leaning sources of the research dollars influence the findings.

The Joyce Foundation is a small organization that has allocated money toward six specific goals, and one of those is to reduce gun violence, Hemenway said. "Just because an organization looks to reduce motor vehicle fatalities doesn't mean they want to take everyone's driver's license or car away," he said. "They just are looking for harm-reduction strategies."

Whether this scientific debate will play out in a Missouri courtroom is unknown. The case moved from state court to federal court on November 24, and District Court Judge David Gregory Kays has yet to rule on the amended pleadings or motions submitted in the lawsuit. Bukowsky's pleadings request that the suit return to state court because she has dropped all federal claims in the case.

On the Dana Loesch radio show in October, Bukowsky told Loesch that UM had retained outside counsel, the Bryan Cave law firm, "widely regarded as the best and most expensive of the big firms here in Missouri, and they have hired a fleet of attorneys both out of the St. Louis and Kansas City offices to fight us on this case."

UM System Chief Communications Officer John Fougere confirmed the school has hired one firm, Bryan Cave, to represent both the UM curators and the UM president.
Barondes and Bukowsky said on the Loesch show that the litigation would be costly.

"I had originally envisioned a much more streamlined litigation," Barondes said. "Now, obviously, circumstances have changed, and this is going to be substantially more expensive than I had originally anticipated."

"I was originally just going to be paying this out of my retirement, my savings, but certainly circumstances have changed," Barondes said. "I am at the moment trying to get some outside funding."

One source to help cover the lawsuit's costs appears to be GoFundMe, a website that helps people solicit donations for their causes. Bukowsky has created a page for Barondes' case there. As of Jan. 11, about $5,000 had been donated by 103 people.

**Sentiment on campus**

Ben Trachtenberg — chair of the MU Faculty Council and an associate professor in MU’s School of Law — said he hadn't conducted a formal survey, but the feedback he's received from faculty had been negative toward allowing guns on campus. He said he's heard faculty members arguing against guns on campus because students who drink alcohol could make bad decisions with weapons.

Trachtenberg said some faculty members had questioned how effective guns on campus would be for self defense. Some faculty, he said, believe there could be confusion about who the real threat is if numerous people are carrying guns. He said other faculty members have expressed concern about guns being stolen.

And some faculty members, Trachtenberg said, would be afraid to come to campus if people could legally carry guns.

Faculty Council has not voted or even debated the issue, he said. At some point, the group might weigh in.

“I don’t think the folks who want to allow guns are arguing in bad faith," Trachtenberg said. "I think the question is: What are the risks, and what are the benefits? How much protection, if any, would we get from lawful carrying versus how great would be the risk of tragic mishap?"

Tim Evans, chair of the MU Campus Safety Committee, said the group hadn't made a recommendation on the issue. The group advises the vice chancellor for campus operations on policies and procedures relating to the safety and elimination of campus hazards, according to the committee's website. Barondes is one of five faculty members of the group.

Evans said he suspects the topic of guns on campus might come up at one of the multiple committee meetings scheduled for this semester. He's heard negative opinions from faculty about legally allowing guns at MU, but he also knows that there are some faculty who feel very differently.
Evans said he hadn't made up his mind yet on the question.

"I'm interested in what's best for the total population at MU and what policies will make the MU campus a safer place for students, faculty, staff and visitors," he said, adding that he would seek the expertise and advice of people with greater experience in campus security.

More than a dozen MU students and staff interviewed in the fall semester presented no clear consensus about guns on campus.

Those around MU who support guns on campus said they believe more guns could offer more safety. Some, like sophomore Elane Edwards, said they believed that if faculty carried guns, then violence could be responded to quickly.

"I feel like we would have less casualties on the campus," Edwards said, "if a professor was able to take out a gun and end it right then and there."

Allen Klote, a facilities attendant in the Department of Student Services, said he has mixed feelings about guns in general, but he agrees with allowing conceal-and-carry on campus. "These students need to be protected," he said.

Many of those who were opposed to having guns on campus talked about recent mass shootings, and some said they felt guns on campus could contribute to a culture of fear. "Just like Oregon," senior Jernia Davis said, "it's always a scary situation when you hear about a gun on campus, and you never know what's going to happen."

Sophomore John Fennewald said he doesn't support guns on campus because he thinks guns would give people the wrong impression of campus safety and might offend those who don't like guns.

"It creates an idea that campus is not safe when, in reality, it is," Fennewald said.

Supervising editor is Katherine Reed.
COLUMBIA — On Jan. 4, President Barack Obama announced an executive action regarding gun control.

It will not change gun laws in Missouri anytime soon. The action aims to reinforce existing laws, improve background checks and encourage more spending on gun technology and mental health treatment.

The president also cited a Johns Hopkins study that correlated Missouri’s repeal of a 2007 law with an increase in gun-related deaths. Before a section of statute was removed in 2007, the law required any prospective gun owner to obtain a permit from the county sheriff before buying a firearm.

According to the Johns Hopkins study, Missouri had an increase in gun-related homicides after the law was repealed.

What else should you know about the president's executive order and gun laws in Missouri?

Here’s a guide to understanding them.

1. What are President Obama’s “New Executive Actions to Reduce Gun Violence and Make Our Communities Safer”?

President Obama's essentially did these things in his executive action:

- Reminded the American people of the laws surrounding licensing for those who sell firearms.
- Announced that the FBI will hire more than 200 examiners and staff members to help operate background checks more efficiently at the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). This process has already started, FBI spokeswoman Bridget Patton said.
- Proposed a $500 million investment to increase access to mental health care. “In addition to helping people get the treatment they need,” Obama said, “We must make sure we keep guns out of the hands of those who are prohibited by law from having them.”
- Urged the departments of Defense, Justice and Homeland Security to sponsor gun technology research.
2. Obama cited Missouri in his executive speech. What was that about?

Here’s what he said:

"Since Missouri repealed a law requiring comprehensive background checks and purchase permits, gun deaths have increased to almost 50 percent higher than the national average. One study found, unsurprisingly, that criminals in Missouri now have easier access to guns."

Obama was referring to the 2007 repeal of Missouri Revised Statute 571.0090.1. Previously, anyone wanting to buy a firearm had to apply for and receive a permit from the sheriff’s office. The repeal of the law ended the permit process.

The study Obama referenced was done by the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, which found that from 2007 to 2010 (after the repeal of the Missouri law), the annual firearm homicide rate rose 23 percent. Obama might have been including gun suicides in the 50 percent figure, but that's unclear from the text of his speech.

Research has also linked the repeal of the permit law in 2007 to a 16.1 percent increase in suicides by gun.

3. Who enforces firearms law?

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It has field offices across the country, with headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Obama said in the executive action that his “FY 2017 budget will include funding for 200 new ATF agents and investigators to help enforce our gun laws.”

4. Who can sell firearms?

According to Missouri law, which refers to U.S. Code, anyone “engaged in the business of selling firearms,” which includes licensed dealers and private sellers.

5. Who is a licensed dealer, and who is a private seller?

The jargon: “The term 'engaged in the business' means … as applied to a dealer in firearms, as defined in section 921(a)(11)(A), a person who devotes time, attention, and labor to dealing in firearms as a regular course of trade or business with the principal objective of livelihood and profit through the repetitive purchase and resale of firearms, but such term shall not include a person who makes occasional sales, exchanges, or purchases of firearms for the enhancement of a personal collection or for a hobby, or who sells all or part of his personal collection of firearms.”

What this means:
A "licensed dealer" is someone who sells firearms for a living, even part-time, according to the ATF. With this license, a seller is required by law to:

- Perform background checks on prospective firearms buyers.
- Maintain records of all gun sales.
- Make records available to law enforcement for inspection.
- Report multiple sales.
- Report theft or loss of firearms.

A "private seller" is someone who is a firearms hobbyist or collector. Selling part or all of a personal collection also falls into this category.

Note that the private seller does not have to perform background checks but can hire a licensed dealer to do that. These private sales commonly are completed online or at a gun show. This means that anyone living in Missouri who is of age can legally buy a firearm online without undergoing a background check.

6. What is the “private sale” or “gun show” loophole?

Many people who fall into the category of “engaged in the business of dealing in firearms” don’t sell firearms in a brick-and-mortar store. Instead, they sell firearms online or at temporary stands at gun shows. Many of these sellers don’t apply for licenses. But they should.

Why? Because these sellers have a “principal objective of livelihood and profit” through their gun sales.

These kinds of sales are illegal under Missouri and federal law.

For more information, check out the ATF handbook at [atf.gov/file/100871/download](http://atf.gov/file/100871/download).

7. Who runs background checks?

The FBI’s National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

This department has three business days to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to deny the transfer of a firearm purchase. If the FBI doesn’t complete the background check by the fourth day, the potential buyer can purchase the firearm.

8. What is the NICS looking for?

According to Missouri law and U.S. Code, you cannot buy a gun if:

- You’ve been convicted of a felony.
- You’re a fugitive from justice.
- You’re an “alien illegally or unlawfully in the United States” or with a nonimmigrant visa.
- You're intoxicated or in a drugged condition.
- You've been found to be “mentally incompetent.”
- You were dishonorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces.
- You're younger than 18 and don't have parental or a guardian's consent.

9. Sellers must transfer their firearms to a purchaser who passes a background check.

According to Missouri law, it is a crime to refuse to sell a firearm to a purchaser who isn’t barred from possessing a firearm.

10. Health care professionals have limitations on inquiring or revealing patient information related to firearms.

According to Missouri law, health care professionals cannot inquire or document whether a patient owns or has access to a firearm. If health care professionals do know if a patient owns a firearm, they cannot notify the government.

11. If you want to carry a concealed weapon in public, do you need a permit?

Yes, according to Missouri law. It is illegal to knowingly carry a concealed weapon in public without a concealed carry permit.

12. How do you get a concealed carry permit in Missouri?

According to Boone County Sheriff's Office:

- You must be 18 or older, or a member or spouse of a member of the U.S. armed forces.
- Be a Missouri resident.
- Pass a firearms training course.
- Pass a background check.
- Pay a fee.

The permit is good for five years and can be renewed.

13. Who can openly carry a firearm in Missouri?

The jargon: “Any person who has a valid concealed carry endorsement issued prior to August 28, 2013, or a valid concealed carry permit, and who is lawfully carrying a firearm in a concealed manner, may briefly and openly display the firearm to the ordinary sight of another person, unless the firearm is intentionally displayed in an angry or threatening manner, not in necessary self defense.”

What it means: You need a valid concealed carry permit to openly carry a firearm. The weapon cannot be presented in a threatening manner.

Also, last summer, Amendment 5 was upheld. It prevents local government bodies from prohibiting open carry.
14. What about guns in elementary and secondary schools?

Teachers and administrators at elementary and secondary schools can carry concealed firearms by passing a training program and becoming “school protection officers.” The governor and Congress debated this issue in 2014.

15. What about guns at MU?

Royce de R. Barondes, an MU law professor, has filed a suit against the University of Missouri System Board of Curators and former President Tim Wolfe to end the ban on concealed carry on campus. Barondes hopes to overturn the campus gun ban, according to Missourian reporting. (See the related story in this package.)

Supervising editor Katherine Reed.

Embattled and Leaving (Eventually)

No MU Mention

Tom Rochon might have appeared to have weathered the storm that surrounded his presidency at Ithaca College last fall. He endured no-confidence votes by students and faculty members to get to the holidays, and went so far as to posit in an essay that leaders facing criticism (as he was) for racially hostile or otherwise flawed campus environments should "step up" to confront the issues rather than "step down" and give up.

Apparently he changed his mind.

Rochon announced on Thursday that he will leave the presidency of the upstate New York private college, whose staff council was in the midst of a vote in which it was likely to join Ithaca's students and professors in expressing their dissatisfaction with his leadership. He said he is proud of the work he has done at Ithaca, but believes it needs a "fresh start" under a new leader.

Those who had called for Rochon to leave expressed, sometimes in rather nasty terms, relief and satisfaction that he was leaving. But many of them were surprised and
disappointed, too, by the fact that Rochon and the college's Board of Trustees decided that he will stay on for another 18 months, until July 2017, to "enable the Board of Trustees the necessary time to organize and execute a thoughtful and comprehensive search for my successor."

"I really think that’s a poor decision on the part of the Board of Trustees to wait that long," said Dominick Recckio, a senior communication management and design major and president of the student government. "I have no idea how you can still lead a place where 70 percent of the people don’t have confidence in you."

Ithaca was among the numerous college campuses that experienced conflict over racial incidents and attitudes last fall. Ithaca's troubles emerged from a pair of incidents -- one in which two alumni referred to a third, a black woman, as “the savage” at a college event (after she said, “I had this savage hunger” to build a successful career), and another involving an unaffiliated fraternity that encouraged students to wear “’90s thuggish-style” clothing and “bling” to a party.

Many students were troubled by the campus administration's slow response to the first incident -- a statement from Rochon condemning the statements did not emerge for four days -- and by Rochon’s standoffish and combative reactions to student protests. More than 70 percent of participating Ithaca students voted no confidence in Rochon in November, and three-quarters of voting faculty followed suit in mid-December.

A survey of administrative employees published in mid-December by Ithaca's Staff Council revealed that 55 percent of the staff perceived a "lack of accountability" in upper administration, and more than half of staff members described their own morale as low or semi-low (56 percent) and morale in their department as low or semi-low (63 percent).

Those votes didn’t seem to deter Rochon. During the fall, he frequently said he had no intention of leaving, and he published an op-ed in The Chronicle of Higher Education in November suggesting that presidents who resign in the face of such protests are derelict in their duty.

Rochon's announcement on Thursday came in the middle of a daylong faculty retreat on unrelated issues, said Peter Rothbart, a professor of music and chair of the council. "Let's just say it sort of blew up my agenda."

He said that despite Rochon's statements suggesting otherwise, the president's resignation was not shocking. "I knew that the Board of Trustees was actively investigating the situation and coming up with a plan," Rothbart said.
Ithaca officials did not respond to requests seeking comment from Rochon or the trustees.

But the board's leaders said in a message to the campus that the 18-month window in which Rochon will continue to lead Ithaca will enable a smooth transition. "The higher education landscape has changed dramatically over the last 10 years, and Tom has given the board the time it will need to shape the role for the college's next leader, thoroughly review candidates and, finally, select our new president, without the need for an interim leader," wrote Tom Grape and David Lissy, the board's chair and vice chair, respectively.

Rothbart rejected as too speculative a reporter's question about whether Rochon could lead the campus effectively for 18 months, given the dissatisfaction that key constituent groups have expressed about him. He offered only a story about his days as an "old road musician," in which the leader of a band he was in fired the band but kept it intact for two weeks to fulfill the obligation of one last gig. The music it produced during that time was among the best it had ever played, Rothbart said.

"It's amazing the things can come when the pressure is relieved," he said. Recckio, the student government leader, offered a story of his own, closer to the situation at hand. He described the scene at the last campus protest of 2015, after students had ended their occupation of a campus building and staged a protest on the campus's Free Speech Rock.

With Rochon watching from the steps of the administration building, students -- boisterously calling for his resignation -- repeatedly asked him to join them for a discussion. Instead, with his own megaphone, Rochon said, "I can see and hear you from here," demurring several times (and arguing with the students via bullhorns) before finally making his way to join the students.

"It's hard to imagine that any trustees who saw that video could believe that the person who did that -- who proved then that he was afraid of his own students -- can really continue to lead this place," Recckio said.

The only way "anything productive" can happen at Ithaca, said Susan Resneck Pierce, a former college president who consults on leadership issues, is if "there's a decision by everybody involved that they're going to be constructive."

Recent history may raise doubts about whether that's possible, but the parties are saying the right things. Rochon's announcement expressed an interest "in working with the college community over the next 18 months in a constructive and collaborative
way, making progress on issues of diversity and inclusion, shared governance, and decision making.”

A statement from the Faculty Council said it, too, "looks forward to working with all constituencies in advancing the best interests of the college."

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Embattled President of Ithaca College Will Step Down

No MU Mention

Thomas R. Rochon, the embattled president of Ithaca College, will retire next year, according to a message Mr. Rochon sent on Thursday to the New York campus.

Students protesting racial injustices at the college began demanding Mr. Rochon’s resignation months ago. Until Thursday he had resisted calls to resign, writing in *The Chronicle* that college leaders had a responsibility to “step up rather than step down.”

Faculty members also voted no confidence in Mr. Rochon.

“I recognize that colleges evolve through eras defined by new opportunities and challenges,” Mr. Rochon wrote in his message. “I believe it is best for IC to be led in the future by a president chosen by the board specifically to make a fresh start on these challenges, including those that became so apparent to us all last semester.”

He added that he intended to use the remainder of his presidency to make “progress on issues of diversity and inclusion, shared governance, and decision making.”