Board of Curators appointee appears before committee

Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 2:00 pm

One of four new University of Missouri Board of Curators appointees is one step closer to confirmation by the Missouri Senate.

David Steelman, a Republican from Rolla, appeared before the Senate Gubernatorial Appointments Committee on Wednesday. The panel questions people appointed by Gov. Jay Nixon before they are brought in front of all 34 senators for a final confirmation vote.

Sen. Dan Brown, R-Rolla, said that while he has sponsored many appointees from his district, “none was I more honored to sponsor than David Steelman.” Steelman is a managing and senior partner at Steelman, Gaunt and Horsefield in Rolla.

“He has the right attitude to move the university forward but do it to where kids get a world-class education at a cost they can afford,” Brown said.

Steelman also received high praise from Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, who commended his ability to bring “independent judgment” to the board.

“I think it’s impossible to overestimate the value of the University of Missouri,” Steelman told the committee.

University of Missouri curators to hear revised fee proposal

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

The University of Missouri Board of Curators will meet Thursday to hear updated information about supplemental fees and tuition increases for the 2015-16 school year before a vote at the Feb. 5-6 meeting in Columbia.

The board first heard about the preliminary fee proposals at the December meeting, but UM System President Tim Wolfe said in a letter to the board that administrators have since refined the
supplemental fee proposals. The administration lowered the number of fees from 25 to 18 systemwide, and five of those are for professional or graduate students.

“We just wanted a longer discussion between the president and the chancellors to ensure we are on the same page as far as the supplemental fees were concerned,” UM System spokesman John Fougere said.

THE COLLEGE FIX

(Conservative, student-reported blog about higher education)

MISSOURI COLLEGES COULD BE PUNISHED FOR STIFLING STUDENT SPEECH UNDER LEGISLATION

by MATT LAMB - LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO on JANUARY 15, 2015

Must let students ‘spontaneously and contemporaneously assemble’

Missouri could become the second state in the nation to give college students broad rights to express themselves on campus without the maze of restrictions and permits typically required for demonstrations.

The Campus Free Expression Act, introduced by Republican lawmakers in the state house and senate, deems outdoor areas of public universities “traditional public forums” that are protected by the First Amendment – in effect, eliminating “free speech zones.”

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, a Democrat, signed into law the same protections for Virginia students last spring. That bill passed both houses of the General Assembly unanimously, as The College Fix reported.

The identical Missouri bills (SB-93, HB-408 and HB-436) would make permits moot: Any “time, place, and manner restrictions” imposed by public schools must still allow “members of the university community to spontaneously and contemporaneously assemble.”

Public institutions can impose restrictions “in service of a compelling institutional interest only when such restrictions employ clear, published, content- and viewpoint-neutral criteria and provide for ample alternative means of expression,” the bills state.

Schools that interfere with student speech could be dragged to court under the bills, either by the state attorney general or students whose speech was squelched. They would be on the hook for damages starting at $500 and another $50 per day for continued violation, plus attorney’s fees and reasonable court costs.
EdEmery.Facebook

The Fix could not reach Sen. Ed Emery or Reps. Rick Brattin and Mike Moon, the bill sponsors, for comment. All three are conservative Republicans, and Emery and Moon graduated from Missouri state universities.

The legislation is much needed considering the climate on many campuses towards free speech, Joe Cohn, legislative and policy director for the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), told The Fix in a phone interview. FIRE helped craft Virginia’s legislation.

Court cases that FIRE brought against Modesto Junior College and the University of Hawaii-Hilo – for stopping students from passing out copies of the Constitution – show that students need legal protections to speak on campus, Cohn said.

“The bill is spurred by the fact that a growing number of institutions are limiting speech to so-called ‘free-speech zones,’” and restrictions are happening with “alarming frequency,” Cohn said.

On-campus politicking to overturn new tobacco ordinance

The bills would be a boon to campus critics of tobacco restrictions in Columbia, Mo., home to the University of Missouri, student Dontae Kennedy-Harrison told The Fix in a phone interview. The Fix reported that the Columbia city council raised the legal age of purchase to 21 for tobacco and certain nicotine products last month.

“Everybody on the campus was angry” about the new tobacco rules, Kennedy-Harrison said. If the bills become law, students could speak out against the restrictions and pass out literature on campus without limitation, he said.

A member of campus conservative and libertarian groups including Turning Point, College Republicans and Students for Liberty, Kennedy-Harrison said his outreach efforts in the past have been stifled by bureaucracy, requiring him to get permits and approval from administrators.

“We could have political forums, we could have spontaneous ones” where multiple sides could share beliefs, he said, noting that his campus has earned a “red-light” rating from FIRE for anti-speech policies.

Missouri schools generally have a poor track record on speech, according to FIRE: Two University of Missouri campuses, the University of Central Missouri, Missouri University of Science and Technology and Washington University have red-light ratings.

Central Missouri, for example, has a policy prohibiting “harassment” and “hateful discourse,” neither of which is

“Students have the right to engage with other learners in an environment ... free from unlawful intimidation, harassment and discrimination,” the policy states: “Students have the responsibility to treat others equitably, to refrain from hateful discourse.”

College Fix reporter Matt Lamb is a student at Loyola University-Chicago.
15 Leadership Lessons From the SEC Coach of the Year

Some told him it was a sleeping giant. But others told him to run as far away as possible.

The season, 2001. The school, the University of Missouri. The coach, Gary Pinkel.

Throughout the 17 seasons prior to 2001, Mizzou football had winning seasons in only two of them. The only bowl appearances were those same two winning seasons. Four coaches guided the program during that time. Instability, frustration, even apathy were the words that were most commonly used to describe the fanbase.

But Coach Pinkel chose to see the giant that was dormant. In his 14 seasons as Mizzou's head coach, Pinkel has led his team to 10 bowl games, winning six of them.

He has sent countless players to the NFL. In 2014, he won the SEC Coach of the Year award. His teams have won the SEC East the last two seasons. His teams have won 23 games over that two-year period, the most in program history. He has the most wins in program history.

Sitting here in early 2015, with the benefit of hindsight, it would be easy to see the 14-year overnight success of the Mizzou football program.

What we would miss though is the "remarkably difficult", as Pinkel describes it, effort of changing course in a losing culture.

These aren’t secret or groundbreaking new ideas. They’re not specific to football or even athletics. They are core fundamental leadership lessons that work in business, in athletics and even at home. I’m sure there are plenty of other leadership fundamentals, but here are 15 that Pinkel has led with since his arrival 14 seasons ago:

1. **Demand Excellence.**
   Easy isn’t excellent. Excellence takes hard work, grit and determination. But Pinkel demands it from himself, his staff and his players. In all facets from practice, class work, preparation and their play.

2. **Have a Plan for Everything.**
He calls his mentor, Coach Don James from the University of Washington, a "meticulous and incredibly organized" coach. From the day he arrived at Mizzou, he had a plan that he immediately put into place.

3. **Make No Excuses.**
If you make excuses for yourself and others in your network, you set yourself up for failure. Don't enable, instead equip them to perform at their highest potential.

4. **Focus Relentlessly.**
We live in a disconnected, fragmented and highly distracted age. Pinkel encourages his staff and players to focus intensely on what is immediately in front of them. Blocking out what could be, what others think and other distracting voices for what their mission is at that moment.

5. **It's Not About You.**
To build and then sustain success at the highest level, it takes an entire team on the same page. In Pinkel's program, players are encouraged to be a great teammate more than they are encouraged to be amazing individually. Putting the needs of the team over the desires of the individual is critical.

6. **Keep It In The Family.**
In any team or family environment, conflict will arise. Fights, drama, missed expectations. Pinkel demands that everyone involved in his program (from the academic to the athletic) do their job and keep things in the family. Don't gossip, complain or cut down behind someone's back.

7. **Establishing Trust is Everything.**
Without a foundation of trust and the knowledge that Pinkel has his players' best in mind, they won't follow him. He goes as far as saying, "everything we do is built on trust." Do the hard work to establish trust.

8. **Instill A Culture of Accountability and Responsibility.**
Coach says if you're 30 seconds late, you're late. If you do drugs or allow your grades to slip, there are clear consequences. To lead, you must hold the entire team accountable to the mission of the organization.

9. **Evaluate Everything.**
Having a plan is great. Having a rigid, unchangeable plan is foolish. In Pinkel's program, everything is up for evaluation at all times. From the meals they eat, to the way they train, to the way they handle media requests, to what play they call on 4th-and-1, finding a better way is the mission.

10. **Push Through Adversity.**
It hasn’t been all sunshine and roses during Pinkel’s regime.

As soon as you hit some adversity, you tend fall back into old habits. His teams had losing records during each of his first two seasons. He went 5-7 in his first year in the SEC and he was on everyone’s "hot seat".

Pinkel says when adversity hits, and it will hit all of us. That is when we’re tempted to revert to bad habits, question the foundation and become self-centered instead of team-centered. How did Pinkel respond to the latest adversity? By winning 12 games his second year in the SEC and 11 games the third year.

A lack of clarity is a death wish to long-term health of any organization. Be ridiculously clear about expectations and who is responsible for what. Dialogue and debate internally about the plan, but when it’s time to execute the plan, ensure that everyone is on the same page.

12. There Is No Quick Fix.
It takes a stubborn commitment to your vision to ensure big changes and big results. A quick fix is a myth and anything worth doing will likely require amazing persistence.

13. Get 5 Percent Better Each Year.
Especially at this time of year, many of us make huge, sweeping plans, goals and resolutions. Big goals are awesome, but Pinkel encourages his staff to get 5% better each year. 5% is doable and it builds on the strong foundation that already exists. Don’t believe that total reinvention is needed where possibly you’re only a few steps away from a major breakthrough.

Admit when you make a mistake. Allow your team to see your shortcomings. Invite them into your decision making process. Don’t lie, be honest to them.

15. Love Them.
In an era of performance, demands, and cynicism, love (especially for a football coach) stands out like a sore thumb. But Pinkel argues that, without a foundation of loving his players, they won’t respect and follow him. On Senior Day every year, you can find Pinkel at the edge of the player’s tunnel hugging each of his seniors as tears stream down their faces.

As Pinkel says on his website, "Today is the best preparation for what tomorrow may bring." Leaders, make 2015 the best year yet.
KMBC-TV (ABC) – Kansas City, Mo. - We’re addicted to our phones. Researchers at the University of Missouri found when iPhone users are away from their devices, their blood pressure and heart rate spikes. The separation anxiety is so bad it causes serious physiological and psychological effects for some.

[Link to video: http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=2105&DateTime=1%2F14%2F2015+5%3A24%3A11+PM&Term=%22university+of+missouri%22+-%22st%2E+louis%22+-%22kansas+city%22&PlayClip=TRUE]

Forgetting Title IX?

January 15, 2015

By Jake New

NO MU MENTION

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. – Recent and upcoming changes to National Collegiate Athletic Association rules -- including a new pilot program that will provide travel expenses to the families of basketball players who play in national championship games -- are rife with “serious Title IX complications,” a panel of gender equity experts said here Wednesday.

“We’re seeing a sea change in college athletics and people are scrambling,” Erin Buzuvis, director of the Center for Gender and Sexuality Studies at Western New England University, said during presentation at the NCAA’s annual convention. "And the Title IX voice in all of this is not strong.”

The NCAA announced last week that it will help cover the expenses of basketball players' family members who travel to the men's and women's Final Four games this spring. The NCAA also granted a
waiver that allowed the College Football Playoff to help cover the expenses of families traveling to Monday's national championship football game.

Under the new pilot program, the NCAA will pay up to $3,000 in travel, hotel and meal expenses for family members of each athlete who competes in the Final Four. The association will pay as much as $4,000 for families of athletes playing in the championship games. The NCAA's waiver allowed the College Football Playoff to provide $3,000 in assistance to families of football players participating in the national championship.

The change is among several the NCAA is making in response to pressure it's under to provide more support for athletes. At the convention this week, the newly autonomous "power five" conferences will vote on several reforms, including providing better medical, financial, and academic support to athletes.

As many of these changes stem from criticism surrounding revenue-generating male sports, Buzuvis said there seems to be little discussion about how they will comply with the federal law barring gender discrimination.

"The NCAA is like the donor who gives your men’s basketball team free shoes," she said “That’s great. Free shoes are great. But then you have to factor that in and potentially reach into your own pocket to buy a women’s team new shoes.”

When it comes to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the source of the funds used to provide benefits to athletes does not matter, Buzuvis said. That a fancy, new men’s locker room was entirely funded by donations is not a permissible nondiscriminatory reason to not build a comparable locker room for female athletes.

Similarly, a benefit provided by the NCAA is no different from a benefit directly provided by an institution, said Janet Judge, president of Sports Law Associates and a former NCAA enforcement official, who joined Buzuvis in a sparsely attended panel discussion.

"It doesn’t matter where the money comes from,” Judge said. “It counts.”

The NCAA as an organization is not subject to Title IX, but its member institutions are. That means it’s legal for the NCAA to offer a waiver or aid to a men’s team and not to a women’s. The NCAA does provide the new travel grant to both men’s and women’s basketball teams, but it doesn’t legally have to.

Judge said Title IX complications could arise if only one of an institution’s basketball teams advanced to the Final Four. “What if the women’s team doesn’t make it to the Final Four, but the volleyball team does?” she said. “I think there is a very serious concern there, too.” To that end, the NCAA now allows institutions and conferences to adopt new rules to allow for travel aid for any championship game. If an institution created such a rule, however, it would have to come up with that additional money on its own.

That would be particularly challenging if the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights was to view the football playoff travel grant -- offered by the College Football Playoff, but permitted by the NCAA through a waiver -- as financial aid of some kind. The large size of a football team means that more than $300,000 in extra benefits could be given to male athletes.
“If you’re one of these lucky schools to go to the playoff,” Buzuvis said, “this could put you in a situation where you can’t really do anything to be compliant.”

The College Football Playoff may find a way around this rule, Judge said, as it’s a different entity from the NCAA and the money could be provided directly to the student and their families, not distributed through an institution. But it’s still unclear how the Office for Civil Rights would view such a loophole, Buzuvis said.

“I do have to wonder how deeply the NCAA was thinking about Title IX with this otherwise benevolent action,” she said. “It sets up schools for some unintended consequences.”

Amy Wilson, an associate professor of education at Illinois College, said she hopes that the NCAA’s members consider Title IX as they vote on new legislation, at this convention and beyond, that would create a number of new benefits for athletes.

While football, for example, is often at the forefront of the conversation about improving athlete insurance and health benefits – an issue featured in Division I legislation to be voted on this week -- women’s soccer also ranks as one of the riskiest college sports.

“No legislation or policies should be adopted without saying first, ‘what does this do in terms of gender equity,’” Wilson said.

Columbia advances to semifinals in Georgetown University Energy Prize

By Andrew Denney

Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 3:43 pm

Columbia is one of 50 communities that have made it to the semifinal round of the two-year, $5 million Georgetown University Energy Prize, a competition to challenge small and mid-sized American communities to develop programs to reduce their energy consumption.

While the city of Columbia submitted the application to take part in the competition, it has partnered with Boone County, Columbia Public Schools, the University of Missouri, Central Missouri Community Action, Ameren Missouri, Boone Electric Cooperative and the local chapter of the League of Women Voters in a campaign called the CoMo Energy Challenge to take part in the contest.

The competition so far hasn’t been too stiff: there were 52 communities in the quarterfinal round, chosen from a pool of 72 applications. According to the website for the energy prize, the semifinal round is scheduled to last until the end of 2016. The only other Missouri community currently in the competition is Bates County, located 60 miles south of Kansas City.
Since last spring, the coalition of local organizations behind Columbia’s campaign has been working to create some type of competition to encourage residents to reduce energy use.

Barbara Buffaloe, the city’s sustainability director, said the group is now considering a competition that would divide up residents by the CPS elementary school boundaries in which they reside and pit those districts against one another. Energy usage by residences, CPS-owned buildings and city-owned buildings within those districts will be measured and Buffaloe said energy usage by commercial and industrial buildings will not be considered.

Buffaloe said using elementary school boundaries would allow the campaign to include all of the households in the Columbia city limits and would emphasize the role of the elementary schools as a “town hall” within their districts. She also said it's relatively easy to get kids excited about helping the environment.

“We know that kids are really passionate about environmental issues,” Buffaloe said. “I don’t know if they know, on some level, it’s benefitting them for the future or if they’re just great little people.”

Buffaloe said her office has already begun to collect 2013 and 2014 energy usage data from Ameren, Boone Electric and the city’s Water and Light Department to establish a baseline for energy consumption. She said energy usage at buildings on the MU campus — which are powered by the coal-fired MU Power Plant — would not be counted.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Echoes of early hearing loss: How a cochlear implant can help

By Jack Howard
January 14, 2015 | 11:38 p.m. CST

After birth, a baby’s hearing is almost immediately screened. In a few months, their slightly larger ears will be tested again more thoroughly. There are solutions for children who have varying degrees of hearing loss. MU researcher Mary Fagan said early detection is important for the development of a child with hearing loss. She studies how cochlear implants at a year might stave off speech delays that echo beyond a child’s early development.

Parents’ hearing may not be a factor

For children with hearing loss, a vast majority of their parents can hear. This is initially difficult for the scientific community to understand with larger estimates on hearing loss inheritance. Children with
parents who have hearing loss are benefit from a parent with similar hearing loss because sign language may

**Hearing detection quantifies loss**

If the initial screening fails, then a specialist will do a more thorough screening. This includes a test before 3 months to determine if there’s permanent loss. The specialist determines the degree of the loss by using computers to measure the response of tiny probes placed inside the ear. The probes measure the sound that might be blocked by fluids in the canal. For older infants, behavioral tests such as responsiveness are included.

**Cochlear implants may be used at 12 months**

For people with hearing loss, a cochlear implant imitates the sounds in their environment. It doesn’t replicate sounds, Fagan said. There are around 70,000 people who have implants, and more than half are children. Fagan said her research has shown some examples of children overcoming developmental delays that come with hearing loss if they have an implant when they’re 12 months old. That’s the earliest age when the FDA allows the procedure.

Proposed compact could help more doctors receive a license

By HOPE KIRWAN

A doctor consults with a patient using telemedicine. The expanding use of telemedicine has caused more doctors to apply for medical licenses in multiple states.

There is a long list of to-do’s when applying for a medical license in Missouri. Applicants have to provide detailed verification of their degrees, residency and previous work experience. Tack on several months for the state medical board to review all these items, and the whole process can take a lot of time.

Most physicians go through this process when they are first applying for a medical license. But the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) found that many doctors don’t stop at one license.

“About 15 percent of physicians in this country have two licenses," said Lisa Robin, FSMB's Chief Advocacy Officer. "About six percent have more than two; some up to 20 (licenses) depending on what specialty they are in and if they are a telemedicine provider.”

Telemedicine providers often use video calling or other technology to treat patients across state lines. To do so, they have to have a license in the state where their patient resides. While there is a slightly expedited process for established physicians, for the most part doctors have to go through the same verification process in every state.

That means more paperwork and more waiting.

But the FSMB has proposed a new way to license physicians that would speed up this process.

“If the state chooses to participate, it would create this compact whereby eligible physicians could very easily apply to practice in multiple states,” Robin said.

Under the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact a doctor in Missouri who wanted a license in Kansas, for example, would contact the Missouri medical board, which would review the doctor’s information and then make a recommendation to the Kansas medical board for the doctor to receive a license.

However, Dr. Jane Orient, Executive Director of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, said the compact would unnecessarily "supplant a state’s usual process for granting licenses."
“They would like you to think it’s a higher standard, but really it’s under the control of the Federation of State Medical Boards which is really a private organization that really credentials itself as being above other people,” Orient said.

But Dr. Karen Edison, Director of the University of Missouri’s Center for Health Policy, says the proposed standard is not unrealistic. She said the compact could help in states like Missouri that have a shortage of medical providers.

“We do need more physicians in Missouri,” Edison said. "We need more of every kind of healthcare provider and so we can use telemedicine to support them.”

Regardless, Missouri can’t participate in the compact until the General Assembly considers the issue and so far Missouri legislators haven’t mentioned the resolution as they begin this year’s legislative session.

ASK A SCIENTIST

Q: What are bacteria?

By DEANNA LANKFORD of the ReSTEM Institute

Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 2:00 pm

This question was submitted by fourth-grade students at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School.

A: “Bacteria are single-celled micro-organisms that have been on Earth for about 3.5 billion years. These tiny organisms can carry out all of life functions,” notes Ben Julius, a graduate student in biological sciences at the University of Missouri.

Bacteria live everywhere — in the soil, on surfaces in our homes, on our skin, inside our bodies and on the foods we eat every day. Some bacteria are able to live in very extreme environments. For instance, there are bacteria living in the boiling mud pots in Yellowstone National Park, at great depths within the Earth and within the oceans, while other types of bacteria are able to survive encased in ice.

Even though bacterial organisms are very small, they are able to carry out all of the functions of life. Like other living things, bacteria contain DNA, make proteins, and break down sugars and other organic compounds to release energy, reproduce and make proteins as well as other molecules such as fats and starches. Some bacteria are even able to carry out photosynthesis.

“Even though some bacteria can make us sick, many forms of bacteria are critical for life,” Julius explains. “We could not digest certain foods without the assistance of bacteria. In the environment, bacteria decompose waste and the remains of dead plants and animals and, in doing so, release nutrients back into the environment.”
Bacteria also play a critical role in the cycling of important nutrients such as nitrogen. “There is a great deal to learn about these tiny organisms; take the time to learn more about the amazing natural world around you,” Julius suggests.