University of Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin says while college may not be for everyone, some education beyond high school has its rewards.

Loftin was visiting Springfield this week as part of MU’s Show-Me-Value Tour, in which he spoke with local high school students, business leaders and education experts on the value of higher education.

“Everyone’s different," he says. "They have to find their particular way to make an impact. It may be you become a welder down the street here at a manufacturing plant here which requires you be trained for 18 months. Maybe you get a Ph.D. in molecular biology someplace and go and change the world through developing a new treatment or a new drug."

Loftin emphasized that the more education a person has the more choices they have. He applauded Ozarks Technical Community College and its ability to prepare students within a two-year framework. The Missouri College Advising Corps (MCAC), a division of MU, is another area that allows choice, Loftin said.

MCAC was recently introduced at Springfield’s Parkview and Hillcrest high schools. Loftin’s visit allowed him to meet with those students on Monday morning and learn about their future goals and concerns.

“The questions I had were very practical. Financial aid, preparing myself for some college, dealing with what kind of choices do I have regarding my majors, what kind of opportunities if I go to the military first or just particular questions about how to navigate the landscape.”

He says that with MCAC, along with counselors already present at area high schools, students can use these services to make good choices.
Loftin’s visit also included a business tour at Askinosie Chocolate, where founder and CEO, as well as MU alum Shawn Askinosie shared details about Chocolate University. The factory along Commercial Street has played host to the educational learning program as a way to engage local students on its business practices. Since expanding to high school students, Askinosie says juniors and seniors have had the opportunity to embark on a summer program that takes them to the cocoa bean farms of Tanzania.

“It’s a life-changing trip for these students,” Askinosie says. "They work on community development projects in Tanzania. They get to witness an international business transaction from the front row. And the impact this has on student’s lives is immeasurable in terms of what their future careers may be."

It’s yet another experience that gives students choices, Loftin adds, noting his conversation with a group of Chocolate University students that’ve participated in the summer abroad program.

“These students I met today have already decided how to live their lives. They’re gonna to be doing things which are impactful for their entire lifetime now. Without that experience [Tanzania] who knows what will happen,” he said.

Monday’s stop in Springfield for Chancellor Loftin was one of several he’s conducted and will continue to make going forward.

The Show-Me-Value Tour was established by University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe in 2013 to promote the value of higher education to Missourians and encourage middle and high school students to enroll in higher education institutions. In 2014, it was expanded to include the chancellors of each MU campus. Since its inception, the Show-Me-Value Tour has included presentations to more than 5,000 junior high school and middle school students across the state.

“We all have our individual gifts,” Loftin said. “We all have to find best how to employ them. And higher education, education beyond high school of all types, is the opportunity you have to make that choice.”

House Budget Committee approves $26.1 billion spending plan

By Rudi Keller

Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 2:00 pm
JEFFERSON CITY — The House Budget Committee approved a spending plan Tuesday that matches Gov. Jay Nixon’s proposal for public universities, tops his recommendation for community colleges and public schools, and bars highway and conservation commissioners from flying to meetings.

The $26.1 billion budget that moves to the House floor cuts $70 million for water infrastructure and $15 million from the Department of Conservation. It provides a 3 percent rate increase for Medicaid providers, but the committee voted down an attempt to accept 100 percent federal financing to expand Medicaid eligibility.

The committee plan adds $24 million to Nixon’s proposed $50 million boost to the foundation formula, the basic state aid program for public schools. Total spending through the formula would increase to $3.38 billion.

In final work on the budget, lawmakers shifted $42.2 million among various items as they worked out political problems with various agencies. The result was a final budget that spends about $25 million more overall than Nixon requested in January.

**State Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia, forced a roll-call vote on an amendment to use $81 million from anticipated Medicaid expansion savings for public university spending and aid to engineering and medical education facilities at the University of Missouri.**

The benefits of expansion include health care coverage for 300,000 Missourians, jobs at hospitals and health clinics and prevention of premature death, Webber said. “The people in Missouri are paying taxes for Medicaid expansion,” he said. “This is a question of whether Missourians tax dollars are going to come back to Missouri and be reinvested in our state.”

Rep. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, said King v. Burwell — the case being argued Wednesday before the U.S. Supreme Court in a challenge to tax subsidies available through insurance exchanges — creates new uncertainty about the Affordable Care Act. He opposed Webber’s plan to boost university funding through expansion savings, and said Missouri is not losing money on the taxes residents pay to the federal government.

“Well any time people are bringing up our tax dollars going to another place, I get a little bit red in the face,” Rowden said. The state gets back $1.22 for every Missouri tax dollar that goes to the federal government, he said.

Only Democrats on the committee supported Webber’s proposal, which failed 6-18. Webber voted against 10 of the 13 budget bills approved Tuesday evening.

When the bill including higher education funding reached the committee, it included $5.5 million to boost state support for community colleges, but no increase for four-year universities. Webber’s proposal would have allowed for a 5 percent increase to all schools at a cost of $45.6 million.
Committee Chairman Tom Flanigan, R-Carthage, added $12 million — a 1.3 percent increase over the current budget — to match Nixon’s proposed increase for colleges and universities. The money would be distributed based on how schools fare on performance measures. The University of Missouri System, which met all of its goals, would receive a boost of $5.7 million in addition to this year’s funding of $428.5 million.

The higher education plan does not match the 5 percent increase requested by University of Missouri President Tim Wolfe and the leaders of other institutions, Webber said.

Rowden and Rep. Caleb Jones, R-Columbia, who both voted against Webber’s proposal for Medicaid, said they anticipate the university will receive the increase it wants from the Senate Appropriations Committee, led by Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia.

Many of the changes made by the House committee reflect a second attempt to support program funding that was vetoed or withheld by Nixon last year. One item would boost the budget of the State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia by $483,250 from a current budget of $1.7 million.

Rep. Jeremy LaFaver, D-Kansas City, lost a bid to settle a political issue when he pushed an amendment to restore $1.4 million transferred to House and Senate staff from the Joint Committee on Legislative Research. The transfer would split the funding for the nonpartisan committee’s research staff and job authorizations to House and Senate funds used to pay both partisan and professional staff.

One reason for shifting the staff is that lawmakers want the space they occupy, directly underneath the governor’s office, for offices and committee rooms. Another reason, said Budget Committee Vice Chairman Scott Fitzpatrick, R-Shell Knob, is that most bill drafting work is done by the House and Senate research staff.

“I think the level of professionalism we have now is exceptional,” Fitzpatrick said.

LaFaver said all his bill drafting work was done by the legislative research staff, which works under the direction of the only legislative committee mandated by the Missouri Constitution. He was worried about passing on the legacy of impartiality inherited from past lawmakers, he said.

“This seems like a very drastic move to take in order to rearrange the furniture,” he said.
COLUMBIA — **MU police responded to an incident of sexual abuse at 6:18 p.m. Tuesday at Defoe Graham Hall.**

The suspect allegedly grabbed a female's breasts through her clothing and put his arm around her waist, MU Police Captain Brian Weimer said.

Tyler was arrested on suspicion of sexual abuse.

Weimer said the department did not issue a Clery release because the case did not present an ongoing or immediate threat to the campus community.

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**A plan to curb sexual violence on campuses**

**NO MU MENTION**

By CLAIRE McCASKILL

Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 2:00 pm

**Correction appended**

In December, I testified before my colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee about an issue in which I have been steeped — how best to protect our college and university students from sexual violence.

That hearing came at a troubling time. Controversy was swirling from an article in Rolling Stone magazine about an alleged gang-rape at the University of Virginia. After questions were raised about those allegations, the magazine retracted its story. And some commentators used that retraction to question whether sexual assaults on campuses are really such a big deal after all.

Columnist George Will wrote about the “supposed campus epidemic of rape,” accusing schools of making “victimhood a coveted status that confers privileges,” while others chimed in to claim sexual violence on campus is a “false epidemic” and accused survivors of fabricating their assaults.

Rape is the most underreported crime in America, not a crime in which we see rampant false reporting or embellishment. An attack of this nature is often the most personally painful moment
in a victim’s life. What’s truly harmful is not the voices of survivors coming out of the shadows — but rather disparaging rhetoric that makes reporting even more difficult. We can’t let that rhetoric distract from our work to combat these crimes.

This week, along with Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., and a bipartisan group of colleagues, I’m reintroducing the Campus Accountability and Safety Act to take aim at sexual assaults on campuses by empowering students and strengthening accountability and transparency for schools.

We first introduced this bill last year and are reintroducing it in the new Republican-controlled Congress. But unlike many bills, this legislation has strong support from Republicans and Democrats alike. We worked across the aisle to hammer out a proposal with broad support because this isn’t a partisan issue, and my hope is that work bodes well for the future of our legislation.

As a former courtroom prosecutor of sex crimes, I saw sexual violence cases firsthand. And college campuses face challenges similar to those we saw when working on our successful reforms to how the military handles sexual assault: severe underreporting and confusion over where and how to get help.

To truly understand the scope of the problem, my oversight panel launched an unprecedented nationwide survey of 440 schools last year — to help us gauge the effectiveness of federal oversight and enforcement of federal civil rights law. And some of the most valuable input came from the week I spent crisscrossing the state to visit with representatives from nearly 50 Missouri colleges and universities.

On campuses — big and small, public and private — I met with students, survivors, educators, administrators, advocates and law enforcement to get feedback on how we can do a better job combating sexual assaults. We discussed giving teeth to financial penalties against schools that don’t follow the law, improving cooperation between schools and law enforcement, and ensuring all students are aware of their resources and reporting options.

The version of the bill we’re introducing is informed by that feedback and, I believe, is stronger for it. We have made changes to our climate survey requirements, shifted the duties for confidential advisers and restructured financial penalties for noncompliance.

The message we are sending our students needs to be clear — if a student is assaulted on a Friday night, she needs to know, on that same night, how to get confidential support and access to professionals who can lay out the full range of options, including potentially moving forward in the criminal justice system.

The message we are sending to colleges and universities must be clear as well — that when these crimes occur, administrators must fully comply with the law, under threat of a real financial penalty, better cooperate with law enforcement and properly assess the scope of the problem.
Too often, victims are too frightened to come forward, assuming it was their fault, not knowing where to turn. Schools, administrators and law enforcement have an obligation to ensure students are empowered and perpetrators held accountable. This legislation will ensure they have the tools to do so.

**BPA Is Fine, If You Ignore Most Studies About It**

Bisphenol-A (BPA) is either a harmless chemical that’s great for making plastic or one of modern society’s more dangerous problems. Depends whom you ask.

BPA is in many types of plastics and the epoxy resins that line most aluminum cans, as well as thermal papers like receipts. It is an endocrine disruptor that mimics estrogen, a hormone especially important in sexual development, and the fact that it’s all over the place worries many people. Newsweek spoke with about 20 scientists, leaders in the field of BPA research, and the majority say it is likely (though not certain) that the chemical plays a role in a litany of health concerns: obesity, diabetes, problems with fertility and reproductive organs, susceptibility to various cancers and cognitive/behavioral deficits like ADHD.

“There's too much data consistent across studies…time and time again…to ignore it and suggest BPA has no effect on humans,” says Gail Prins, a physiologist at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

But the plastic industry, researchers it funds and, most important, many regulatory agencies—including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)—say BPA is safe for humans at the levels people are exposed to.

“BPA used in food packaging does not present a risk to consumer health,” says FDA spokesman Theresa Eisenman. Kathryn St. John, with the industry group American Chemistry Council, says BPA is safe and refers to statements made by the FDA and EFSA to back her up. And John Rost, chairman of the North American Metal Packaging Alliance, states emphatically that BPA is nothing to worry about, adding, “I feed it to my five children every day.”

**Fetal Risks**

BPA was first synthesized in 1891 by a Russian chemist and investigated for use as an artificial estrogen in the 1930s, when it was found to mimic the effects of that hormone on the human body. Two decades later, manufacturers began to use it to make plastics, specifically polycarbonate, and its estrogenic properties were mostly ignored.
BPA is relatively cheap to produce and very effective for making structurally sound plastics, producing strong and often transparent products that resist falling apart when heated or cooled. And it’s great at keeping cans from corroding. Around 75 percent of cans in North America are lined with BPA, says Rost. And, thanks largely to BPA resins, there hasn’t been a single case of fatal food-borne illness traced directly to North American cans in 37 years, because the substance prevents metal corrosion and breakages, he says.

The use of BPA has continued to grow in the past few decades. As of 2012, 10 billion pounds of the material were produced worldwide, with a total estimated 2013 market value of more than $13 billion. And the market is expected to expand by about 5 percent annually in the near future. Every day, the manufacture and sale of BPA brings in tens of millions of dollars.

But scientists suggest that might be offset by a large, hidden cost: its impact on human health. To date, there have been around 1,000 animal studies on BPA, and the vast majority show that it causes or is linked to many health problems, from alterations in fertility to increased risk for cancers and cardiovascular problems to impaired brain development, says Frederick vom Saal, a longtime researcher of the product at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

There have only been animal studies because it would be unethical to give extremely high doses to humans, says Ana Soto, an endocrinologist at Tufts University. While testing on animals can be a good starting place to understanding how a chemical might affect human bodies, such tests aren’t conclusive. For that reason, scientists have conducted about 100 human epidemiological studies to look at the patterns of health and disease in real-life settings. These too show a correlation between exposure to BPA and the aforementioned ailments.

Scientists are particularly worried about exposure to the developing fetus and infants. When the fetal brain is first developing, it is most vulnerable to endocrine disruptors like BPA, research has shown. And animal studies have suggested early exposure to BPA has a significant impact on the brain and other organs. Some epidemiological research does too. Brown University epidemiologist Joseph Braun, for example, has shown a link between early childhood exposure to BPA and later behavioral problems.

The majority of the animal studies to date have involved large doses, quantities much greater than, we think, most humans encounter. But we don’t really know.

**It’s in Your Blood**

Several dozen studies in the past five years or so have found average human blood serum levels of BPA in the low range, around 1 part per billion (ppb). Many of the negative health effects in animal studies have been shown to occur at these levels, says Laura Vandenberg, who researches endocrine disruptors at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. But the established methods for testing the toxicity of substances—the degree to which they can harm the human body—assume that the toxic impact is more or less proportional to the amount ingested. Endocrine
disruptors like BPA, which act like hormones, don’t “play by the rules,” says Patricia Hunt, a geneticist at Washington State University. Hormones can have very different effects at low and high levels. An estrogenic chemical can induce cell growth at low levels but inhibit it at high concentrations, for example. Regulatory agencies have begun to recognize this but still “keep relying on standard toxicology tests,” Hunt says.

The FDA contends the studies that show exposure in the low ppb range must be outliers, the result of what the FDA’s Eisenman calls the “well-known problem of contamination” that occurs during the collection of blood samples. BPA is also found in dust, and scientists all agree that it’s very hard to avoid contamination when testing for this chemical. But it’s not impossible. Many researchers say a handful of labs have established protocols to control for contamination. One 2014 round-robin study (where blood with known concentrations of BPA was tested at different institutions) found that three labs accurately identified and measured samples with very low levels of BPA, while one lab failed, Vandenberg says. The paper also established contamination-avoiding guidelines labs can and now do follow, she adds.

And as reported in late 2014 by vom Saal and a colleague in Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology, nine studies that employed contamination-avoiding methods (such as testing background levels of the chemical) found human BPA serum levels close to or above 1 ppb.

Justin Teeguarden, a researcher at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, published a study last month investigating the impact of consuming soup containing six times the FDA’s acceptable daily intake (which is five micrograms per kilogram of body weight, according to Eisenman). The 10 men tested ended up with blood concentrations of BPA of about 0.1 ppb, 10 times lower than levels found in vom Saal’s review. Teeguarden says the vast majority of people probably have BPA blood levels much lower than this, since these subjects were exposed to thousands of times “more BPA than most are exposed to.”

But Teeguarden’s characterization of standard exposure might be missing a key element: non-food sources. BPA can get into the bloodstream from handling receipts, for example. And when the chemical gets into the body this way, says vom Saal, it bypasses the liver, which normally renders harmless a good amount of ingested BPA. This leads to significant levels of the chemical in the blood stream, a 2014 JAMA, The Journal of the American Medical Association study showed. Vom Saal argues that the FDA, EFSA and other regulatory agencies have not yet addressed—or even recognized—how much these sources of BPA exposure are contributing to human blood concentrations.

Teeguarden disagrees, though, taking the same basic position as the FDA: The blood levels reported by vom Saal and the others are all wrong, due to contamination. But it is worth mentioning that Teeguarden’s study was funded by the American Chemistry Council—a trade group that represents companies that manufacture chemicals like BPA. The council has funded other studies on BPA, and they’ve all concluded that the chemical has no harmful effects. One
2006 analysis by vom Saal and Wade Welshons showed that 11 out of 11 industry-funded studies found BPA had no significant action, while 109 of 119 studies that had no industry funding (92 percent) did find effects of BPA.

“It’s puzzling when you see that kind of disparity—it doesn’t make sense from a scientific perspective,” says Andrea Gore, a professor of pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Texas at Austin and editor-in-chief of the journal Endocrinology. Dr. Csaba Leranth, a Yale School of Medicine physician and scientist whose studies have shown that BPA reduces the number of synapses (brain cell connections) in monkey brains, is more direct: “Studies funded by industry are not reliable.”

In June 2014, the FDA reiterated that BPA is safe in the way it is currently used by plastics manufacturers. But the agency also dismissed as irrelevant the vast majority of the BPA safety studies its own scientists reviewed in preparation for that official position statement. According to the FDA, for example, all of the 48 epidemiological studies reviewed had “no utility” for the agency’s risk assessment, the formal process it undertakes to decide if a chemical is safe for human health or not.

In some cases, the reviewers’ notes don’t seem to match up with the FDA’s sweeping assertion that there’s nothing to see here. For example, the reviewers wrote of one 2013 study, “These data support a plausible relationship between urinary BPA levels and obesity.” They say that another paper, regarding hyperactivity, “should be considered as part of the growing body of work assessing relationships between BPA exposure and behavior.” But none of these seemingly concerning links are mentioned in the conclusion that BPA is safe.

“I think there’s a strong influence among the chemical industries and their lobbyists—they have the money and time,” Gore says, adding that researchers have very little of both. In 2013, for example, the American Chemistry Council spent more than $11 million on lobbying expenses, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Industry groups have also funded, and in some cases written up, research done by governmental scientists. One 2008 investigation, by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, found that “a government report claiming that bisphenol-A is safe was written largely by the plastics industry and others with a financial stake in the controversial chemical.”

**The Chemical Whack-a-Mole Game**

Despite the FDA’s continued support of BPA, the chemical is already being replaced on the market due to consumer concerns—but with substances such as bisphenol-S that behave similarly, and may even be worse in some ways. This often happens when companies find that a substance they use may be harmful or is shunned by consumers, and they need to find a publicly acceptable replacement, something Braun calls the “chemical whack-a-mole game.”
There are numerous examples where industry has tried to sow doubt to keep products on the market when there is evidence to reasonably conclude they might not be safe, says Dr. Philippe Grandjean, a health researcher and physician at Harvard. Lobbying by chemical companies allowed lead to be used in gasoline for decades longer than necessary, and this needlessly damaged the developing brains of thousands of children, he says.

The case is not as clear-cut with BPA, because of inconsistencies and uncertainty in the data, says Heather Patisaul, an endocrinologist and developmental biologist at North Carolina State University. “We don’t really understand how these things affect us at low levels, and what that means over a lifetime,” she adds.

But most scientists polled think there’s enough “writing on the wall,” as vom Saal puts it, to enact more stringent regulations, at least while BPA is being studied more thoroughly. “You have to act or not,” says Soto, despite the uncertainties. “I think we have plenty of evidence, if we are responsible, to act.”

The New York Times picks up where SkyMall left off

When it began a little over a decade ago, the New York Times store was only meant to satisfy readers seeking reprints of articles.

It has since blossomed into a destination for hostess gifts, where shoppers can find anything from a personalized oak wine barrel, to a vintage English silver cream jug, to a novelty cutting board shaped like a pig. And recently the site got a makeover, further differentiating it from the online stores of other media outlets. As a press release for the relaunch boasts, the new online shop offers "personalized products that are curated for and recommended to each individual shopper."

Those personalized oak wine barrels went like hot cakes. The Times sold 10,000 in the first quarter they were offered, says Joseph Adelantar, executive director of retail for The New York Times Store.

"Our readers have an affinity for something special. They want something that has some kind of a background to it, or some kind of historical note, rather than just saying here’s a beautiful watch and it’s gold," he says.
But at the NPR Shop, fans love the more practical items.

“When I started I thought we’re never going to sell a tote bag or a mug, because everyone that’s involved in public broadcasting has those things from a pledge drive,” says Barbara Sopato, director of consumer products and e-commerce for NPR. "But those are huge sellers for us."

It seems nothing shows your love for public radio like the humble canvas tote bag, a perennial fan favorite.

NPR shoppers, notes Sopato, are eco-conscious. They also tend to have pets and a lot are gardeners or cooks says Sopato, who notes every spring she's sure to offer up some gardening merchandising. But overall, they're curious. A public radio fan doesn't just want a cocktail, Sopato says, hey want a book that shows what plants are grown to make the booze so they can talk about the drink's origins at happy hour. So that's what Sopato sells.

But Margaret Duffy, director of the Institute for Advertising Ethics at the Missouri School of Journalism, says that for media outlets, a snazzy store isn't just about the cash in the till. After all, it's one thing to sell a branded sweatshirt, mug and cuff links, and another altogether to land a corporate advertising campaign. If media outlets play their cards right, she says, they can use their sales as bait, to lure in bigger fish.

“One of the things they would clearly like to tell their advertisers is that they have a demographic that is willing and able to spend significantly on products and services,” she says.

Say, an antique brass clock in the Times store for $6,500.

When it all comes down to it, “media outlets are brands,” says Allen Adamson, chairman of branding firm Landor's North American headquarters. "The New York Times is as much a brand as Pepsi, Coke or McDonalds.”

And just like any other retailer, Adamson says, a media store has to know what its customers want.

“So, the [Times] you’d want to sell upscale, powerfully intellectual brand items,” he says.

"These are products for people who have a very curated lifestyle," says Marissa Gluck of the digital branding agency Huge.

"If you’re an NPR listener, you’re probably likely to drink craft beer and, you know, enjoy artisanal cheese," Gluck says. "Fox is maybe a little bit older, certainly not fashion-forward."

But for most media outlets, it's not the coffee cup or baseball cap they're trying to sell, but the logo on the front or side, Gluck says.

“Their primary revenue stream is advertising – it’s not really selling sweatshirts for 50 bucks a pop," she says.
Chancellor addresses students' concerns over UMKC business school

Thursday, March 5, 2015 | 7:22 a.m. CST
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NO MU MENTION

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — University of Missouri-Kansas City students say they're ultimately satisfied with answers over questions regarding the college's business school, which an audit found it knowingly submitted false data in applying for rankings and awards.

The Kansas City Star reports the university's chancellor met with about 40 students Wednesday in the Student Government Association meeting chambers.

Students questioned whether a lack of transparency and communication among school officials and students were partly to blame for the problems at the Henry W. Bloch School of Management. Chancellor Leo Morton assured students the issues at the business school weren't representative of a bigger problem on campus.

Following the audit, the Princeton Review announced in February that it was pulling the school's 2011 through 2014 top 25 rankings for graduate and undergraduate entrepreneurship programs.
Concerned that a culture of secrecy might be pervasive on campus, University of Missouri-Kansas City students had some lingering questions about the cheating that cost the business school rankings.

On Wednesday they directed those questions at Chancellor Leo Morton — and ultimately said they were satisfied with his answers.

In UMKC Student Government Association meeting chambers, a group of about 40 students asked Morton to assure them that new leadership at the Henry W. Bloch School of Management is hard at work making sure false data submitted for high rankings won’t happen again.

Students questioned whether a lack of transparency and communication among university departments, administration and students was partly at fault and wondered whether having more students on boards and committees might fix that.

Morton denied suggestions that problems at the business school are part of a pervasive culture on campus.

“This was counter-culture,” Morton said.

As for the leadership of the Bloch School, one student said he thought dean David Donnelly, who was appointed to the post last March, was moving far too slowly.

“He is working at it,” Morton said of Donnelly and efforts to repair the school’s tarnished brand. “I am convinced that he is trying to get out in front of it and making changes to turn things around.”

The business school’s integrity was damaged by the rankings controversy. Princeton Review stripped UMKC’s 2014 rankings from the lists of the best college and business
school entrepreneurial programs. The university then surrendered the rankings from 2011, 2012 and 2013.

The actions came after an audit conducted by the accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers confirmed that university officials had submitted false data related to the number of student clubs and mentorship programs as well as some enrollment information.

The audit was ordered by the University of Missouri Board of Curators at the suggestion of Gov. Jay Nixon after a Kansas City Star story on July 26 raised questions about the validity of top rankings.

The audit revealed that faculty member John Norton admitted falsifying rankings data because he was pressured to do so by his boss, Michael Song.

Song, who started the school’s Regnier Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in 2005, resigned from the university on Feb. 13. Norton, associate director of the institute, announced his resignation a week later, effective March 15.

Wednesday’s meeting was the second Morton has had with students since the rankings were stripped. Last month on a KCUR-FM program, Morton apologized to students, faculty and the community for the rankings mess.

He said then and again on Wednesday that he thinks the root cause was “not having enough eyes on the data.”

A new faculty review committee being formed would oversee all future ranking applications for the business school. Students suggested at Wednesday’s meeting that they have representation on that committee.

“A good point,” Morton said, and he promised to raise the idea to Donnelly.

Students thanked Morton several times for the meeting and his apology.
“I appreciate the chancellor coming here to talk to us today,” said student body president Juan Bettancourt. “This was a marginal issue, but it affected the whole university. I fully believe they are trying now to move the school forward.”

Bettancourt and student body vice president Andrew Miller said they think students are satisfied with answers they have received.

And even if they are not, Miller said, “I think we are ready to move on. I’m ready to close the door.”

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David Steelman and southeast Missouri state rep call for John Hancock to resign

BY STEVE KRASKE

03/04/2015 7:14 PM

Prominent Missouri Republican David Steelman and a lawmaker from southeast Missouri said Wednesday that state GOP chairman John Hancock should resign.

Steelman, a member of the University of Missouri Board of Curators and a former lawmaker, tweeted Wednesday that the Missouri GOP “needs to find its soul. To do requires new leadership.”

Hancock has been linked to an anti-Semitic whispering campaign aimed at Tom Schweich, the former state auditor who killed himself last week. Hancock has denied that he was trying to smear Schweich.

A Rolla lawyer, Steelman also told Deirdre Shesgreen of the Springfield News-Leader that Missouri Sen. Roy Blunt could demand Hancock’s resignation and get it.
“Senator Blunt is the most senior Republican in the state of Missouri. If he wants John Hancock to resign, John Hancock will resign,” Steelman said. “If John Hancock doesn’t resign, I will assume that’s because the senator does not want him to.”

Blunt declined on Wednesday to say whether Hancock should go.

“The state chairman is selected by the state committee, not selected by anybody else,” Blunt told the News-Leader.

Also Wednesday, state Rep. Paul Fitzwater, a Potosi Republican, called for Hancock’s resignation, saying Hancock had been “tainted” by allegations that he was involved in an anti-Semitic whispering campaign aimed at Tom Schweich, the former state auditor.

“It’s so bad that he needs to go,” Fitzwater said of Hancock. “That’s the feeling of the mood I get from everyone here.”

Schweich, a leading candidate for the GOP nomination for governor, committed suicide Thursday in his Clayton home. In his eulogy Tuesday, former Missouri Sen. Jack Danforth said the whispering campaign bothered Schweich greatly.

Fitzwater, a three-term lawmaker, said a “couple dozen” other lawmakers also believe Hancock should depart.

“I don’t believe we can prosper as a party” with Hancock at the helm, he said. “I just feel he needs to step down.”

Fitzwater had endorsed Schweich for governor, saying the auditor had stood by him when Fitzwater voted against a tax cut a couple of years ago.

“I don’t think we should attack people personally,” Fitzwater said. “If you attack a factual voting record, that’s one thing.”

The Republican state committee has the power to hire or fire a party chairman. Lawmakers can only express their sentiments. The committee elected Hancock on Feb. 21 in Kansas City.
Also Wednesday, House Speaker Pro Tem Denny Hoskins, a Warrensburg Republican, said a number of his colleagues want Hancock to step down. Hoskins said he wanted to take the weekend to consider the situation.

National wheelchair basketball tourney comes to Mizzou

By David Morrison

Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 2:00 pm

The new chapter of Matt Bollig’s athletic career came about unexpectedly.

Bollig was going into his junior year as the quarterback at Ottawa University, an NAIA school about an hour southwest of Kansas City, and was doing step-ups in the weight room with about 300 pounds on his shoulders.

“It was a routine day,” Bollig said.

Until he slipped and the weight fell on his back, damaging his T11 and T12 vertebrae. He was paralyzed from his waist down.

He remembers the date: July 18, 2012. You don’t forget something like that.

“I had a good support system from my family and friends. They helped out a lot,” Bollig said. “Without them, it might have been a little harder, but I always had positive people around me, always talking about how I was going to get better when I was getting used to the whole deal.”

Bollig went through rehabilitation at Craig Hospital in Englewood, Colo., learning how to navigate life in a wheelchair. About six months after the injury, back in Kansas, a friend asked Bollig to tag along with him to a wheelchair basketball practice.

A basketball player in high school, Bollig took to the sport and played a few tournaments with the Kansas Wheelhawks. That is where Missouri wheelchair basketball Coach Ron Lykins discovered him.

Bollig is in his second year playing for the Tigers, who host the National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Tournament from Thursday through Saturday at Brewer Fieldhouse.
The tournament features eight men’s teams and four women’s teams. The MU men are the No. 4 seed and open play against No. 5 Alabama at 3 p.m. Thursday. The winner gets top seed Wisconsin-Whitewater — which has won three of the past four national championships — at 1 p.m. Friday.

The Tigers finished third at the tournament last year, their highest placing in 10 years as a program.

“We’ve gotten to the point now where teams can’t just show up and beat us,” Lykins said.

The games take place on a regulation court — Missouri brought a new one in to Brewer for the tournament — and the players on each team carry classification levels that range from 1.0 at the low end to 4.5 at the high end and reflect their functional ability to play the sport.

A team’s five-player lineup can add up to no higher than 14. Bollig carries a 2.0 rating.

He said he’s helped with the team’s ballhandling this season. He was able to carry over his shooting form from when he played able-bodied basketball, but everything else was new.

“The chair was a huge part. I had to learn how to maneuver the chair, catch a basketball at the same time and dribble and shoot,” Bollig said. “The main part was learning the chair itself then incorporating dribbling and shooting and more finesse skills. And the defensive part of the game was a lot different. The rigidity of the chair, it’s a solid object. You can’t just go right through a chair.”

Lykins said this year’s team could be his deepest at Missouri, led by Joe Dixon and Carter Arey, who are in their last year of eligibility. Arey earned a silver medal with the wheelchair basketball national team — coached by Lykins — at the world championships last summer.

First-year players Marcus Brockman, Marshall Lindsey, Joe Underwood and Kyle Whitney have also been contributors, along with players from last year’s recruiting class such as James Bohnett and Bollig.

“In Matt’s case, he never played,” Lykins said. “It takes a little bit of time, but he’s a fast learner and a really good athlete beforehand. He picked up on it really quick. Most of our freshmen, after their second semester, really step up their game.”

This is the first time Missouri has hosted the NIWBT. The men’s third-place game is at 11 a.m. Saturday, with the championship to follow at 3:15. The women’s championship is at 1 p.m., following the third-place game at 9 a.m.

Admission is free. Spectators can go to MizzouRec.com for more information.

“It’s a big deal for us,” Lykins said. “It’s a chance to show off our campus, the facility. All that sort of stuff brings recognition to Mizzou, so that’s going to be good.”
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Body cameras to capture conversations, conflicts between police and citizens
Thursday, March 5, 2015 | 6:00 a.m. CST; updated 7:05 a.m. CST, Thursday, March 5, 2015

BY WILLIAM SCHMITT

COLUMBIA — Fifteen years ago, someone accused John Gordon of misconduct. He was a Boone County Sheriff’s Department deputy at the time, and then-Sheriff Ted Boehm called him to his office at 7 a.m. in full uniform.

With his boss, Gordon nervously looked at the tape from the dashboard camera in his patrol car. The footage showed the complaint was groundless, and Gordon was off the hook.

Last year, Columbia Police Chief Ken Burton and Asst. Chief Brian Richenberger asked Gordon, who is now an assistant chief in the Columbia Police Department, to create a test panel of six officers, varying in experience, height and gender, to get an idea of the types of footage that could be gathered with body cameras.

In July 2014, Gordon announced the department’s decision: Every uniformed officer — including detectives and SWAT team members — would be equipped with cell phone-sized Taser AXON body cameras. Gordon’s near brush with a disciplinary review gave him reason to strongly support integrating video cameras into policing.

Equipping police officers with body cameras has been a part of the national debate on police brutality and the use of lethal force since Ferguson Police Officer Darren Wilson shot and killed unarmed Michael Brown last August.

There is no known video of the interaction between Brown and Wilson. Had Wilson been wearing a body camera, the police and the public might have had a better chance of knowing exactly what happened between the two men.

Whether body cameras would have prevented some or all of the anger and civil unrest that followed Brown’s death can’t be known. Still, police departments of various sizes across the country — including the St. Louis County Police Department, the four-
man police department in Colfax, Wisconsin, and the Oakland, California, Police Department, which equipped 619 officers with cameras in 2014 — have responded to cries for accountability by putting cameras on their officers.

On Dec. 1, President Barack Obama announced a request for $75 million in federal funding to pay for 50,000 body cameras for police officers across the United States. According to a Bureau of Justice Statistics census of 17,985 state and local law enforcement agencies, there were approximately 765,000 sworn police officers in 2008.

Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster expressed his written support for body cameras Jan. 28 but added he had concerns about the public having access to the footage from cameras given current privacy laws. Bills filed by Republicans Rep. Galen Higdon of St. Joseph on Jan. 29 and Sen. Doug Libla of Poplar Bluff on Jan. 28 would make body camera footage exempt from Missouri’s Sunshine Law, which allows records to be released in the public interest.

**How body-worn cameras work**

Body cameras got their first test in the Columbia Police Department in 2011, when the first two cameras were deployed on officers patrolling downtown, according to previous Missourian reporting.

Since then, the department has given cameras to every on-duty patrol officer, supplementing existing cameras on patrol car dashboards and some downtown street corners. Gordon said the department purchased 114 cameras at a cost of about $115,000, adding it plans to buy 10 more soon. Budget savings from 2013 were used to buy the cameras. The department has a contract with Evidence.com to store footage for $40,000 per year for three years.

According to department policy, officers "shall activate the (body worn camera) to record all contacts with citizens in the performance of official duties," from arrests to 911 checks. It’s a simple process: The officer presses a button twice, the device beeps and the camera rolls; storage occurs automatically when the battery charges.

Lt. Jason Jones was in charge of the training until his transfer to street crimes last week and Lt. Geoff Jones has taken over body-worn camera training in his stead. Jason Jones said in an email that the training has three main parts: operating the camera, teaching
the department policy on when and why to use the camera and storing video files on Evidence.com.

Jason Jones said more than 15 hour-long training sessions were conducted with camera company representatives present for the first two days. Gordon and Jones provided additional training for officers who couldn't attend the initial sessions.

At the end of a shift, officers dock the cameras in stations called "Evidence Transfer Managers." According to Taser's product manual, the docking stations automatically upload files to Evidence.com and recharge the camera's battery.

Police officers do have some discretion about when they start and stop recording, though department policy mandates that officers turn the cameras on during every interaction that might involve criminal behavior. Giving directions to a lost motorist or pulling over somebody for running a stop sign — which would be captured on a dashboard-mounted camera — are examples of interactions an officer would not have to record.

Usually, though, officers are expected to record their interactions with the public. Burton did not respond to a request for an interview about the use of body cameras in the department, but in a speech in February, he said: "The only thing worse than not having them is having them and not having them on."

The policy also forbids the use of body-worn cameras to record interactions with other police personnel without the chief's permission or any encounters with undercover officers or confidential informants.

Jason Jones said officers are instructed to "categorize ... and retain any videos that would be needed for court purposes." In addition to marking footage as evidence, officers are taught to upload videos that may help to investigate a complaint against an officer and videos an officer might consider valuable for training purposes.

Footage is kept for 60 days after recording, Green said, unless it is used for an ongoing investigation. For investigations of capital offenses, the policy stipulates that "records shall be kept until the offender is no longer under control of a criminal justice agency."

**How video affects policing**
Columbia Police Officer Ryan Brunstrom was starting a 12-hour shift Feb. 16 with Officer Cory Dawkins when Brunstrom detached the camera from its holder on his chest to test and examine the device. He likes wearing a camera. "The evidentiary value is amazing," he said.

He likened himself to a reporter because he uses recordings of events to complement his notes when he writes reports. He said he also appreciated the time-stamping feature on Evidence.com, which can be used to "bookmark" important sections of video.

Dawkins said he thought cameras are a good idea because they can eliminate the problem of conflicting subjective accounts and provide "the whole side of the story," which he believes is especially important when handling citizen complaints.

Columbia defense attorney Stephen Wyse said he's used police dashboard camera footage as "crucial evidence" in past cases. In one case involving an alleged DUI, he said, the video showed that a breathalyzer was defective and helped his client avoid a DUI charge.

Wyse said he thinks body cameras are another step in the right direction. Wider use of the cameras is indicative of a gradual cultural shift toward more transparency, candor and respect between law enforcement agents and citizens. "Cameras are a good cop's best friend and a bad cop's nightmare," he said.

If body cameras provide a more objective and accurate picture of events, he said, they will contribute to fewer citizen complaints and fewer reports of police officers using physical force.

Eapen Thampy, executive director of Americans for Forfeiture Reform, is also a proponent of body cameras. Although it's not possible for cameras to tell the whole story, they give police officers the opportunity to "demonstrate professionalism and capture an objective record," he said.

Thampy is interested in the controversial practice of asset forfeiture — where government officials take money and property from suspected or convicted criminals — so he liked the idea of a video record. Take the example, he said, of two Hispanic men being stopped by a highway patrol officer for a traffic offense. The trooper can see a large amount of cash in the car.
"Even if the law enforcement officer has done everything by the book, it's still good to see footage," he said.

Thampy brought up another possible example to illustrate how police officers wearing body cameras may have less discretion in the event of less serious crimes.

If somebody is pulled over and an officer discovers a small bag of marijuana, he said, the officer has the power to forgo an arrest or citation. With a camera on the officers chest, though, "cops may not feel that they have discretion."

No matter how officers act, "the public should be able to know," Thampy said.

**Wyse said he's spoken to an MU Police Department officer who appreciates body cameras, but he has also heard from a Kansas City Police Department sergeant who opposes the devices. From the MU police officer's perspective, Wyse said, the cameras provide proof and truth. From the sergeant's point of view, however, using the cameras could result in more police deaths because officers would be thinking instead of reacting.**

**External oversight of body camera footage**

Gordon and Sgt. Paul Dickinson of the Internal Affairs division spoke to the Citizens Police Review Board last November about the review board's role in reviewing body camera footage. The board is made up of eight members plus one representative of Columbia’s Human Rights Commission.

When a complaint is filed to the board, members are allowed to review the case file and any material associated with the case, vice-chairman and Human Rights Commission liaison Scott Dean said. In addition to video from dash cameras and audio from police radios, raw footage from body cameras will now be part of the material the board reviews when a civilian feels like they have been treated improperly by a police officer.

Dean is in his fifth year of service on the board, which he said receives about 10 complaints a year. However, as some complaints are resolved internally by the police department before the board can deliberate, the board has only issued 24 decisions since it was created in 2009, according to its website.

Dean described the decision to equip officers with body cameras as progressive; as Gordon pointed out, officers started wearing the cameras prior to the events in Ferguson
last August. Gordon said he has had multiple meetings with heads of other police departments interested in equipping their officers with similar surveillance technology.

Although Gordon admits that the implementation of body cameras in Columbia is too new to divine the social effects of implementing this level of surveillance, he said his 20-plus years of experience with dashboard cameras has been "overwhelmingly beneficial."

Gordon underlines the camera’s beeping function as a helpful reminder for officers and civilians alike. It’s no secret that people can behave very differently when they know they're under surveillance.

Body cameras have also made their way into the classroom. School resource officers have body cameras, and footage recorded by resource officers is used in compliance with the Safe Schools Act. Film of incidents where minors are tried as adults could be used at the discretion of the courts.

No complaints yet
Dickinson said no officers have been disciplined as a result of their footage, which isn’t unusual in Columbia as most officer complaints come from supervisors.

Dickinson said the greatest number of complaints are about officer rudeness. Dean emphasized the importance of footage for appeals where complainants may report events incorrectly, for any number of reasons.

“More often than not, the days that you have to encounter police or call police is going to be one of the worse days that you’re having,” Dean said, comparing the stress and rarity of a typical police encounter to a trip to the emergency room.

Dean said the majority of interactions he’d had with Columbia police had been positive, adding that data from the police department indicates the number of complaints is about the same as the number of compliments.

In the three months since Gordon and Dickinson oriented the review board, Dean said, the board has not reviewed any complaints involving body camera footage.

Another tool to increase accountability
The Boone County sheriff’s deputy who shot Cornelius Parker after two people were killed and one was injured in east Columbia last Saturday night was not wearing a body camera, Boone County Sheriff’s Department Detective Tom O’Sullivan said. The sheriff’s
department is contemplating body-worn camera testing, said O'Sullivan, who compared choosing the right model of camera akin to choosing a television from a large department store.

"There's 5,800 different types, and we want to make sure we pick the best available option," O'Sullivan said. He said "technical guru" Capt. Chad Martin would be in charge of searching the virtual aisles of body cameras. When asked whether a functioning body camera would have affected the outcome on Saturday, neither O'Sullivan nor Martin would speculate.

Martin said the sheriff's department relies on deputies to police honestly and report thoroughly; body cameras would increase accountability, but they're not a panacea.

Gordon agrees. He said even video doesn't always tell the whole story.

"Watching a video from a secured office is a lot different than a dark, isolated area at 2 in the morning," he said via email. "Video cannot capture the human instinct/feelings that a person has while in the moment."

Women's and Children's offers support group for new mothers

Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Specialists at the University of Missouri Women’s and Children’s Hospital are offering a morning and evening support group for new mothers to field questions and concerns.

“Tiger Tot Mommies” is free and open to the public. Morning meetings are scheduled for 10 to 11 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at ParentLink, 4800 Santana Circle. Evening meetings are scheduled for 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month, except during May and June, when the group will meet the first Wednesday.

Evening meetings will be in the conference center at Women’s and Children’s Hospital, 404 N. Keene St.
The evening sessions will include speakers who will discuss a range of topics, including understanding sleep patterns for babies, tips for working moms and how to make baby food at home.

The first session is March 5, and the final session is Aug. 6. Lactation consultants will be available for breastfeeding questions, and the sessions will include free baby weight checks.