UPDATE: Long-time Mizzou AD Mike Alden stepping down, Mike Slive speaks

One of the longest-tenured athletic directors in the country has decided to call it quits.

In a press release late Thursday afternoon, Missouri announced that Mike Alden's last day on the job will be Aug. 31 of this year. In his statement, Alden said that “[a]fter several months of contemplation, I have decided that it is time for a change, both for me and for the university I dearly love.”

A press conference will be held Friday morning and will feature Alden, president Bowen Loftin and Dean Michael Clay.

Even as Alden is leaving a post he has held since 1998, he won’t be leaving the university as he will transition into an instructor in the Positive Coaching Program in Mizzou’s College of Education.

While Alden can boast of numerous accomplishments during his nearly two decades as the head of Mizzou athletics, shepherding the Tigers into the SEC will likely be his lasting legacy. After a trying first season, Mizzou has claimed back-to-back SEC East titles in football the past two seasons.

Beyond the on-field success, the move to the SEC will continue to pay financial benefits to the entire athletic department long after Alden steps down.
Alden steps aside as Mizzou's AD

By Dave Matter

COLUMBIA, Mo. • Under Mike Alden’s direction, the athletics department at the University of Missouri became bigger, better and richer and ultimately led Mizzou into the Southeastern Conference. Missouri athletics are about to undergo another transition. Alden will step down as MU’s athletics director on Aug. 31, the school announced in a news release Thursday.

Alden, hired to breathe life into the department in 1998, broke the news to his staff during an abruptly called staff meeting at 4 p.m. Thursday at Mizzou Arena.

Alden, 56, will become an instructor in MU’s College of Education and participate in the Positive Coaching Program, he announced in a letter addressed to “the Mizzou Family.”

“My wife, Rockie, our son, Jake, and I have had an incredible experience at Mizzou, and this is simply our next step in our journey in Columbia,” Alden wrote in the letter. “We are proud of what we have accomplished over the past 17 years, which is a lifetime for an athletics administrator. I am most proud of our tremendous coaches, staff and student-athletes and how they represent our University with academic integrity, social responsibility and competitive excellence.”

Missouri has already launched a national search for Alden’s successor, MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said in a prepared statement.

Alden, Loftin and Daniel Clay, the dean of MU’s College of Education, have a press conference scheduled for 10:30 Friday morning.

In his letter to fans, Alden noted that his decision came after “several months of contemplation,” but the timing of his announcement arrived “out of nowhere,” according to one source with knowledge of the situation.

But it’s no secret among those close to Alden that he has always wished to teach.

Since he was introduced on July 16, 1998, as the successor to Mizzou AD Joe Castiglione, Alden has overseen tremendous growth in Mizzou athletics, including the renaissance of the football program, an explosion in athletics revenue and spending, an overhaul of the school’s athletics facilities, including Mizzou Arena, and the school’s maneuver from the Big 12 to the Southeastern Conference. Under Alden’s watch, Mizzou’s athletics budget has grown from $13.7 million to $85 million. On Sunday, Alden was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mo.

According to Alden’s contract, most recently amended in August 2012, he was under contract at Mizzou through June 30, 2019. His base salary is $301,917 with the potential to earn up to $777,976 with performance incentives.

“Over 17 years of service to the University of Missouri, Mike has transformed our athletics program into one of the nation’s best, with world class student-athletes, coaches, staff, facilities, affiliations and financial resources,” Loftin said. “He led our institution’s move to the Southeastern Conference and has been at the helm as our teams won multiple championships over the years.
“Though I’m saddened that Mike will no longer be a member of our leadership team and leading our
department of athletics, I am truly happy for him and Rockie as he embarks on a new challenge here at
Mizzou. Mike will always be part of our family.”

Upon stepping down from the AD post, Alden also will be involved in launching a Center for Global Service
Learning Leadership at Mizzou, his statement said.

“Mike has been a transformative leader for Missouri Athletics since 1998 and he has commanded national
respect across the college athletics landscape for his service on numerous NCAA committees,” SEC
commissioner Mike Slive said.

“Mike played a critical role in the transition of Missouri into the Southeastern Conference, and I will always
remember his calm demeanor, his authoritative presence and his infectious enthusiasm as he introduced the
Mizzou tradition to the SEC.”

Under his watch the last 17 years, Alden has mentored several colleagues who have become athletics directors
on other campuses and could emerge as natural candidates for the job, including Mario Moccia, who earlier
this month took over at New Mexico State after serving eight years as the AD at Southern Illinois University
Carbondale.

Virginia Tech AD Whit Babcock served as Alden’s second-in-command for several years. Ole Miss AD Ross
Bjork climbed the ranks at Mizzou under Alden, as did Southeast Missouri State AD Mark Alnutt. Current
Mizzou deputy AD Doug Gillin could be considered as an internal candidate.

Mizzou athletic director Mike Alden will resign after school year

BY TOD PALMER
01/29/2015 11:16 PM

Missouri athletic director Mike Alden, who rose the profile of the
department and spearheaded the Tigers’ transition from the Big 12 to the
Southeastern Conference while navigating through a series of
controversies, will step down Aug. 31.

Alden announced his decision Thursday afternoon in a letter to university staff. He also
revealed that he will remain in Columbia with the MU College of Education, teaching
courses in the Positive Coaching Program.
Alden told his staff that teaching had been in his plan for several years.

“After several months of contemplation, I have decided that it is time for a change ...” Alden wrote in his letter. “We are proud of what we have accomplished over the past seventeen years, which is a lifetime for an athletics administrator. I am most proud of our tremendous coaches, staff and student-athletes and how they represent our University.”

MU deputy athletic director Doug Gillin said the staff was surprised by the timing of Alden’s announcement, but not stunned by its substance.

“When we came into the office today, we didn’t know today was the day, but we’re excited for Mike and excited for his family and glad that he was able to announce this when he wanted to announce this,” Gillin said.

When Alden took over in July 1998 from Southwest Texas State as a 40-year-old, Mizzou had an athletic budget of $13.7 million. Under Alden, that figure has now grown to more than $83 million in the latest financial year, according to figures obtained by The Star.

“He’s leaving the department in a lot better shape than he found it,” said Kansas City attorney and lifelong Tigers fan Paul Blackman, a past president of the Tiger Club of Kansas City.

To get to that point, Alden survived several waves of fan criticism for his decisions, starting with his orchestration of legendary basketball coach Norm Stewart’s retirement and hiring of Quin Snyder in 1999.

The Ricky Clemons fiasco — jailhouse tapes obtained by the media that included charged recordings between the former Missouri basketball player and the wife of the university president, who said her husband didn’t support Alden — was a colossal embarrassment. Alden also faced criticism for reinstating Clemons to competition one game after he was charged with felonious domestic assault. Alden eventually revoked Clemons’ scholarship after he violated terms of his work release.
The death of football player Aaron O’Neal during a voluntary workout in 2005 was one of the football program’s darkest hours. MU settled a wrongful death lawsuit.

But another low point was the school’s response to allegations of sexual assaults by football player Derrick Washington and basketball player Mike Dixon. Washington was dismissed from the football team in 2010 after he was charged with felony deviate sexual assault, which he was later convicted of. Dixon left the basketball team in 2012 after two sexual assault allegations against him were uncovered, though no charges were filed in either case.

Also troubling was Missouri’s inaction in the case of swimmer Sasha Menu Courey, who alleged she was raped by football players in 2010. She committed suicide a year later.

Basketball coaches came and went, the latest was Frank Haith, who sat out the first five games last season serving an suspension for NCAA rules violations that occurred when he was at the University of Miami.

“Clearly basketball is not going to be his legacy …” Blackman said. “That’s not what he’s going to hang his hat on, but football still drives the bus and there’s not much to complain about there.”

He will leave as the second-longest tenured MU athletic director, only trailing Don Faurot, the legendary football coach who led the department for 27 years from 1935-42 and 1946-66.

Alden was chosen the director of the year in 2008 by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics. He served as that organization’s president during 2014, helping lead the push for autonomy among the NCAA’s “Power Five” conferences, which want to provide more scholarship money to athletes.

More than $265 million in private donations came into the MU athletic department under Alden, including a $30 million gift following the SEC move by the Kansas City Sports Trust, the second-largest single gift in MU history.
That gift started a $200 million facility improvement plan that resulted in the new east-side expansion at Memorial Stadium. A new south end-zone complex is in the planning stages along with a new softball stadium.

Another reason for the growth in football is the success of the program under coach Gary Pinkel, who Alden hired after the 2000 season. Pinkel has led the Tigers to consecutive SEC East titles in MU’s first three years in the conference.

MU chancellor Bowen Loftin has started a national search for Alden’s successor. In 2012, Alden received a contract extension through the 2019 school year that kept his base salary at $301,917.

“Mike has transformed our athletics program into one of the nation’s best …” Loftin said in a release. “He led our move to the Southeastern Conference and has been at the helm as our teams won multiple championships over the years.

“Though I am saddened that Mike will no longer be a member of our leadership team … I am truly happy for him and (his wife), Rockie, as he embarks on a new challenge here at Mizzou. Mike will always be a part of our family.”

SEC commissioner Mike Slive, who will leave his position July 31, also had praise for Alden.

“I will always remember his calm demeanor, his authoritative presence and his infectious enthusiasm as he introduced the Mizzou tradition to the SEC,” Slive said in a release.

Alden’s legacy will be a predominantly positive one.

“It was a really impressive tenure all things considered,” Blackman said. “But for his effort, I don’t think we’re in the SEC and that’s directly attributable to fostering the football program — hiring Gary Pinkel and sticking with him. Without that, you’re not in the SEC, so that alone makes it a very successful tenure.”
Within the department, Alden is well-liked and highly regarded.

“He's invested all he has into this program ...” former Missouri basketball standout Laurence Bowers said. “We'll definitely miss him.”

*The Star's Blair Kerkhoff contributed to this report*

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/sports/college/sec/university-of-missouri/article8583947.html#storylink=cpy

---

**Missouri Athletic Director Mike Alden resigning effective Aug. 31**

By David Morrison

Thursday, January 29, 2015 at 4:15 pm

**Missouri Athletic Director Mike Alden will resign the job he's held since 1998, effective Aug. 31.**

Alden, whose tenure was marked with huge budgetary expansion and facilities improvements and who oversaw the school’s move to the Southeastern Conference, broke the news to athletic department staffers in a meeting held at 4 p.m. Thursday at Mizzou Arena.

A letter from Alden was released at 4:15 p.m. and stated his intention to step aside.

"After several months of reflection, I’ve decided it is time for a change, both for me and for the University that I so dearly love," Alden wrote in the letter. "I have informed Chancellor" R. Bowen "Loftin of my decision to step down as the Director of Athletics effective Aug. 31, 2015. My wife, Rockie, our son, Jake, and I have had an incredible experience at Mizzou and this is simply our next step in our journey in Columbia."

Alden plans to take a position as an instructor with the MU College of Education where he will participate in the Positive Coaching Program and higher education leadership courses, and he
said the College of Education, in concert with other campus partners, will be launching a Center for Global Service Learning Leadership.

As athletic director, Alden's base pay was $301,917 annually, with a possible total of up to $777,976 based on performance bonuses.

"Over 17 years of service to the University of Missouri, Mike has transformed our athletics program into one of the nation's best, with world-class student-athletes, coaches, staff, facilities, affiliations and financial resources," Loftin said in a statement. "He led our institution's move to the Southeastern Conference and has been at the helm as our teams won multiple championships over the years. Though I am saddened that Mike will no longer be a member of our leadership team and leading our Department of Athletics, I am truly happy for him and Rockie as he embarks on a new challenge here at Mizzou. Mike will always be part of our family.

"We have already begun a national search for Mike's successor and I am confident we will find a tremendous leader to carry us forward."

Alden will be best known as the key figure in Missouri’s move from the Big 12 to the SEC. But he had other notable achievements.

Alden came to Missouri after a two-year stint as the athletic director at Southwest Texas State. When he arrived, MU’s budget was $13.7 million. It is currently $85 million. While explosion in television revenue for all power-conference schools had a great deal to do with that increase, Alden’s ability to raise money for a facility-building boom was one of his strengths. In his MU bio, it says the athletic department has received $265 million in private gifts during his tenure.

Among the facilities built on his watch were Mizzou Arena, an updated and renamed Mizzou Athletic Training Complex, a training facility for gymnastics and the east-side addition to Memorial Stadium. Almost all of the venues of the MU Sports Park have received updates of some sort. MU is currently in the midst of a $200 million facilities upgrade.

Alden had a knack for hiring and developing future athletic directors, including Mississippi’s Ross Bjork, Virginia Tech’s Whit Babcock, New Mexico State’s Mario Moccia and Louisiana-Monroe's Brian Wickstrom. His current right-hand man, Doug Gillen, might well be on the same track and is the most obvious internal candidate to succeed Alden.

Alden’s biggest hire, though, was Gary Pinkel. When Alden fired Larry Smith after the 2000 season, the Tigers had compiled just two winning marks in the previous 17 years. If not at rock bottom, Missouri football was pretty close to it. Pinkel changed that, getting the Tigers to a bowl game in 2003 and missing the postseason only twice since then. Since 2007, Missouri has averaged 9.5 wins per season and finished in the nation’s top five twice.

"It’s hard for me to overstate how grateful I am for Mike Alden, and for all that he has done for me professionally and personally,” Pinkel said in a statement on his website, GaryPinkel.com, Thursday. “I’ve said it before that Mike Alden is the reason I came to Mizzou. His leadership and support for our program and for this Athletic Department has been transformational.
"I think back to when we brought our program here, it’s really amazing to see how much better things are across the board. It’s tough to see him leave, but I’m very happy for Mike and Rockie for being able to take this next step in their lives."

Missouri’s recent football success was one of the reasons the school was attractive to the SEC when conference realignment heated up. Alden’s dissatisfaction with the Big 12 was the main reason Missouri made the leap. Alden was a public critic of the Big 12’s unequal revenue sharing and unwillingness to pool its media rights in order to start a conference television network. Texas, which was planning its own television network at the time, was the biggest barrier to the Big 12 following the lead of the Big Ten in forming a TV network that could have been a cash cow for the entire league.

Missouri was rebuffed by the Big Ten in favor of Nebraska in 2010 and was forced to return sheepishly to a 10-team Big 12 — Colorado had departed at the same time for the Pac-12. But a year later, there was more conference chaos when Texas A&M left for the SEC and other schools considered bolting for the Pac-12.

Missouri emerged as a viable candidate to give the SEC a 14th member. As the only Football Bowl Subdivision school in a state of 6 million, Missouri was an attractive option, and the resurgent football program didn’t hurt the school’s cause.

There was still the matter of making it happen, though. Alden did a good job of convincing Missouri fans that the SEC was a good home, or at least that the Big 12 was a bad one. Alden had a close relationship with Brady Deaton — the chancellor at the time — and the two men won the support of the Board of Curators, who approved the decision to make the move. On Nov. 6, 2011, the SEC welcomed Missouri into the fold, ending the school’s rivalry with Kansas and its history with a conference that stretched back to 1907 under various names.

It’s a subjective matter whether the move will ultimately be considered the right one, but it does figure to be the financially prudent one. In the near future, revenue from the SEC Network is expected to lift Missouri’s budget far above what it would have been if the school stayed in the Big 12.

Missouri consistently fared well in the NCAA’s measuring stick for the retention and eligibility of athletes — the Academic Progress Rate. In the most recent report released last spring, MU’s football program tied for first in the SEC and tied for 10th nationally in APR, and 11 of the school’s 20 athletic programs posted perfect scores in the previous year.

“One of the most important things in Mike and I’s working relationship was our pledge to have our athletic program be the best in the nation competitively and the best in the nation academically,” Deaton said Thursday. "Mike was in charge to make sure student-athletes were the best in the nation academically and competitively, and I believe we achieved that.”

Alden’s tenure had its share of controversies, too, many of them having to do with the basketball program. His choice to hire Quin Snyder to replace Norm Stewart in 1999 was endlessly second-guessed, especially considering the other finalist was Bill Self, who went on to enormous success
at Kansas. Snyder did well initially, making the NCAA Tournament in his first four years, but his recruitment of Ricky Clemons ultimately led to a major embarrassment for the university, NCAA sanctions and the botched firing of Snyder. The whole mess almost cost Alden his job.

The wives of University of Missouri President Elson Floyd and assistant athletic director Ed Stewart were caught on recorded jailhouse phone calls with Clemons rooting for the downfall of Alden and the basketball coaches. Alden didn’t get along with Floyd, and the personality conflict came to a head after news got out that broadcaster Gary Link was sent to encourage Snyder to resign rather than Alden terminating Snyder himself. On the day in 2006 when Missouri was set to announce the hiring of Snyder’s replacement, Mike Anderson, part of the discussion in the Board of Curators meeting was whether Alden should be dismissed. Alden survived that fiasco, although he was back under fire five years later for the unpopular hire Anderson’s replacement, Frank Haith.

The other significant low point was the athletic department’s lack of response to cases of alleged sexual assaults by athletes. Basketball player Michael Dixon and football player Derrick Washington were accused of sexually or physically assaulting women — including athletic department tutors — at least twice each. In Dixon’s case, he wasn’t dismissed from the team until the details of the police report were publicized two years later, even though athletic department officials were aware of the alleged incident soon after it happened. It wasn’t until after ESPN did an expose of MU’s failure to conduct a Title IX investigation of the alleged rape of former swimmer Sasha Menu Courey by one or more football players that any substantial changes were made to the university’s Title IX policies.

Alden and Loftin are scheduled to hold a press conference at 10:30 a.m. Friday to discuss Alden’s move.

Some of Alden's coaches expressed their feelings about him on Thursday.

"I love the guy," Missouri wrestling Coach Brian Smith said. ... "He's really tough, and he loves to win. He loves to do things right."

Added MU softball Coach Ehren Earleywine: "Regardless of how you saw the guy or what your opinion of him was, he left the place better than he got it. That's all you can ask."

**THE KANSAS CITY STAR.**

Football success will give Mike Alden a positive bottom line when he leaves MU
A major college athletic director’s scoreboard begins with coaches hired and scandals avoided.

Everything else matters too, and many of those details can be found in Mike Alden’s 1,000-word biography on Missouri’s athletic website. But high-profile hires and avoiding hastily called news conferences to explain a disaster largely define the athletic boss.

By that standard, Alden’s tenure, which will end in August with his surprising announcement a few hours before the Tigers men’s basketball team played top-ranked Kentucky on Thursday, will be largely remembered favorably.

Alden’s word cloud runs the spectrum: Mizzou Arena, Cotton Bowl, Ricky Clemons, Board of Curators, wallflower and Big 12 would be in large text. Jumping from the page are Gary Pinkel and the SEC.

The university’s monumental change in athletic direction, resigning from the Big 12 and joining the Southeastern Conference, doesn’t happen without the football program’s strength and stability.

That’s the workmanship of Pinkel, hired by Alden in 2000.

MU football was broken. Larry Smith won in the late 1990s but couldn’t sustain it, and Alden made the move. No one was quite sure what to make of the little-known Pinkel. Alden had gone for splash the previous year when he grabbed Quin Snyder from Duke’s staff (over Tulsa’s Bill Self) to replace Norm Stewart as basketball coach.

Toledo’s Pinkel, was the choice over a group that included Mark Richt. Slowly, football was restored. It stabilized and became a consistent winner, claiming two Big 12 division titles and in 2007 coming within a half of playing for the national championship.

The winning continued and that gave Missouri and Alden strength when they would need it most. The Big 12 was on the verge of collapse in 2010 with Texas leading a wagon train to the then-Pacific-10. The Tigers were grouped in the Forgotten Five, the schools
which for a long weekend, frantically considered alternatives for their athletic futures. Big East? Mountain West?

Nebraska and Colorado left, but the Big 12 was going to survive as a 10-team league. But uncertainty struck again in 2011. A day after Oklahoma president David Boren said his school wouldn’t be a “wallflower” in the continuing realignment, Alden and then-chancellor Brady Deaton met atop the Mizzou press box to discuss the school’s conference options, and the wheels were in motion to join the SEC.

Two months later, the confetti fell at the SEC welcoming ceremony on campus.

The move would have been impossible without a football program the SEC believed brought value to its current and future media deals. This doesn’t happen without Pinkel, and Pinkel doesn’t happen without Alden.

As Missouri continues to break in with its new conference home, Alden has been tireless in his efforts to maintain a link to Kansas City unavoidably broken with the SEC switch. No Mizzou in the Big 12 Tournament meant rolling up sleeves to bring events to one of its largest fan bases.

In a two-week span this November, Mizzou will play a football game at Arrowhead and a basketball game in the CBE Classic at the Sprint Center.

Ironically, with football down early in Alden’s tenure, basketball was up. Stewart’s Tigers team made a run at the 1999 conference title, tying for second, and that would match the best finish in the team’s Big 12 history.

But although MU basketball has been to the NCAA Tournament more often than not in Alden’s tenure, most of his lowest moments involved hoops. The Clemons episode with the jailhouse tapes soundtrack was the most public stain.

Alden’s handling of Snyder’s firing, sending envoy Gary Link to deliver the news, was such a low point that on the day Mike Anderson’s contract was approved by the Board of Curators, Alden’s own job seemed in peril.
Anderson got Mizzou to an Elite Eight and himself to Arkansas, and his replacement, Frank Haith may have been the worst hire of the Alden tenure. It’s left the Tigers on a path to their worst season in decades.

The most troubling moments of Alden’s tenure have occurred in the past few years, allegations of sexual assault against star athletes Derrick Washington, who was later convicted and sent to prison, and Mike Dixon, who was never charged in two incidents. Plus there’s the disturbing inaction by Missouri, reported by ESPN, after an alleged rape of swimmer Sasha Menu Courey by one or more football players. Courey committed suicide in 2011, a year after the incident.

Earlier this year, soon after wide receiver and former No. 1 national recruit Dorial Green-Beckham was dismissed from the program after another arrest, Alden called a news conference to address the run off off-field incidents.

Even Pinkel found trouble, arrested for driving intoxicated in 2011. He was suspended and fined by Alden.

“The logo never comes off,” Alden said. “It never, ever comes off.”

Perhaps at his news conference Friday morning, Alden will explain the timing of this transition into academia. This wasn’t a lightly speculated move. With a contract set to take him into 2019, this was non-speculated, even for an athletic director who had served in this role for 17 years — an eternity in athletic director years for one stop — taking over for Oklahoma-bound Joe Castiglione in 1998.

Does bow-tie-wearing chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, hired in 2013, want his own athletic boss? He said he was “saddened,” that Alden will no longer be the boss, and there’s no reason to believe otherwise. Chancellors like their athletic departments best when they’re holding trophies and not press conferences.

There have been plenty of both occasions in Alden’s Missouri career. Because enough of the trophies were raised after football games, Alden will be remembered as an effective leader who ensured a secure future for Missouri athletics.
Key moments in Mike Alden’s MU career

01/29/2015 11:15 PM

- **July 16, 1998:** Alden is introduced as Missouri’s 15th athletic director. Alden accepts a three-year, $150,000-a-year contract and takes over a program with an annual budget of $13.7 million.

- **Sept. 3, 1998:** Alden says Hearnes Center is “tired” and deciding whether to build a new basketball arena is a priority.

- **April 1, 1999:** Legendary MU basketball coach Norm Stewart retires.

- **April 7, 1999:** Alden introduces Duke assistant Quin Snyder as Stewart’s replacement. The day before in Kansas City, Alden gives a second interview to Tulsa coach Bill Self, who leaves without a job offer.

- **Nov. 9, 2000:** The University of Missouri Board of Curators approve financial plans for a new $75 million basketball arena to be built south of Hearnes Center.

- **Nov. 30, 2000:** Gary Pinkel is introduced as football coach Larry Smith’s successor.

- **July 12, 2001:** Missouri Gov. Bob Holden approves a $35 million state commitment to build MU’s new basketball arena.

- **March 30, 2002:** After taking MU to its third Elite Eight in program history in his third season on the job, Quin Snyder declines an offer from Washington to stay in Columbia.
• **Dec. 20, 2002:** Alden gives Snyder another contract extension, through April 2008, which is worth slightly more than $1 million per year over the next five years.

• **Jan. 17, 2003:** MU point guard Ricky Clemons is charged with felonious domestic assault.

• **March 22, 2003:** On the same day Snyder’s Tigers finish their fourth straight NCAA Tournament appearance, The Star reports his program has committed more than a dozen NCAA violations.

• **Sept. 25, 2003:** NCAA delivers a “notice of inquiry” to MU regarding its men’s basketball program.

• **Oct. 11, 2003:** After two straight losing seasons, Pinkel takes down his first top-10 opponent, a 41-24 home win over No. 10 Nebraska. The Tigers finish 8-5 and reach the Independence Bowl.

• **Dec. 10, 2003:** Jailhouse phone conversations involving Clemons rock the campus. In the tapes, Clemons alleges he received money from Missouri basketball coaches; Carmento Floyd, wife of the system president, says her husband didn’t support Alden; and Amy Stewart, wife of MU associate A.D. Ed Stewart, tells Clemons she wanted to “scare” his former girlfriend, a witness in the NCAA investigation of MU.

• **May 10, 2004:** MU gets faxed copy of NCAA report, alleging one major violation: Payment of $250 to Clemons by men’s basketball assistant coach Tony Harvey. Quin Snyder remains basketball coach but assistant coaches Lane Odom and Harvey resign.

• **July 2, 2004:** Missouri self-imposes two years’ probation and other sanctions but maintains Snyder did not intentionally commit any infractions. In November, the NCAA puts the Tigers on three years’ probation and hands out a one-year ban on any member of the MU coaching staff from off-campus recruiting. MU avoids a postseason ban.

• **Nov. 19, 2004:** A month after 22-year-old Paige Laurie cut the ribbon on Missouri’s new basketball facility, the Paige Sports Arena, she is accused to have paid to have schoolwork done for her at the University of Southern California, ABC’s “20/20”
reports. Laurie is the daughter of billionaires Bill and Nancy Laurie, who donated $25 million for the $75 million arena and secured naming rights for the building. The Lauries later give back their naming rights and the building is renamed Mizzou Arena.

- **July 12, 2005:** Missouri redshirt freshman linebacker Aaron O'Neal, 19, dies following a conditioning workout. O’Neal’s family later files a wrongful-death lawsuit.

- **March 16, 2005:** Mizzou’s basketball season ends in the first round of the NIT for the second year in a row.

- **Feb. 12, 2006:** Missouri accepts Snyder’s resignation before the Tigers’ game against Kansas State. Alden denies that he had instructed broadcaster Gary Link, his special assistant, to inform Snyder that he would be fired at the end of the season. MU offers Snyder $574,000 in settlement. Both the MU chancellor and the university system launch investigations into the resignation.

- **Feb. 20, 2006:** Alden says he sent Link to ask Snyder if he “might want to step away.” An independent investigation released a month later reveals Link’s decision to deliver an ultimatum was made on his own.

- **March 24, 2006:** Stewart publicly questions whether Alden should keep his job.

- **March 26, 2006:** A news conference to introduce Mike Anderson as Snyder’s replacement is held off while the Board of Curators determine Alden’s future. Alden doesn’t learn of the meeting until he arrives home after walking his dogs. He keeps his job and Anderson is introduced.

- **May 4, 2006:** A University of Missouri systems curator suggests greater supervision needed to be given to campus athletics. In July, the curators put a five-year maximum on contracts and a limit on buyout clauses.

- **Nov. 25, 2006:** Pinkel’s Tigers beat KU 42-17 and head to the Sun Bowl, their first of a school-record seven consecutive bowl games.
- **Sept. 2007**: Alden signs a two-year contract extension that will boost his annual pay $75,000 to $525,000 through 2012. Alden’s previous contract ran through 2010 at $450,000 per year.

- **June 30, 2007**: Annual athletic revenue hits $56 million.

- **Nov. 24, 2007**: Mizzou reaches No. 1 in the college football polls after beating No. 2 Kansas at Arrowhead Stadium.

- **June 2008**: In the 2007-08 school year, 16 of Missouri’s 20 athletic teams qualified for postseason, including football, which won the Big 12 North again. Seven Tigers teams ranked in the national top 25 according to the NCAA’s Academic Progress Rate and Missouri’s APR led the Big 12.

- **Nov. 27, 2008**: Alden and KU agree to keep the Border War football game at Arrowhead through 2012.

- **March 12, 2009**: A court approves Missouri’s $2 million settlement to the father and mother of late football player Aaron O’Neal.

- **Aug. 6, 2009**: Alden agrees to five-year contract extension through 2017 with an annual base salary of $287,375 and guaranteed annual income of $537,375.

- **May 10, 2010**: MU begins internal discussions about joining the Big Ten Conference.

- **June 11, 2010**: Nebraska joins the Big Ten and Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Texas are reported to be interested in joining Colorado in joining the Pac-10, but the Big 12 stays in tact with 10 teams for the 2010-11 season.

- **Sept. 1, 2010**: Running back Derrick Washington is banished from the team even though there has been no resolution made public regarding a Class C felony charge against Washington for deviate sexual assault.

- **March 23, 2011**: Basketball coach Mike Anderson leaves for Arkansas and Frank Haith is hired from the University of Miami.
• **June 30, 2011:** Annual athletic revenue hits $64 million.

• **Sept. 2, 2011:** Oklahoma president David Boren said his university won’t be a “wallflower” in college sports realignment, a remark that alerted Missouri to more instability in the Big 12.

• **Sept. 3, 2011:** Alden, Chancellor Brady Deaton and University of Missouri system interim president Steve Owens and general counsel Phil Hoskins meet on the roof deck at Memorial Stadium before the Tigers’ season opener against Miami (Ohio) and begin discussions about leaving the Big 12.

• **Nov. 6, 2011:** At a news conference/pep rally on campus, Missouri is formally introduced by commissioner Mike Slive as the SEC’s newest member.

• **March 10, 2012:** In MU’s final Big 12 tournament, the Tigers take the title at the Sprint Center in Kansas City, their second Big 12 tourney title in four years.

• **Nov. 2012:** Suspended guard Mike Dixon Jr. leaves the MU basketball team after two sexual assault allegations against him were uncovered, though no charges were filed in either case.

• **Feb. 19, 2013:** Frank Haith is notified of his allegations from his days in the Nevin Shapiro extra benefits scandal from his days as Miami’s coach.

• **Oct. 22, 2013:** After a 2 1/2-year investigation into the Miami scandal, he NCAA hands Haith a five-game ban, which he serves the first five games of the 2013-14 season. “I do not agree with the findings,” said Haith, but he does not fight the suspension.

• **March 1, 2014:** ESPN reports Missouri did not investigate or report an alleged rape, possibly by members of the football team. The victim, Sasha Menu Courey, a member of Missouri’s swim team, committed suicide in 2011, a year after the alleged incident.

• **March 23, 2014:** After losing in the NIT second round, Haith leaves MU. Kim Anderson, a former player and assistant under Stewart, is later hired.
• **April 11:** Star wide receiver Dorial Green-Beckham was dismissed from the football team after his latest arrest, the latest off-field incidents that brought unwanted national attention to Missouri. After Green-Beckham’s dismissal, Alden called a news conference to address the off-field problems. “The (Missouri) logo never comes off,” Alden said. “It never comes off.”

• **Dec. 5:** Missouri plans to build a new south end-zone complex at Memorial Stadium that is expected to include new football offices, a weight room, training room and a new locker room. The project also could include new premium seating and set the stage for an eventual upper deck and enclosure of the south end of Memorial Stadium, increasing seating capacity to roughly 80,000.

• **Thursday:** Figures obtained by The Star show MU reported athletic revenue of $83 million in 2013-14, the Tigers’ second season in SEC.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/sports/college/sec/university-of-missouri/article8609171.html#storylink=cpy

---

**COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN**

**UPDATED: Missouri Director of Athletics Mike Alden to step down**

Thursday, January 29, 2015 | 4:34 p.m. CST; updated 6:49 a.m. CST, Friday, January 30, 2015

BY AARON REISS

COLUMBIA — **Missouri Director of Athletics Mike Alden will step down from his position, effective Aug. 31.**

University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe's office said Thursday it was a "campus decision."

Alden, 56, announced the move in a letter Thursday afternoon.

"After several months of contemplation, I have decided that it is time for a change, both for me and for the University that I so dearly love," Alden wrote in the letter.
Alden, who was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in a ceremony Sunday, said he will become an instructor at MU in the College of Education where he will participate in the Positive Coaching Program and higher education leadership courses.

"I look forward to continuing to work with all of you in the coming months and assisting with the transition," Alden wrote.

On Aug. 30, 2012, Alden, received a two-year contract extension, which extended his deal to June 30, 2019. The extension did not increase Alden's base salary, performance incentives or any other form of income. Alden's base salary is $301,917, but he can earn up to $777,976 through a combination of base salary and performance incentives.

Alden took over as Missouri athletics director in 1998, and in 2000 hired Gary Pinkel as head football coach. Prior to Pinkel's hiring, Missouri had played in just two bowl games since 1984. Since 2003, the Tigers have played in 10. The program is riding an unprecedented wave of success, winning at least 10 games in five of the last eight seasons.

Alden was also responsible for steering Missouri from the Big 12 Conference to the Southeastern Conference. Missouri had been a member of the Big 12 and its earlier incarnations — the Big Six and Big Eight — since 1907 before the SEC released a statement in November 2011 welcoming the Tigers. The football team struggled in its inaugural SEC season but has since proved its mettle in making consecutive runs to the SEC Championship Game.

Missouri’s move to the SEC coincided with a significant uptick in spending to improve the university's athletics facilities throughout campus. In June 2012, the University Of Missouri System Board Of Curators approved a $72 million project to renovate Memorial Stadium, the university's football facility. The project helped fund a facelift to Memorial Stadium that is still underway.

Alden has been at the helm of the Missouri athletics department for the last 17 years, making him the second-longest tenured director of athletics in school history. Alden trails former football coach Don Faurot, who lead the department for 27 years.

According to Missouri Athletics, when Alden arrived at Missouri, the athletics department’s annual budget was $13.7 million. During his tenure, the budget grew to $85 million.
"Mike has been a transformative leader for Missouri Athletics since 1998 and he has commanded national respect across the college athletics landscape for his service on numerous NCAA committees," SEC Commissioner Mike Slive said. "Mike played a critical role in the transition of Missouri into the Southeastern Conference, and I will always remember his calm demeanor, his authoritative presence and his infectious enthusiasm as he introduced the Mizzou tradition to the SEC."

Alden's tenure wasn't without controversy, though.

In March 2014, an ESPN report criticized MU's actions following former swimmer Sasha Menu Courey's suicide. The report indicated that MU failed to properly investigate a rape allegation made by Menu Courey.

Menu Courey told Rolandis Woodland, a former Missouri receiver, that she was raped by at least one member of the Missouri football team. According to ESPN's report, Menu Courey told a rape crisis counselor and campus therapist.

A report conducted by the St. Louis-based Dowd Bennett law firm in April concluded that MU's actions were not in compliance with Title IX guidelines.

Title IX is a federal gender equity law that, among other things, establishes the rules for how schools must investigate incidents of sexual assault or violence.

Then in August 2014, Alden addressed the media following report that questioned MU's handling of assault allegations made against former star running back Derrick Washington.

The report said Missouri officials knew about previous assault allegations — Washington was accused of rape in 2008 and of punching a female soccer player in May 2010 — before he was arrested in 2010 on charges of deviate sexual assault. Four days prior to Washington's arrest, he was indefinitely suspended from the football team.

"I think certainly there have been many things that have changed on our campus with regards to knowledge of reporting, knowledge of what needs to take place at appropriate times," Alden said at the press conference. "Today, what you would do in a situation like that — if you became aware of that — certainly people recognize that we need to have that reported immediately to the Title IX coordinator on our campus ..."
Other former high-profile Missouri athletes were accused of committing violent acts against women. Former basketball player Michael Dixon Jr. transferred to Memphis in September 2013 in the wake of two rape allegations made against him, while former star receiver Dorial Green-Beckham transferred to Oklahoma after allegedly assaulting his girlfriend. Both players were never charged with any crime.

Alden and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin are scheduled to hold a news conference at 10:30 a.m. Friday in the Great Room of Reynolds Alumni Hall to discuss the move.

Loftin released the following statement Thursday:

"Over seventeen years of service to the University of Missouri, Mike has transformed our athletics program into one of the nation’s best, with world-class student-athletes, coaches, staff, facilities, affiliations and financial resources. He led our institution’s move to the Southeastern Conference and has been at the helm as our teams won multiple championships over the years. Though I am saddened that Mike will no longer be a member of our leadership team and leading our Department of Athletics, I am truly happy for him and Rockie as he embarks on a new challenge here at Mizzou. Mike will always be a part of our family.

"We have already begun a national search for Mike’s successor and I am confident we will find a tremendous leader to carry us forward."

Alden steps down as Mizzou athletic director

Watch the story at: http://www.ksdk.com/story/sports/2015/01/29/missouri-ad-mike-alden-to-step-down-after-17-years/22550109/
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - **Missouri athletic director Mike Alden is stepping down after a 17-year tenure marked by several high-profile coaching hires and the school's move from the Big 12 Conference to the SEC.**

Alden plans to leave in August but will remain at Mizzou as an instructor in its education school and an administrator in a new global service-learning program. The school announced the move on Thursday and plans a Friday news conference.

The Illinois native hired little-known Toledo football coach Gary Pinkel in 2000. Pinkel has since become the school's winningest football coach and led Missouri to two consecutive East Division titles in the Southeastern Conference.

He had less success with men's basketball, hiring four head coaches since Norm Stewart's contentious retirement early in Alden's tenure.

**Mizzou Athletic Director Mike Alden stepping down**

JANUARY 29, 2015, BY JOE MILLITZER, UPDATED AT 11:22PM, JANUARY 29, 2015


ST. LOUIS, MO (KTVI) – **The man responsible for much of the University of Missouri's athletic success over the past few decades is stepping down.**

Mike Alden has served as Mizzou’s Athletic Director since 1998. He helped land three league titles and helped with the transition into the Southeastern Conference.

Fox 2 Sports reporter Charlie Marlow traveled to Columbia on Thursday night to get reaction to Alden’s stepping down.
Mike Alden to resign

KCTV-TV (CBS) – Kansas City, Mo.

The sometimes controversial head of athletics at the University of Missouri announces he's moving on. Athletic Director Mike Alden today announced that he will step down at the end of August. Alden has presided over a time of great change for Mizzou athletics, including the university's move to the Southeastern Conference. Alden became athletic director in 1998. During his time he has made a number of controversial coaching hires -- including basketball coaches Quin Snyder and Frank Haith. He also hired current football coach Gary Pinkel who led Mizzou to a national championship game and he helped engineer Missouri’s move from the Big Twelve to the SEC -- a move that made the university millions of dollars

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=8cd366fda8cb-4a81-bca7-fe430715281b
Mizzou athletic director Mike Alden to resign

WDAF-TV (Fox) – Kansas City, Mo.

Breaking news out of Columbia, Missouri, this afternoon. Mizzou's athletic director -- Mike Alden -- resigns -- effective August 31st. Alden's held the position at the University of Missouri for 17 years. That's the second longest athletics director in the university's history. Alden says he's contemplated the decision for months -- but feels like it's time for a change. In a letter to fans, Alden says he will be an instructor at the university's college of education. He will also be involved in launching a center for global service learning leadership at the University of Missouri.

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=7eea5038-0b81-46a2-bbc4-05776b9d737f
Mizzou athletic director Mike Alden resigns

KSHB-TV (NBC) – Kansas City, Mo.

We start at five with breaking news -- within the past 30 minutes -- we've learned the athletic director at the University of Missouri plans to resign. Dee Jackson is following this -- Dee -- do we know why he's stepping down? Mike Alden is moving on to a new job at the university. In a letter he wrote to Mizzou fans released just moments ago - - it says “After several months of contemplation, I have decided that it is time for a change, both for me and for the university that I so dearly love. But my journey at Mizzou is not coming to a close. As one chapter ends, another one begins and I am excited that I will be a part of the College of Education as an instructor.”

Alden has served as the AD at Mizzou since 1998. He was actually just inducted into the Missouri sports hall of game last week. Alden will officially step down on August 31st. Along with MU’s chancellor will hold a news conference tomorrow to discuss the future of the athletic department.

Mike Alden to step down as Missouri Athletic Director


COLUMBIA - Missouri athletic director Mike Alden announced Thursday he will be stepping down from his position effective August 31.

Alden released a letter Thursday afternoon, including this statement:

"After several months of contemplation, I have decided that it is time for a change, both for me and for the University that I so dearly love. I have informed Chancellor Loftin of my decision to step down as the Director of Athletics effective August 31, 2015. My wife, Rockie, our son, Jake, and I have had an incredible experience at Mizzou and this is simply our next step in our journey in Columbia. We are proud of what we have accomplished over the past seventeen years, which is a lifetime for an athletics administrator. I am most proud of our tremendous coaches, staff and student-athletes and how they represent our University with academic integrity, social responsibility and competitive excellence."

Alden became the athletic director in 1998. Some of his most notable accomplishments include the hiring of Missouri football coach Gary Pinkel and help Missouri transition to the Southeastern Conference. He will not be leaving the University of Missouri however. He will transition to a role in the College of Education as an instructor for higher education leadership courses.

Chancellor Bowen Loftin released this statement:

"Over seventeen years of service to the University of Missouri, Mike has transformed our athletics program into one of the nation's best, with world-class student-athletes, coaches, staff, facilities, affiliations and financial resources. He led our institution's move to the Southeastern Conference and has been at the helm as our teams won multiple championships over the years. Though I am saddened that Mike will no longer be a member of our leadership team and leading
our Department of Athletics, I am truly happy for him and Rockie as he embarks on a new
challenge here at Mizzou. Mike will always be a part of our family. We have already begun a
national search for Mike's successor and I am confident we will find a tremendous leader to carry
us forward."

Chancellor Loftin, Dean Daniel Clay and Mike Alden will address the media Friday at 10:30
a.m. in the Great Room in the Reynolds Alumni Center. Students, faculty and Mizzou fans can
attend the event.

SEC Commissioner Mike Slive called Alden a "transformative leader for Missouri Athletics."

He said, "Mike played a critical role in the transition of Missouri into the Southeastern
Conference and I will always remember his calm demeanor, his authoritative presence and his
infectious enthusiasm as he introduced the Mizzou tradition to the SEC."

University of Missouri athletic director stepping down

Watch story: http://www.abc17news.com/news/university-of-missouri-athletic-director-
stepping-down/30993882

COLUMBIA, Mo. - University of Missouri athletic director Mike Alden announced
Thursday he will step down from his position effective August 31.

Alden has been the athletic director for 17 years. According to a release, Alden will be an
instructor in the College of Education at MU.

"We are proud of what we have accomplished over the past 17 years, which is a lifetime for an
athletics administrator. I am most proud of our tremendous coaches, staff, and student-athletes,
and how they represent our University," said Alden in a letter to the University.

Chancellor Bowen Loftin said in a statement Thursday, "Over seventeen years of service to the
University of Missouri, Mike has transformed our athletics program into one of the nation’s best,
with world-class student-athletes, coaches, staff, facilities, affiliations and financial resources.
He led our institution’s move to the Southeastern Conference and has been at the helm as our
teams won multiple championships over the years. Though I am saddened that Mike will no longer be a member of our leadership team and leading our Department of Athletics, I am truly happy for him and Rockie as he embarks on a new challenge here at Mizzou. Mike will always be a part of our family.”

Loftin said a national search for a new athletic director has already begun.

Thursday evening, SEC commissioner Mike Slive released a statement on Alden's departure: "“Mike has been a transformative leader for Missouri Athletics since 1998 and he has commanded national respect across the college athletics landscape for his service on numerous NCAA committees. Mike played a critical role in the transition of Missouri into the Southeastern Conference and I will always remember his calm demeanor, his authoritative presence and his infectious enthusiasm as he introduced the Mizzou tradition to the SEC.”

A news conference is planned between Loftin and Alden at 10:30 a.m. Friday.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Como you know: Mike Alden

Thursday, January 29, 2015 | 4:33 p.m. CST; updated 8:55 p.m. CST, Thursday, January 29, 2015

By Kyle Lock

Title: MU Director of Athletics

Hometown: Chicago, Ill.

Education: Evansville, Arizona State University

Mike Alden is the athletics director at MU. He has occupied that position since 1998. He announced his resignation on Jan. 29, 2015. Alden is the second longest tenured athletic director in Missouri’s history behind Don Faurot.

After earning a master's degree from Arizona State University, Alden made stops at four other universities before Missouri. He served in positions ranging from offensive line coach to athletics director before arriving at Missouri.

Under Alden’s direction, Missouri made the transition to the Southeastern Conference and the Tigers’ football program has seen the best years of its existence.
Alden made the decision to hire head coach Gary Pinkel, who has the most wins of any coach in Missouri football history.

Alden has grown the athletic department’s operating budget from $13.7 million a year to $85 million a year.

Six Missouri sports — men’s basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, wrestling and baseball — have won conference championships in Alden’s tenure. Additionally, the Missouri football team won the Big 12 North division in 2007 and 2008 and the SEC East division in 2013 and 2014.

In recent years, there has been a fair amount of off-the-field turmoil in the athletic department. Missouri faced criticism on a national scale for its handling of the situations of former swimmer Sashu Menu Courey, who died in June 2011, and former running back Derrick Washington, the former a victim and the latter a convicted assailant.

Missouri also was placed in the national spotlight after star receiver Dorial Green-Beckham allegedly assaulted a woman and was subsequently dismissed from the football program. Several Missouri basketball players have been dismissed from or left the program in recent years for legal reasons, as well.

Alden said the string of incidents was “unlike anything I’d ever seen before.”

On Jan. 25, 2015, Alden was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

Along with being the athletics director at Missouri, Alden is also the president of the National Association of College Directors of Athletics, a member of the NCAA Management Council and a member of the NCAA Championship/Competition Cabinet.

Alden and his wife Roxanne have one son, Jake, who attends Purdue University.

**Sources:**
The Missourian

The Kansas City Star

Mutigers.com
Missouri AD Mike Alden announces resignation

For the first time in 17 years, Missouri will be in the market for a new athletic director.

Missouri Athletic Director Mike Alden released a letter on MUTigers.com on Thursday announcing that he will be stepping down from his position Aug. 31. Alden and his staff had a meeting Thursday to discuss the move, with Alden saying in the letter that “it is time for a change.”

Alden will not be leaving the university entirely, as he will transition into Mizzou’s College of Education to help the school launch its Positive Coaching Program and higher education leadership courses. Alden will also be heading the new Center for Global Service Learning Leadership.

Mizzou Athletics will now be in the market for a new athletic director for the first time in 17 years, with no replacement being immediately named.

One year later, has MU improved handling of sex crimes?


COLUMBIA, Mo. - It has been one year since University of Missouri system President Tim Wolfe promised sweeping changes to the way sexual assaults and harassment are handled on all four University of Missouri campuses. The announcement on January 29, 2014 came within days of an ESPN report that criticized Mizzou's handling of the Sasha Menu Courey case.

Menu Courey was a Mizzou swimmer that was allegedly raped by Mizzou football players, struggled with her mental health and eventually committed suicide.
ABC 17's Marissa Hollowed flew to Toronto, Canada to meet with Mike Menu and Lynn Courey, Sasha's parents, to get their take on the proposed changes.

"Your previous life as it was is now really gone. You get used to a new life," said Menu about losing his daughter.

"It's hard to lose someone, but when you lose a child, it's unbearable, there is a lot of suffering," said Courey.

Menu and Courey tell ABC 17 they have dedicated their lives to telling their daughter's story, advocating for understanding and a safer environment for sexual assault victims and those struggling with mental health.

It started in 2010, when Sasha was allegedly raped by Mizzou football players. She noted this in a journal of hers and also told Mizzou healthcare workers about the incident.

Sasha suffered from borderline personality disorder. Her family tells ABC 17 that swimming was the most important thing for Sasha to keep her happy and healthy. She spiraled downward after the alleged rape. Her parents noticed a difference in her behavior. She also lost her spot on the Mizzou swim team and was asked if she wanted to withdraw from the University during her struggles. Sasha committed suicide in a Boston hospital in 2011.

In 2012, Sasha's parents found out about the alleged rape by looking through Sasha's journal. They claim they reached out to Mizzou officials notifying them of the rape. "There was absolutely no follow up, there was no phone call, no, not anything," said Menu.

By law, under Title IX, the University should have investigated the claim.

A report by ESPN came out in 2014, criticizing the University's handling of the incident. "It wasn't until the ESPN story was gonna come out that we suddenly received a letter from the Office of Student Affairs asking if we had any information to provide them regarding Sasha's rape," said Courey. "We didn't really think it was a genuine request to open up an investigation," said Menu. So, Menu and Courey did not respond.

After this, UM system president Tim Wolfe announced sweeping changes on January 29, 2014 to change the climate at Mizzou regarding sexual assault.

"My kid didn't want to die! She didn't want to die, she wanted to live! When she tried to kill herself at Mizzou ,she was apparently yelling out at police, "The system failed me, the system failed me!' because she tried to seek help a few times and the proper help wasn't there," said Courey.

"Everything around Sasha failed her. That's a lot of people, a lot of resources," said Wolfe.
Colleges across the country are beginning to understand the implications of breaking the law as they apply Title IX. Title IX is the federal law which allows equal access to education for all genders and requires a university to investigate all claims of sexual assault.

"We weren't exponentially worse than our colleagues in higher education, so it wasn't that we were completely asleep at the switch. We in fact had resources available and were helping in preventing and adjudicating those situations," said Wolfe. "You still have to go on this with, 'That was our student how did we fail her or he?' how prevent that on a go forward basis."

Here is a look at what the University promised it would do in the past year and what's it's actually accomplished:

- The school hired a St. Louis law firm to determine how it mishandled the Menu Courey case.

- Wolfe created a task force to inventory and assess sexual assault and mental health policies. This has been completed. The UM system paid a national risk management firm hundreds of thousands of dollars to look into it.

- Wolfe then issued 'Executive Order 41' in October that strengthened the University's response to sexual misconduct and discrimination.

- The school is in the process of hiring a full time Title IX coordinator. It has been conducting interviews and has someone in the job in the interim.

- All University staff members will become mandated reporters of sexual harassment and sexual assault. They will take an online course. It was supposed to be completed by January 30, 2015, but the University has extended the deadline to the end of March.

- Students will go through sexual assault training. This hasn't happened yet, but MU says it will.

"If you take a look at where we are now and take a look at where we were in January, it's night and day difference," said Wolfe.

"It doesn't really matter how many initiatives you take, if you don't find out if they are actually working in a reliable way, then you are not really sure what you're doing," said Menu.

To measure the effectiveness, Wolfe mentioned federally mandated clery reporting, reviewing and collecting Title IX data and a safety survey that the campus will take put on by the American Assosciation of Universities. Results of the survey will be out in the fall of 2015. Wolfe says this information will eventually become publicly available.

"I will be backing up with my words with actions and resources and dollars like I've shown," said Wolfe.
Missouri’s athletic revenue hits $83 million in 2014, but debt, expenses rise as well

BY TOD PALMER
01/29/2015 7:36 PM

The Missouri athletic department’s annual operating revenue grew nearly 10 percent to $83.7 million during the 2014 fiscal year but outstanding debt climbed by nearly $60 million and expenses also increased, according to data obtained by The Star that is submitted annually by the school to the NCAA.

Still, MU athletics reported revenue close to $3.5 million more than expenses in its second season in the Southeastern Conference. That marks a decline from the 2013 fiscal year, when Missouri reported an operating profit of more than $6 million, but continues a positive trend since the Tigers left the Big 12.

An athletic department spokesman said MU was pleased with the revenue growth. Missouri was one of only 20 Football Bowl Subdivision athletic departments with greater revenues than expenses during 2013, according to the NCAA.

The positive balance sheet for fiscal year 2014, which ran from July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014, allowed MU athletics to transfer $2,179,583 of the $3.5 million profit to the university for “initiatives outside of athletics.”

MU reported operating revenue of $83,718,587, an increase of more than $7.4 million from 2013. MU’s $76,306,889 operating revenue in 2013 ranked 35th nationally and 11th among 13 reporting schools in the SEC, according to USA Today. As a private school, Vanderbilt was not included in the SEC rankings.
Expenses in 2014 climbed nearly $10 million to $80,230,179. Most of the additional expense came from a 59.6 percent increase for facilities, maintenance and debt service, a 40.9 percent increase in the cost of team travel and a 12.5 percent increase in coaching salaries.

Preparation for SEC Network television coverage accounted for the rise in facilities costs, according to the athletic department, while the travel budget swelled primarily from the football team’s appearances in the SEC Championship Game and Cotton Bowl. Increasing charter costs were also a factor for all sports.

Missouri’s outstanding athletic debt increased 255 percent — from $22,839,576 to $81,268,862 — according to the latest NCAA report. The spike is attributed to new bonds that were issued for Memorial Stadium’s west-side renovation and east-side expansion, as well as the reconfiguration of the Rock M, a MU department spokesman said.

The debt increase also reflects bonds issued for enhancements to the golf, tennis and baseball facilities.

In its final year in the Big 12, 2011-12, Missouri reported a $16.2 million operating deficit after it did not receive its annual revenue distribution from the conference. Athletic director Mike Alden told The Star then that the university would cover the department’s expenses and that it would have to repay the school starting in 2016.

Two key aspects to MU’s revenue growth in 2014 were football and donor contributions.

Contributions rose 26.6 percent, or more than $4.2 million, to $20,113,654 — as Missouri’s football team stormed to the first of back-to-back SEC East championships.

Football ticket sales rose $2,572,105 — an increase of 17.2 percent to $17,554,536 — despite a decreased capacity at Memorial Stadium with the east-side expansion underway. The Tigers were coming off a 5-7 season during the 2013 fiscal year and rebounded in fiscal year 2014 (2013 football season), finishing 12-2.
Football’s robust sales more than accounted for roughly $1.7 million in increased ticket revenue overall, though ticket sales for men’s basketball also ticked up by 1.0 percent to $5,204,219.

Missouri also made gains in its distribution from the NCAA and SEC, which climbed 3.6 percent to $21,836,870. That figure includes $14,185,334 for football and $5,066,479 for men’s basketball.

The Tigers’ conference share is expected to rise again in the 2015 fiscal year, which will be the first to include disbursements from the SEC Network. The ESPN-backed channel launched in August.

Additionally, MU’s revenue from broadcast rights climbed 4.2 percent to $4,456,704, but the department’s revenue for programs and concessions, royalties and licensing and sports camps all declined slightly — a combined 3.7 percent.

Missouri does not charge any student fees for athletics, but student ticket sales are included in total ticket sales.

Student aid also rose 6.9 percent to more than $9.1 million because of a tuition increase of $1,838 for in-state athletes and $2,471 for out-of-state athletes.

New rules governing athletic scholarships, which will allow schools to pay for the full cost of attendance rather than the current standard full grant-in-aid, take effect in August 2015.

Missouri will need to pay nearly $800,000 in additional aid based on the 2014 figures — 258.13 athletic scholarships and a difference of $3,080 between a full grant-in-aid and the full cost of attendance.

However, those numbers won’t be reflected in the NCAA Revenues and Expenses Report until the 2016 fiscal year.

MISSOURI ATHLETIC FINANCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>FY 2014</th>
<th>FY 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>2014 Revenue</td>
<td>2015 Revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating revenue</td>
<td>$83,718,587</td>
<td>$76,306,889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating expenses</td>
<td>$80,230,179</td>
<td>$70,276,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue minus expenses</td>
<td>$3,488,408</td>
<td>$6,030,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football revenue</td>
<td>$35,645,132</td>
<td>$31,883,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football expenses</td>
<td>$21,416,004</td>
<td>$17,358,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue minus expenses</td>
<td>$14,229,128</td>
<td>$14,524,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s basketball revenue</td>
<td>$12,593,569</td>
<td>$12,561,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s basketball expenses</td>
<td>$6,284,215</td>
<td>$6,351,687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue minus expenses</td>
<td>$6,309,354</td>
<td>$6,210,204</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UM System President Discusses Tuition Hike, Expansion Plans

BY ERICA SMITH
The University of Missouri System is doing well, president Tim Wolfe said Thursday, but some extra cash wouldn’t hurt.

“The quantity of students that we have are at all-time highs: 77,000 students. The quality of the students, as measured by their ACT score, now averages 26, which also is an all-time high,” Wolfe told “St. Louis on the Air” host Don Marsh. “The financial condition of the University of Missouri System is decent. Decent relative to our balancing the revenue and the expenses with the challenges that we have of keeping tuition low.”

In the past, the majority of the funding for the St. Louis, Rolla, Columbia and Kansas City universities came from the state. Now the majority comes from tuition, Wolfe said.

“Our funding challenges from the state are still there,” Wolfe said. “We’re working with the General Assembly and the governor and trying to increase the funding year-over-year, as well as funding on specific projects, be it maintenance and repair or our build-out of our medical school to provide medical residents for southwest Missouri and the Cox-Mercy partnership.”

The medical school project is part of a $10 million effort to add doctors to southwest Missouri. The university added eight students to its medical program, who will then complete residencies with CoxHealth or Mercy Hospitals in Springfield, Mo., “with the
intent of them eventually employing those medical students down there,” Wolfe said. That $10 million, however, is being withheld by Gov. Jay Nixon.

“It’s a good idea, but I think it’s important for folks to realize that we balance our budgets here. We only have so much money,” Nixon told Springfield TV station KY3 earlier this month. “The budget passed by the Missouri legislature last year was over half a billion dollars out of balance.” Nixon said the medical school program will eventually be funded, but did not provide a timeline for that funding.

“We’re resource-constrained as a state,” Wolfe said Thursday. “We’re not seeing the growth in tax collections that other states have seen, and that growth is because the income tax, which is the biggest sliver of our pie, is not growing. That is a product of not seeing the increase in jobs post-recession that some other states are seeing. When you’ve got a pie that’s not expanding to cover just normal costs of Medicaid and K-12 and higher ed and prisons and all that stuff, then it puts pressure on the services that the state can deliver to institutions like the University of Missouri System.”

The system’s Board of Curators will vote Feb. 5 on a tuition increase: 1.2 percent for in-state students, and 3 percent for out-of-state students for the 2016-17 school year.

“If you can’t get more efficient and you can’t see additional funding from the state, or you can’t get enough donations from your alumni and your supporters, then over 50 percent of our revenue is tuition-based, so you have to pull that tuition lever,” Wolfe said.

“If the state decreases funding from a tuition standpoint, then you’ll see increases in tuition. So the burden goes from the state to the parents or to that particular student. When you take a look at what we do from a research standpoint, we do 90 percent of the research that occurs in the state of Missouri at public institutions. Out of that comes new products. Out of that comes new companies. Out of that comes new jobs. There’s a huge economic development lift. So everyone who concludes we’re fine isn’t listening.”

**Paying College Athletes**

In 2014, two college athletes sued the NCAA over compensation for the use of their names and likenesses on merchandise. Since then, the NCAA announced it will give schools more freedom in how they run their sports programs, including an option for player stipends and increased financial aid.

“I fully, fully, fully support what the NCAA is doing,” Wolfe said.

The NCAA determined that athletes can be compensated up to $5,000 per school year for the “true cost of attendance,” Wolfe said. At the University of Missouri–Columbia, that
could soon mean a $3,000 annual stipend for student athletes attending on a full-ride scholarship. For those with partial scholarships, the stipend would be cut: If the scholarship covers 20 percent, then the player would be eligible for 20 percent of that $3,000 stipend, or $600.

“We call them student athletes for a reason, and it’s in sequence for a reason,” Wolfe said. “It’s not athlete students. There are some schools, some programs, that might get confused. We’re not confused at any of our four campuses.”

Wolfe said the stipend could go into effect as early as this fall.

**Free Community College**

Just before the State of the Union, President Barack Obama announced a free community college proposal. America’s College Promise would let students attend two years of community college, tuition-free.

Wolfe said he appreciated the president’s support of higher education, but would like to make a few changes to the plan.

“The approach that (Obama) is taking relative to community colleges — everybody gets a free community college experience — fits a lot of people,” Wolfe said. “Some of the students, though, prefer a four-year experience. My point is if you’re going to have a financial incentive to go to college, put it in the hands of that student, or the family of the student, and let them make an informed decision as to whether a two-year experience or a four-year experience is best.”

Even better, Wolfe said, use that money to bolster high school programs.

“One of the challenges that we have in four-years is that we are remediating students to prepare them for a successful college experience,” he said. “That means we are investing a lot of dollars trying to get them to the fundamental foundation level of math skills that should have been picked up in the high school years, or reading and writing. That remediation expense that we have to prepare them for college is a concern.”

“St. Louis on the Air” discusses issues and concerns facing the St. Louis area.
Donor tissue for joint repair stays fresh for 60 days

Currently doctors have to throw away more than 80 percent of donated tissue used for joint replacements because the tissue does not survive long enough to be transplanted.

A new way to preserve the tissue means it can last much longer: up to 60 days instead of less than 30.

“It’s a game-changer,” says James Stannard, a professor of orthopedic surgery at the University of Missouri School of Medicine. “The benefit to patients is that more graft material will be available and it will be of better quality. This will allow us as surgeons to provide a more natural joint repair option for our patients.”

The technology, called the Missouri Osteochondral Allograft Preservation System (MOPS), more than doubles the storage life of bone and cartilage grafts from organ donors compared to the current preservation method used by tissue banks.

In traditional preservation methods, donated tissues are stored within a medical-grade refrigeration unit in sealed bags filled with a standard preservation solution. MOPS utilizes a newly developed preservation solution and special containers designed by the research team that allows them to store tissues at room temperature.

Using MOPS, the storage time for donor tissue could be extended to at least 60 days, versus the current storage time of approximately 28 days.

“Time is a serious factor when it comes to utilizing donated tissue for joint repairs,” says study coauthor James Cook, director of the Comparative Orthopedic Laboratory and the Missouri Orthopedic Institute’s Division of Research. “With the traditional preservation approach, we only have about 28 days after obtaining the grafts from organ donors before the tissues are no longer useful for implantation into patients.

“Most of this 28-day window of time is used for testing the tissues to ensure they are safe for use. This decreases the opportunity to identify an appropriate recipient, schedule surgery and get the graft to the surgeon for implantation.”
Metal implants vs. tissue grafts

Stannard says that patients with metal and plastic implants often are forced to give up many of the activities they previously enjoyed in order to extend the life of their new mechanical joints.

“For patients with joint problems caused by degenerative conditions, metal and plastic implants are still a very good option,” Stannard adds. “When the end of a bone that forms a joint is destroyed over time, the damage is often too extensive to use tissue grafts.

“However, for patients who experience trauma to a joint that was otherwise healthy before the injury, previous activity levels needn’t be drastically altered if we can replace the damaged area with living tissue.”

Donor tissue grafts have been used for many years as a way to fill in damaged areas of a joint, as an alternative to removing bone and implanting metal and plastic components. The body accepts bone and cartilage grafts without the need for anti-rejection drugs, and the donor tissue becomes part of the joint.

However, the method of preserving the grafts themselves has limited the amounts of quality donor tissue available to surgeons.

100% usable at 60 days

Additionally, because of testing requirements and logistics, only about 20 percent of grafts are ultimately useable because not enough live tissue cells remain in them after 28 days.

In contrast, the study found that the MOPS preservation system resulted in a 100 percent rate of usable tissue grafts at 60 days after procurement.

“With our new preservation technique, we can offer more patients a repair that allows their joints to respond to daily activities like they did when the joints were healthy,” Cook says. “Like a normal joint, the implanted tissue can renew itself, resulting in decreased physical limitations to the patient.”

The study was recently published in Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research.
Civil rights activist encourages next generation to carry torch

By Ashley Jost

Thursday, January 29, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Renowned civil rights activist Myrlie Evers-Williams asked that the lights be raised across the audience in the Missouri Theatre before she started her talk Wednesday night.

Based on her experience, Evers-Williams said, darkness means something is hiding — something “that is most likely waiting to attack you.”

“That’s sad commentary, isn’t it? But it’s true,” she said. “I like to see who my friends are. I like to see who my adversaries are.”

Evers-Williams spoke at the University of Missouri in celebration and in honor of the life’s work of Martin Luther King Jr. She was part of the civil rights movement alongside her famed late husband, Medgar Evers, who was shot and killed by a sniper outside their Mississippi home in 1963.

Evers’ killer was tried several times but was not convicted of the murder until 1994.

In addition to work in honor of her late husband, Evers-Williams is also known for personal triumphs during her time as the first female leader of the NAACP. At 81, Evers-Williams still speaks about what she described as the “struggle for life,” dignity and freedom.

Time passes quickly “when you’re in the midst of a time hoping that, one day, you will see freedom,” she said. “Freedom as it should be, as Dr. King described it. As so many other people described it. As so many of us have held close to our hearts.”

Evers-Williams said she remembers talking with her late husband about why he felt the need to push for voter registration in the South during the 1960s, among the many other equality issues that black Americans faced at that time.

“I came to understand the drive, to understand the need to join in making this country, my birthplace, one that respected all people, regardless of race, creed or color,” she said.
She said the issues people in her generation faced still exist today because “the feelings of hatred and anger” are not easy to overcome. The generation that will make a difference is the generation that’s still in college today, she said.

“There is hope — the hope is in the young,” she said. “The hope is in those who have an open mind. The hope is in those who believe enough in a just society and in the work of Dr. King and others that they will be brave enough to step out and challenge, wherever and whenever necessary, a system that does not believe or practice in equality and justice.”

Before Evers-Williams gave her talk, members of the planning committee for the event presented the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award to the Rev. Raymond Hayes for his “outstanding contributions to the community.”

Hayes is the senior pastor at St. Luke United Methodist Church, 204 E. Ash St.

Civil rights activist Evers-Williams speaks on progress, struggle

Inspired by the murder of her husband Medgar Evers, Evers-Williams became a leader in the civil rights movement.

Civil rights activist Myrlie Evers-Williams said she has been thinking about a night in 1962 every day since.

That night was when her home was firebombed and shortly after, her husband, fellow civil rights activist Medgar Evers was shot. It took about 30 years to convict his murderer, white supremacist Byron De La Beckwith.

The Missouri Theatre hosted Evers-Williams Wednesday night for a lecture, "Not Exactly What You Thought," in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day last week.

Within her first minute of being on Missouri Theatre’s stage Wednesday night, civil rights activist Myrlie Evers-Williams asked if lights could better illuminate the audience. She did so not only because she prefers to see the audience she is speaking to, but primarily from a life lesson she learned long ago.

“In my background, darkness means hiding something,” Evers-Williams said. “It is hiding something that is more than likely waiting to attack you.”
The 81-year-old activist grew up in Mississippi. She attended Alcorn A&M College, where she met her husband, civil rights activist Medgar Evers.

Whenever Evers-Williams speaks, she said, she doesn’t write a script or plan out what to say in advance, but rather says what is on her mind that specific day.

While speaking to any audience is always a challenge, Evers-Williams said it is particularly so when she speaks to a younger group. She hopes that she is still able to communicate her message to a different generation, she said.

When Evers-Williams was a child, she said race was never discussed.

“You knew your place,” Evers-Williams said. “You stayed in your place . . . You never crossed the line.”

Now, Evers-Williams said, the younger generations are more willing to talk about racial topics, which she said is a step toward finding justice.

Another major difference of generations Evers-Williams said is the issue of physical violence.

In more recent years, this issue has, for the most part, gone away, Evers-Williams said. However, she said with the 2014 events of Ferguson and other high-profile killings, it appears as though the U.S. is returning to the violent aspects of the struggle.

“The tears, in a sense, have helped wash some of the brutality away, but then we were reawakened with Ferguson,” Evers-Williams said.

Freshman Erin Stark said Evers-Williams’ speech was inspiring. She said it’s important to know that history repeats itself.

“I just think it helps us remember how much people went through for our country,” Stark said.

Evers-Williams said she enjoys listening to the voices of younger generations about the issue of race, as she learns from their ideas. She said she doesn’t think Americans give young people enough credit for seeing deeply into the social issues that exist in America.

“I believe strongly that your generation will have more impact on the direction of this country in terms of race relations than anything else,” Evers-Williams said.

When Evers-Williams was a young bride, she once asked Medgar if they could take a break from their usual conversations about racial change and take a moment to talk about romantic topics.

She soon learned from him, she said, why him saying no was so important. She said she learned that no matter what, she should never take a break from obtaining basic freedoms every citizen deserves.
Evers-Williams said that even though her eyesight and hearing are slightly failing as she grows older, she is not through yet, nor should she be.

“Time passes quickly,” she said. “It passes quickly when you’re having fun. It passes even more quickly when you’re in the midst of a struggle for life, when you are in the midst of a struggle for dignity, when you are in the midst of a time hoping that you will one day see freedom.”

Evers-Williams said sometimes she feels as though she should buy a hoodie and walk through neighborhoods at night, just to see what would happen.

“I realize and you do too, and forget my grammar, but it ain’t over yet,” Evers-Williams said.

Reverend Raymond Hayes was also awarded during this event with the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Award, presented by journalism professor Cynthia Frisby.

“You don’t have to be a great person, you just need to be surrounded by smart people,” Hayes said.

Senior Sam Roth, who attended the speech, said he hears about racial movements happening, but it’s impactful to hear about it from the direct source.

“I had no idea just what this woman had gone through and then her leadership roles with all these organizations,” Roth said. “It’s just amazing to find out about all the perseverance that has gone on. It’s obvious that so many advances have been made.”

The event was freshman Amber Letbetter’s first time going to the Missouri Theatre. She said she was inspired and motivated by Evers-Williams.

“I learned that whenever there is an injustice in our society or our community, I can’t get so angry that I want to be violent or that I feel like other people should be violent, but really hold a stand of nonviolence, strength and dignity,” Letbetter said.

Journalism institute hosting free speech symposium

Thursday, January 29, 2015 at 2:00 pm
The Reynolds Journalism Institute at the University of Missouri will host a free-speech symposium next week to discuss a number of issues arising from the Jan. 7 terror attack at Charlie Hebdo, a satirical French magazine.

The symposium is scheduled for 4 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in Fisher Auditorium in Gannett Hall, 802 Elm St. The event is free and open to the public.

Among the slated speakers are Sandra Davidson, press law expert and MU journalism and law professor, and Khalil Bendib, an Algeria-born Muslim and political cartoonist.

The symposium will cover whether there should be limits on free speech, among other issues related to the attack in Paris. The event is called “Nous sommes tous Charlie,” or “We are all Charlie.”

The Institute has a tentative schedule for the symposium at www.rjionline.org/events/charlie.

Columbia event provides homeless with medical checkups

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Dozens of homeless people were able to receive medical and mental health checkups and even a haircut as part of an event aimed at connecting them with the services in one spot.

The Thursday event called Project Homeless Connect is a twice-yearly event hosted by the Columbia-Boone County Basic Needs Coalition.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports several filled out applications for public housing and birth certificates at the University of Missouri Family Impact Center.

Not everyone who stopped by was homeless, though. Sedalia resident Danny McNeal said he used to be homeless and came to the event to see old friends and have some coffee.

Case workers from Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital, representatives from Mid-Missouri Legal Services and other public and nonprofit agencies also attended the event.
Counting Students Equally?

January 30, 2015
By Michael Stratford

NO MU MENTION

A core premise of the Obama administration’s college ratings plan -- and one that makes it controversial -- is that colleges and universities need to be held more accountable for student outcomes.

College presidents have repeatedly argued that those outcomes, like completion rates and graduates’ earnings, are largely a reflection of the student population they serve, and therefore not necessarily a good benchmark of their institution’s success. A ratings system, they warn, could discourage colleges from recruiting students they’re not confident will graduate.

U.S. Department of Education officials working on the ratings have long said they’re going to overcome that problem by comparing colleges' performance only to that of other institutions with similar missions.

But in the 17-page ratings framework released last month, officials also said they’re eyeing an additional strategy to make fair comparisons: adjusting a college’s outcomes based on the demographics of the students it enrolls.

That approach is largely unprecedented in federal higher education policy. The standards to which colleges are now held by the federal government’s aid programs do not generally take student demographics into account.
It’s also a controversial approach that some are criticizing for setting up lower expectations for colleges that serve disadvantaged students.

Department officials said they are exploring the possibility of using a statistical model to predict a college’s graduation rate and graduates’ earnings based on the demographics of its student body. They would then compare colleges’ statistically expected outcomes to their actual outcomes.

Among the student demographic information that the department is considering including as part of that regression analysis: family income, parents’ education attainment, age, gender, marital status, veteran status and zip code. The department’s list did not include race or ethnicity. The federal aid application does not ask for such information.

Adjusting a college’s graduation rate or its graduates’ earnings data for those data points, department officials wrote, would “provide a more fair assessment of institutional performance to the public than one that relies solely on raw outcome data.”

The department’s proposal for adjusting outcomes embraces, to some extent, what public universities and others have been seeking.

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities has called on the administration, in lieu of a ratings system, to hold colleges accountable for outcomes like completion rates and graduates’ earnings -- but only after first taking into account “student readiness.”

Michael Tanner, the APLU’s vice president for academic affairs, said that the group was still working on how a regression analysis should work but that it would allow much more fair comparisons between institutions.

Without making an adjustment, he said, “the effect is that almost every institution can improve just by becoming more selective.”

But others have criticized making “input adjustments” to student outcome metrics. David Bergeron, a former Education Department official who is now vice president for postsecondary education at the Center for American Progress, largely praised the administration’s ratings outline but said he was concerned about adjusting outcomes.

“If you do a statistical manipulation that says, ‘We know that students who come from 150 percent below poverty [line] are half as likely to complete,’ then we’re really saying that
those students don’t matter as much as the more affluent students,” he said. “That, I find, morally problematic.”

“Doesn’t the student who has everything against them -- aren’t they entitled to be counted and treated with the same level of commitment to their outcomes as the student who has no risk factors?” he added. “That’s my fundamental concern.”

Mary Nguyen Barry, an education policy analyst at Education Reform Now, a progressive think tank, said that while it is appropriate to adjust outcomes for differing groups of students based on varying levels of academic preparation, like their high school grade-point average, she opposes using some of the metrics the department has floated, like gender or income.

“If you adjust for those factors, you’re attributing different expectations to different groups of students,” she said.

Adjusting standards for colleges that take student demographics into account is also an approach that the Obama administration has previously rejected in other areas, too. During debates on gainful employment, the administration, over the objections of for-profit colleges, said it wanted to hold all institutions to certain minimum standards -- even if they enrolled large numbers of low-income students, for instance.

Other standards that the federal government currently has for colleges -- cohort default rates, for instance -- do not generally take into account income levels and other student-level demographics.

Robert Kelchen, a professor of higher education policy at Seton Hall University, has developed an input-adjusted model as part of his work on Washington Monthly’s rankings of colleges.

“Something needs to be done to account for the different students that colleges serve,” he said. “The question is how you do it. Whenever you do input adjustment you always run the risk of promoting what was famously called ‘the soft bigotry of low expectations.’”

Asked last month about whether adjusting student outcomes would create different standards and expectations among different types of students, Undersecretary of Education Ted Mitchell said that the department is still wrestling with the issue.
"We think that it's important to get comment from the field about whether that kind of adjustment is worthwhile or not," Mitchell told reporters. "Our goal here is not to create different sets of standards but to make sure that we are measuring like [institutions] against like."