Many University of Missouri administrators accept buyouts

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
03/27/2015 7:17 PM

COLUMBIA, MO. - Almost half of eligible academic administrators at the University of Missouri have accepted voluntary buyouts.

The Columbia Daily Tribune (http://bit.ly/1HRlB1L) reports that 13 of the 28 eligible administrators accepted buyouts of 1.5 times their salaries, not to exceed $200,000. The buyouts, which were announced in January, were offered to tenured faculty as long as they were at least 62 and eligible for retirement by Aug. 31.

School officials declined to reveal the identities of those who accepted the buyouts, citing protection of personnel records.

The requirements for the buyouts are similar to those of the buyouts that were offered to faculty members last year. Over one hundred faculty members took buyouts in September that the school said saved the institution about $17.7 million.

Mary Jo Banken, a spokeswoman for the university, says that the amount of salary money that will be saved by this round of buyouts was not immediately available because the school is currently on spring break.
Bills would ban gender neutral housing, unisex bathrooms

COLUMBIA, MO. - Gender-neutral university housing and many unisex public bathrooms would be banned in Missouri under bills that have been introduced in the Legislature.

Rep. Jeff Pogue, a Salem Republican who submitted the bills last week, said in an email that he wants to "protect the social norms of our state," the Columbia Daily Tribune (http://bit.ly/1LTq9uL ) reports.

The introduction of gender-neutral legislation comes about one month after the University of Missouri's flagship campus in Columbia announced plans to test out a new 16-bed housing option starting this fall. The goal is to create a safe place for students who are transgender or gender nonconforming, Frankie Minor, director of Residential Life at MU, said in February. MU spokesman Christian Basi said the university does not comment on pending legislation.

The other bill would prohibit any state-funded bathroom from being unisex unless it is single-occupancy.
Pogue said in an email statement that if the state "were to change a social norm of this magnitude," the General Assembly or voters should make the decision, through a bill or a ballot measure. The result should apply statewide, he said.

Kyle Piccola, a lobbyist for the group PROMO, which advocates for gay and transgender rights, called Pogue's legislation "disheartening."

"They're attacks on the transgender community," Piccola said. "Everybody, including the transgender community, cares about privacy and safety, particularly in the bathroom."

Piccola said bills proposed this late in the session "don't typically go anywhere," but PROMO will be monitoring the bills and creating an advocacy plan if that changes.

Neither of the bills have been referred to a committee. Legislators are out this week for their annual spring break.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU student arrested, suspected of holding woman hostage
Saturday, March 28, 2015 | 7:38 p.m. CDT; updated 1:10 a.m. CDT, Sunday, March 29, 2015
BY MISSOURIAN STAFF

COLUMBIA – **An MU student was arrested Friday evening on suspicion of holding a woman hostage with a weapon.**

**Haohan Hu, 21,** was arrested at 7:07 p.m. in the 5100 block of Clark Lane on suspicion of unlawful use of a weapon, felonious restraint, and misdemeanor domestic assault, according to Columbia Police Department public information officer Bryana Maupin.
Maupin said in an email that the woman who was held and threatened escaped and called her family in New York. Her family contacted the New York Police Department, which reported the incident to Columbia police.

Maupin said officers made contact with the woman Friday night. She was uninjured. Hu is a junior studying economics, according to the MU directory.

A look at where bills stand at the midway point of the 2015 Missouri legislature

JEFFERSON CITY — The Missouri Legislature is to return to work Monday from its weeklong spring break, which marks the traditional midway point of its annual session. Here's a look at where some issues stand:

ABORTION
The House passed a bill requiring annual inspections of abortion clinics. The Senate has not debated any abortion-related bills.

BUDGET
The House passed a proposed $26 billion budget for next fiscal year that includes a $74 million increase in basic aid for public schools — still well short of full funding under a state formula. The budget, which is now pending in a Senate committee, also includes slight increases for colleges and universities but no pay raises for state employees.

BUILDING BONDS
A measure passed by the Senate details $400 million in bonding projects at the Capitol, higher education institutions and other state facilities. Another provision would bar Gov. Jay Nixon's administration from extending bonds without a vote of the people or legislature — a measure targeted at a proposal for a new St. Louis Rams football stadium. The measures are pending in the House.

**DAIRY INCENTIVES**
The legislature sent to the governor a bill that would create a scholarship program for dairy students and a state subsidy for federal dairy insurance. It also would require MU to develop a plan for promoting growth in the dairy industry.

**DATA CENTERS**
The legislature sent the governor a bill authorizing sales tax exemptions for data storage centers that invest minimum amounts and create jobs with higher than average county wages.

**ETHICS**
The Senate passed a measure that would increase public reporting on gifts to legislators, ban lawmakers from becoming lobbyists until at least two years after they leave office and bar out-of-state trips paid for by lobbyists. It does not address campaign contribution limits. The measure is pending in the House.

**FERGUSON FOLLOW-UP**
Senators passed a bill reducing the amount of revenue cities can keep from traffic fines and fees, an issue raised by some Ferguson protesters who complained of being frequently stopped by police. That bill is pending in the House. Still pending in the Senate are measures revising Missouri's law governing police use of deadly force and setting parameters for public access to videos from police body cameras.

**IMMIGRANT STUDENTS**
Separate bills passed by the House and Senate would ban state financial aid or some scholarships for immigrant students living in the U.S. illegally who are attending Missouri colleges or universities. The House bill also would require colleges to charge such students an international tuition rate.

**MEDICAID**
Democratic lawmakers proposed expanding Medicaid eligibility for low-income adults under the terms of President Barack Obama’s health care law. Republican legislative leaders said that’s not on their agenda.

**MEDICAL MALPRACTICE**
The House and Senate passed different versions of legislation to reinstate caps on non-economic damages in malpractice lawsuits against health care providers, which has been a priority for Republicans since the state Supreme Court struck caps down in 2012.

**PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**
The House passed a bill authorizing the creation of a state database to track prescriptions for certain medicines, an effort to spot people who may be abusing the drugs. A similar bill has been debated by the Senate but not voted upon.

**STUDENT TRANSFERS**
A bill passed by the House, and awaiting Senate debate, would overhaul a Missouri law that requires unaccredited school districts to pay tuition for students who opt to transfer to nearby schools. The bill would require students to first transfer to better-performing buildings within their districts and, if that’s not an option, students could go to charter or online schools. A separate Senate version stalled because of cost concerns.

**TRANSPORTATION FUNDING**
A Senate committee heard testimony but has not voted on a bill that would phase in a 6-cent increase in Missouri’s 17 cents-per-gallon fuel tax, and then adjust it annually for inflation.

**UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**
The House passed a measure cutting the maximum weeks of unemployment people can receive from 20 to as low as 13, depending on the unemployment rate in the state. The bill is now pending in a Senate committee, which already has sent a similar measure to the Senate floor.

**UNION FEES**
The House passed a right-to-work bill that would prohibit labor contracts in which unions collect fees from employees who aren’t members. A Senate committee approved a similar bill, but the issue has not been debated by the full chamber.

**VOTER IDENTIFICATION**
The House passed a proposed constitutional amendment and an accompanying bill that would require voters to show government-issued photo identification. The measures are awaiting a hearing in a Senate committee.

**WELFARE BENEFITS**
The House and Senate passed different versions of a measure that would cut the number of months a family can receive cash assistance benefits from five years to $2\frac{1}{2}$ under the House version and four years under the original Senate bill. The measures also include stricter work requirements for cash assistance and food stamps.

Money and medicine: New Boone Hospital board member will be a part of major business decision

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

Sunday, March 29, 2015 at 12:00 am

The two-candidate race for a seat on the Boone Hospital Center board of trustees appears to be setting the stage for a showdown over the future management of the county-owned hospital — the county’s biggest asset — and BJC HealthCare, which has leased the hospital since 1988.

The candidates, cardiologist and former BJC executive Jerry Kennett and retired cardiologist and author Robert Doroghazi, agree on some things, most notably that the trustees must soon review whether to renew their lease with BJC, which expires in 2020.

The board of trustees’ review begins this summer. The lease that was amended in 2012 ends in 2020 but requires either party to notify the other by 2018 if the lease will be terminated or renegotiated in 2020.

“All options should be considered,” including whether the hospital should once again become a stand-alone hospital that is not part of a larger health system, Doroghazi said.
Kennett agreed, adding that a potential affiliation of some sort with University of Missouri Health Care should also be considered.

“Everything should be on the table,” Kennett said.

The main debate between the two cardiologists: who is best positioned to be part of the lease review and future board decisions.

“BJC manages Boone Hospital for the benefit of BJC, not to the benefit of the citizens of Boone County,” said Doroghazi, who portrays Kennett’s recent administrative role with BJC as a negative. Kennett resigned Jan. 1 after five years as a hospital vice president and chief medical officer to return to private practice and keep open the possibility of running for a board of trustees seat. Doroghazi has made Kennett’s BJC affiliation a regular drumbeat in his advertising and in public forums.

“My opponent has received a paycheck from BJC for the last five years,” Doroghazi said. “I do not believe he can be objective in the tough negotiations to come. I am independent, with no ties to BJC.”

Kennett, 67, is quick to offer a different perspective based on his long career — 36 years practicing at Boone Hospital — and said his connections to BJC are strengths that make him the best candidate.

“Bob wants to portray the fact that I worked for BJC for five years as a negative,” Kennett said. “Quite honestly, it’s the biggest positive I have as a candidate. I know how the hospital is managed. I’ve seen the good and the bad of the BJC lease up close and personal. That’s actually a big positive, not a negative.

“When it comes time to renegotiate the lease, I have a thorough understanding of some of the things that need to be improved on — if we stay with BJC, if we go out and do a lease with someone else, or work with” MU Health, which operates University Hospital.

Kennett also says being a physician who sees patients at Boone — and leases office space from the hospital — is also a strength that Doroghazi, who has not practiced medicine since 2005, lacks.

“I’ve seen personally on a day-to-day basis what things have to change to be able to be sure that the hospital remains strong,” Kennett said. “I experience on a daily basis the challenge of practicing in a hospital and seeing what the nurses have to deal with and what the physicians have to deal with. I know how bad it can be.”

physician,” and Doroghazi closed his comments at a recent League of Women Voters candidate forum by calling attention to a shortage of quality doctors.

“The citizens of Boone County will be best served by my opponent practicing medicine full time,” Doroghazi said, adding that he was confident he could bring “the perspective of a successful physician” to the board of trustees.

“One doesn’t need to be an active physician,” Doroghazi said. His weekly newsletter, The Physician Investor Newsletter, which has subscribers in nine countries, and his seat on the board of the American Journal of Medicine keep him “intimately in tune with what it’s like for a practicing physician.”

Doroghazi is also past president and remains on the board of the Alumni Association of the University of Chicago’s Pritzker School of Medicine, where he went to medical school.

Doroghazi, who retired at age 54, said a trustee can expect to spend 15 to 20 hours a week on board business.

“I have all that time available,” he said.

The board hasn’t had a physician since Jerry Murrell was defeated by surgical intensive care unit nurse Jan Beckett in 2011. Murrell at the time was the hospital’s chief medical officer and had been on the board for 10 years. The board also had Bob McDavid as a member until McDavid was elected as Columbia’s mayor in 2010.

Bob Wagner, who was set to retire as CEO of Columbia Insurance Group, was appointed to fill McDavid’s spot. Doroghazi was also one of 10 applicants, but wasn’t among the three finalists, for the appointment by the Boone County Commission.

Doroghazi announced his candidacy with a November news release that also touted an endorsement by Murrell. Murrell, who has donated $200 to both campaigns, said Tuesday he thought the board would benefit from the experience of either candidate.

“They’re both superb candidates, and we can’t lose in this election. We win whoever comes out on top,” Murrell said. He said most of the local medical community that he knows also thinks it’s important for a physician to be on the board.

“The intricacies of modern health care and the expense involved, I think, calls for expert consultation most readily achieved by having a physician on the board,” he said.

Boone Hospital Center opened as a 20-bed hospital in 1921. Boone County residents approved a $100,000 bond issue in 1919 and an additional $75,000 bond issue in 1920 to finance construction of the hospital. Five men were appointed as the first Boone Hospital Board of Trustees. Among the first tasks was selecting a site for the hospital. The trustees eventually
settled on purchasing four acres along East Broadway — where the main hospital campus remains today — from H.H. Tandy for $10,000.

Several remodeling and expansion projects have occurred during the hospital’s 94-year history, including a $125 million project that concluded in 2011 with an $89 million patient care tower with all private rooms. The trustees currently are deciding whether to finance or pay cash for a $25 million medical campus in south Columbia at Forum and Nifong boulevards.

The trustees voted in 1987 to privatize the hospital and a year later entered into a lease with CH Allied Services, which soon became BJC HealthCare.

The trustees approved the current lease with BJC by a 3-2 vote in 2006 — with current board Chairman Fred Parry and McDavid strongly dissenting — and a 2-1 vote by the county commission.

The renegotiated lease amounted to some $100 million in concessions by BJC over nine years and gave the trustees 25 percent of net revenue, with BJC keeping 25 percent of net revenue. The remaining 50 percent is part of a fund co-managed by the trustees and BJC for reinvestment into the hospital.

Among the results of the lease was the stronger position it created for the trustees, who now manage and invest some $53 million in cash. Doroghazi said those are “very significant funds” that give trustees strong leverage to “consider other possibilities” when the current lease expires.

“The true power that a businessman has is the ability to say ‘no,’” Doroghazi said. “The ability to say ‘no’ is your leverage.” He’s not suggesting that the trustees need to make that their answer to another lease with BJC, “I’m just saying that they should put all things on the table.”

Doroghazi is opposed to the county commission continuing to receive revenue from the hospital lease. The county received $2.3 million from BJC in 2014, and the amount should be similar this year.

“The hospital generates that money,” he said. “The hospital better knows how to spend the health care dollar than does the county.”

Doroghazi isn’t finding common ground for that position from Kennett, Parry or the county commission.

“Would he take land he owns and just let someone use it for free?” asked Southern District Commissioner Karen Miller.

Presiding Commissioner Dan Atwill added, “I think what that suggests is the taxpayers who own the building shouldn’t get any benefit.”

The $2.3 million the county gets annually includes $500,000 for a community health fund that has grown to around $3 million. The county’s community services department is seeking
requests for proposals from local agencies to meet countywide health care needs not addressed by existing programs.

The other $1.8 million represents about 7 percent of the county’s general fund revenue. A 2012 lease amendment also resulted in a one-time payment of $1 million from BJC to the county. Half of that extra payment was designated for economic development and helped support the city of Columbia’s revenue guarantee for airline service at Columbia Regional Airport. Of the remaining $250,000, half was transferred to the county’s road and bridge fund to help defray infrastructure improvements related to the construction of Battle High School, and the rest was set aside in a fund for future capital needs.

Doroghazi also criticizes the $6 million salary paid to BJC CEO Steve Lipstein, and has said that the $2.3 million that goes to the county would hire 60 nurses at Boone Hospital or purchase additional state-of-the-art medical equipment.

Kennett said Doroghazi shouldn’t assume the $2 million-plus that BJC pays the county would be used to hire additional nurses and other ancillary staff. That amount would be split under the terms of the lease.

“The trustees don’t tell BJC how many nurses to hire. We don’t have that kind of daily control,” Kennett said. He also said that county commissioners couldn’t be expected to approve a lease that gives the county none of the revenue.

“I would rather see the money go to our county government than” BJC in “St. Louis,” Kennett said. “The reality is the commissioners have to agree to the lease, so as long as the hospital is doing well financially, I don’t see a problem with the county receiving the money.”

Doroghazi said Boone Hospital is the only county-owned hospital in the state, and perhaps in the country, that actually returns money to the county.

Other challenges facing Boone aren’t unique to the local hospital, Kennett said.

“There’s probably more changes going on right now in health care than in any industry in the United States,” he said.

Kennett pointed to the implementation of electronic medical health record systems and software that has added significantly to physician and nurse workloads.

Kennett and Boone Hospital Chief of Staff Mark Cohen last year met with medical staff, organized a comprehensive list of complaints, and invited Lipstein to come hear the concerns.

“It was a good session and it has led to some changes” in staff morale and some aspects of operations, Kennett said. “Mr. Lipstein did a good job of listening.”
Among the staff concerns were micromanagement of Boone Hospital by BJC, the perception that Boone staff had little, if any, voice in coming up with policies to standardize practices and patient care, and the use of an electronic health record system coordinated by McKesson Business Performance Services — which Boone physicians opposed.

The BJC system will soon be switching to EpicCare for its electronic health and medical record system, with Boone as one of the first hospitals in the BJC system to lead the way.

Kennett said his daily contact with the hospital and staff can’t be matched by Doroghazi, who “has not practiced medicine for almost 10 years.”

“He has never used an electronic health record” and hasn’t experienced other new aspects of health care reform and required reporting, Kennett said. “How can he relate to all the frustrations members of the medical staff and nurses have everyday?”

Doroghazi and Kennett are scheduled to appear at a candidate forum sponsored by the Muleskinners at noon Friday at the Columbia Country Club, 2210 N. Country Club Drive.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Capitol Watch: No place off limits for fretful Kansas and Missouri lawmakers

03/27/2015 6:49 PM

The Kansas Senate passed a budget that doesn’t balance. Radical bills on guns and abortion cleared the Legislature. Gov. Sam Brownback signed a monumental school finance law in a private ceremony with nary an educator or student in sight. Strange is the norm in Topeka these days.

If the Missouri General Assembly seemed strangely quiet, it’s because lawmakers were on spring break. The action resumes Monday.

Order and the court

Things are getting nasty in Kansas between the Legislature and the judiciary.
Conservative lawmakers had hoped to shake off court scrutiny of their school funding decisions by scrapping the old formula and giving districts lump sums to spend as they see fit. But a panel of judges handling the long-running school funding lawsuit has indicated it might call the Legislature’s not-so-subtle bluff and block the new law.

Lawmakers have responded with veiled threats of budget cuts for the courts and interference with judicial selection. Sen. Mitch Holmes, a Republican from St. John, has even introduced a bill expanding the grounds for impeachment of Supreme Court justices, including “attempting to usurp the power of the legislative or executive branch of government.”

Lawmakers do need to remember that court cases are initiated by plaintiffs, and what some legislators regard as “usurping” their power is actually judges doing their jobs.

**Cutting the fat**

While passing a budget that spends more money than the state expects to bring in, the Kansas Senate included $3 million to hire a consultant to find efficiencies in state government.

This seems inefficient. Kansas government has been forced to find savings because of repeated budget cuts in recent years. And the Legislature’s own Division of Post Audit is pretty good at spotting problems — without the high price tag.

Senators also debated whether to ban the use of state funds for hospitality purposes, like refreshments.

The amendment failed, 8 to 30, but it provided an interesting window as to what passes for hospitality in Topeka. Coffee and doughnuts were mentioned. So was bottled water. “I had a boxed lunch once,” volunteered Sen. Jeff Melcher of Leawood. The most exotic item named was bison, which some legislators enjoyed courtesy of the Department of Wildlife.

One takeaway here is that if you want to be well fed while serving as a legislator, you should run for office in Missouri. The fare in Jefferson City is much more substantial.
Number of the week

One and a half million dollars. That’s how much United Way leaders around Kansas estimate they will collectively lose if the Legislature follows through on its horrible idea of banning most automatic payroll deductions for state employees.

The point is to stop union dues from being automatically deducted. But some senators thought that would be too obvious, so they wrote the bill more broadly, not realizing they’d be harming the United Way.

The Senate this week refused to remove the wider language. But that essentially poisons the bill.

“Without the charity portion being removed, I think it probably kills the bill,” said Senate Majority leader Terry Bruce.

The reprieve is probably only temporary. Chances of the anti-union move returning next year: 99 percent.

Take a break

One Missouri legislator who kept busy on break this week was Jeff Pogue, a Republican from Salem. He has been defending two bills he filed aimed at making sure public bathrooms do not accommodate transgender citizens.

One bill would require all but single-occupancy public restrooms to be divided by gender. Another would bar state funds from going to “any entity” that attempts a “project, program or policy that creates or attempts to create a gender-neutral environment.”

Pogue’s bill may have been prompted by the University of Missouri’s plans for a 16-bed, gender-neutral wing in a dormitory on its Columbia campus.

In a Facebook post, the legislator said he worried about predators. “There are numerous cases of men dressing up as women to gain access into locker rooms and restrooms,” he said.
We’re not sure how banning gender-neutral environments would stop that, or why the legislature should get involved in restroom choices. But Pogue’s bills would make for some unusual testimony.

Colleges getting out of health insurance business

March 28, 2015 9:57 am • By DONNA GORDON BLANKINSHIP

NO MU MENTION

SEATTLE (AP) — The federal health care overhaul is leading some colleges and universities to get out of the health insurance business.

Experts are divided on whether this change will be good or bad for students. Some call it an inevitable result of health care reform and a money-saver for students since insurance in the marketplace is usually cheaper than the college plans. Others worry that more students will go without health insurance since their premiums won’t be folded into the lump sum they pay for school, and they say college health plans offer more coverage for the money than other options.

The main driver of colleges getting out of the insurance business is a provision in the Affordable Care Act that prevents students from using premium tax subsidies to purchase insurance from their college or university, according to Steven M. Bloom, director of federal relations for the American Council on Education, a Washington, D.C., group representing the presidents of U.S. colleges and universities.

Add to that the provision that allows young people to stay on their parent's health insurance plans until age 26, plus the expansion of Medicaid in some states and the rising cost of student insurance. The result is cheaper health insurance available for students off campus.
But Bloom worries more schools will decide to drop insurance coverage.

"I've heard of instances where schools are thinking about it, but they are reluctant, particularly in instances where states declined to expand Medicaid," Bloom said.

An administrator who managed the process of dropping student health insurance at William Patterson University in Wayne, New Jersey, said he originally worried about vulnerable students not getting health insurance, but changed his mind after doing more research.

"I actually went into the exchange myself and did a bunch of 'what ifs' to see if this was actually a better deal for them. In many cases it is," said Stephen Bolyai, the school's vice president for administration and finance.

The change in New Jersey began with advocacy by community college leaders, who said health insurance was getting so expensive students couldn't afford it, Bolyai said.

Richard Simpson, who is the student health insurance manager at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, contends, however, that student health plans are a better deal for students.

College plans give students more coverage for their money, they usually have lower deductibles, and they are more flexible than some state plans bought on the exchange, said Simpson, who is also chair of the student health insurance coalition for the American College Health Association, an association of college health officers based in Hanover, Maryland.

"Student plans provide 'gold' or 'platinum' level coverage at a 'bronze' price," Simpson said. "We believe that in the vast majority of cases, student insurance is the best option."

As more states expand Medicaid eligibility — as a number of states are now debating — it's likely more colleges will push their students into the marketplace - a development being seen from coast to coast.

Four of New Jersey's 11 state public colleges and universities stopped selling health insurance to their students this past fall: Richard Stockton College, William Paterson University, Ramapo College and New Jersey City University, all four-year schools.

Meanwhile, three of Washington state's six four-year colleges and universities made the change at the same time: the University of Washington, Washington State University and The Evergreen State College.

In some states, student plans are still cheaper than individual plans that can be purchased through the exchanges. And students who work part-time and are not on their parents' insurance often can get covered for free in states that expanded eligibility for Medicaid.

Levi Huddleson, a telecommunications major at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, has not had health insurance since 2012. He looked into buying student health insurance, but found it would cost more than he could afford on the $6,200 he makes annually working part-time.
Huddleson said his parents are retired and cannot afford to pay for his health insurance, his tuition or other bills. If Indiana had expanded access to Medicaid, he would likely be eligible for free health insurance. He currently makes too much money for Medicaid but too little to afford the $166 a month premium he found by searching the federal exchange.

"I cannot afford it, so it is definitely not by choice," Huddleson said about his decision not to buy health insurance. "I considered buying it, but just taking the hit and paying the penalty was significantly cheaper than either option. Luckily, I'm young, and I don't have any serious pre-existing conditions."

**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

**Build stadium in Columbia so NFL team, Mizzou can share it**

March 29, 2015 12:00 am

We continue to read coverage of the proposed NFL stadium as if it is a foregone conclusion that this is in the best interests of the city and region. It is almost as if local political leaders are leading us sleepwalking toward a slow disaster.

While negative commentaries have focused on the personality of the owner of the St. Louis Rams franchise, they are beside the point. The real cause for concern is that the NFL as a business does not look like such a sure bet for the long term. The league has all the markings of an industry that has passed its prime. Therefore, one should question why the public purse be leveraged (via tax abatements) to support a fixed asset with a useful life likely to fall short of the term for the bonds that will be issued to build it.

Instead of building the stadium in St. Louis, why not do so in Columbia, so that it can be used by both an NFL franchise as well as the University of Missouri? This would justify some public financing and/or tax incentives for its construction and would ensure that the facility would continue to be used well into the future.

As regards St. Louis, why not focus on the city’s historic association with another sport poised for international growth: soccer? An architectural competition, similar to that undertaken for the Arch in the late 1940s, could be launched calling for designs of a state-of-the-art soccer stadium. Just think of the positive impact this could have on St. Louis’ current public image internationally!
This facility could be used not only as a home for a franchise soccer team but also to host matches between established teams based outside the U.S. Such games would put St. Louis on the map as a destination for a much larger audience than U.S. football.

This way, both the St. Louis region and Missouri stand to gain more than building a white elephant in downtown St. Louis. It is time for out-of-the-box thinking.

Philippe de Laperouse • Ladue

Battle over compensating college athletes continues to rage

By David Morrison

Sunday, March 29, 2015 at 12:00 am

As the NCAA sails through another edition of its most lucrative enterprise, storm clouds continue to gather on the horizon.

The Division I men’s basketball tournament, which decides the final half of its Final Four semifinalists for the national championship Sunday, earns about $800 million a year for the NCAA and its schools through a television rights package with CBS and Turner Broadcasting.

It’s a financial bonanza for basically everyone except the players. That’s where those storm clouds come in.

On March 17, a circuit court of appeals in California heard arguments about an injunction passed down by district judge Claudia Wilken last summer that bars the NCAA from making rules against compensating athletes for their names, images and likenesses.

Wilken’s ruling, if it stands, offers a remedy of deferred payments of no less than $5,000 a year to each athlete for each year of academic eligibility and could start as soon as the 2016-17 academic year.
It’s a fairly modest start of something that could portend even larger monetary gains for athletes as cases involving scholarship worth and free markets at the collegiate level make their way through the legal system. Former UCLA basketball star Ed O’Bannon, who is the lead plaintiff in the names, images and likenesses case, has even upped his demands for college athletes of the future.

He wants them to be paid what he feels they’re worth.

“He started this case because he felt like he was being taken advantage of,” said Michael Carrier, a Rutgers law professor who has followed the case. “The more he’s been into this, this is a huge trial. The biggest college sports trial we can remember. The more he’s thinking about, ‘You know what? Maybe we should get more.’ ”

The NCAA has already started down a path of greater benefits for athletes, giving the revenue-rich schools in the Power 5 conferences autonomy to provide new perks if they choose.

It’s a start. It may not be enough to head off impending legislation.

“We can talk about all this antitrust legalese, but at the end of the day, judges are people,” Carrier said. “When they see that there are spanking-new facilities worth millions of dollars and football coaches are the highest-paid university employees in the state, and on the other hand you have the plaintiffs saying, ‘We pooled our money to go to Taco Bell,’ it just doesn’t seem right.”

Two economists who hold degrees from Missouri set out to determine how much major college football and men’s basketball programs could allocate to the average player under a revenue-sharing model.

Last year, Tom Kruckemeyer and Sarah Steelman co-authored a paper titled “College Athletes Everywhere Just Wanna Be Free,” in which they took the revenue generated by FBS football and men’s basketball programs in 2012-13 — according to data submitted to the US Department of Education — imagined a collective bargaining situation in which the programs kept a little more than half of that revenue and earmarked the rest for player “salaries” and calculated what each team would pay the average player per year under such an agreement.

Under this model, the average FBS player — on a 55-man roster, like the NFL — would earn $304,375 and the average men’s basketball player would earn $396,927. The figures in Kruckemeyer and Steelman’s paper range all the way up to $1.1 million per player for Texas football and $2.1 million per player for Louisville men’s basketball.

Missouri ranks 53rd in average football payout ($301,029) and 31st in men’s basketball ($579,302) in the paper’s findings.

“I think the world’s a long way from doing any reform that would be that radical, at least that I can tell,” said Kruckemeyer, who was chief economist for the division of budget and planning in
the Missouri state office of administration from 1978-2004. “There’s a lot of powerful interests that benefit from the current system. You’ve got the coaches and administrators that are making pretty good money off of this deal. Then you’ve got all the people who participate in all the so-called ‘nonrevenue’ sports, whose programs are funded largely by the profits that are generated by the football and men’s basketball teams. People that have a stake in that are probably not all that eager to see the system tossed on its ear.”

Kruckemeyer and Steelman’s paper posits a system of football and men’s basketball programs at the major-conference level that would serve as a de facto minor league for the professional ranks. Players could take the “salary” provided to them by their sponsoring schools and — if they’re interested in getting an education — enroll in courses during the offseason, after their playing careers are over or whenever suits them. Or, if they’re not interested in school, they’ll at least be able to collect a nest egg based on their athletic talent during their years playing for a sponsoring school.

Steelman, who was a state senator from 1999-2005 and state treasurer from 2005-09 and whose husband, David, serves on the University of Missouri Board of Curators, said she doesn’t personally advocate such a dramatic solution to the issue of compensating athletes. But, in light of how much revenue major-college football and men’s basketball players help generate for their universities, she feels more reform is needed for them to be treated equitably.

Steelman’s son Joe played college football at Division III University of Chicago. Schools such as Missouri are playing on a whole different level.

“They’ve already lost their amateurism at the big schools,” Steelman said. “At the FBS schools, Division I schools, it’s no longer amateurism. We’re living in a fool’s world to think that it is. It’s all about the money.”

Kruckemeyer admits that the nonrevenue sports would probably lose out under such an agreement. That, along with the amateurism argument, is a consistent rallying cry against a free market for the revenue sports.

But, Kruckemeyer said, schools sponsoring big-time football and men’s basketball programs could still funnel funds from those sports back into the nonrevenue ventures. Their athletes just wouldn’t be in for the same kind of payday.

“At some point, the people that are running this and are interested in this are going to have to accept the fact that there’s a chasm or a fundamental difference between football and men’s basketball at the 50 to 100 D-I schools and everything else that we would call college sports,” Kruckemeyer said. “It’s a chasm between the money they generate, the interest there is in what goes on. To try to come up with a system that governs vastly different activities — which is what we have here — it would be very hard to do. If you’re ever going to have some sort of a system that adequately compensates players relative to what they’re worth, at some point you’d have to have a fairly major new world order that recognizes that football and men’s basketball is commercial entertainment at the big universities.”
In January, representatives from the Power 5 passed autonomy measures that will go into effect this summer for conferences that choose to participate. Providing athletes with stipends on top of their scholarships, allowing them to borrow against future earnings during their time in school and ensuring that their scholarships cannot be revoked for athletic reasons were chief among them.

“It’s positive, but I hope it’s not just a token step to quiet people down,” Steelman said. “I think fans see all of this money generated, and most people don’t think it’s fair that student-athletes don’t get a little bit of compensation for the amount of hours they put in and the amount of revenue that their games generate.”

The NCAA’s main argument against opening up more avenues for its athletes to be paid is the amateurism concept. The organization was founded, proponents argue, to give athletes a chance to get an education and compete without having to deal with the stresses imposed by a professional model.

A page explaining the group’s view of amateurism on NCAA.org says the system aims for a world where “the young men and women competing on the field or court are students first, athletes second.”

“I’ve seen the results of people leaving universities early and becoming professional and how that can go wrong,” Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said in an interview March 18. “You’re talking about just a few percent who will become professionals. The most important thing we can do is give every student-athlete a meaningful degree. If they leave Missouri with a degree that’s worth something, that is tangible. That’s permanent.

“Let’s don’t mess that up and encourage them to — more frequently even — leave than they do right now. That’s not good for them. That’s not good for us.”

Carrier said the O’Bannon appeal carried some good news and some bad news for the NCAA.

The good news is the appellate board — which could come to a decision over the next few months — seemed to think that the $5,000 remedy was overreaching and problematic. As such, it could overturn the injunction.

The bad news is the board appeared to agree with Wilken’s assertion that the amateurism argument is no longer applicable in the current athletics climate. That could set up trying times for the NCAA down the road when it argues cases over capping the worth of athletic scholarships (Alston vs. NCAA) and prohibiting a free-market system (Jenkins vs. NCAA).

“They keep talking about amateurism almost as if this whole” Wilken “trial didn’t happen,” Carrier said. “But I think at the end of the day, the NCAA will be in trouble if they can’t rely on amateurism. There are other justifications they can talk about — say convention, competitive balance and integration of athletes — but I just don’t think those are as strong as amateurism.”
DEAR READER: 500 'word nerds' converge in Pittsburgh
Saturday, March 28, 2015 | 12:00 p.m. CDT
BY MAGGIE WALTER

PITTSBURGH — The unusual dateline here should tip you off, dear reader, that it's both spring break at MU and time for the annual American Copy Editors Society conference.

This year it's in Pittsburgh, the Three Rivers City, which just happens to be one of those conversational tidbits I learned as a child and which I now treasure as a copy editor. You just can't know enough trivia or substantive facts in this biz.

That's fairly obvious here where more than 500 people have joined the gathering of "word nerds." Included in that count are three current Missouri School of Journalism students, two of whom are winners of editing scholarships.

Christa Corrigan won the top editing award for students, the $2,500 Aubespin scholarship. She has worked as an interactive copy editor, a reporter, a public relations intern and a writer for print, online and broadcast. She also has earned a summer internship at Standard & Poor's in New York as a copy editor.

Tracy Cook claimed one of the four $1,000 scholarships for collegiate editors. She is an assistant news editor at the Missourian and has also been an interactive copy editor there. As a reporter she has covered news, sports and features. Active as a resident adviser, she majors in both journalism and economics. She will be participating in the prestigious Dow Jones News Editing Program this summer at the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Mike Cirelli, a graduate student, also is here, and he is also a former ACES scholarship winner.

And the place, crawling with MU graduates — or as they are more commonly known, the Mizzou Mafia — is in full swing.
The company can be a bit daunting. So far, I've listened to speakers remind editors that math errors are sneaky and often have as much to do with words as with numbers — square feet vs. square miles. Researchers have shared the results of their latest work looking at editing and readers' response. (Yes, accuracy and clean copy matter significantly to both online and print readers.)

And then Steve Kleinedler, executive editor of the reference group at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, which publishes the American Heritage Dictionary and Webster's New World reference works, revealed the secrets behind the production and updating of a dictionary. The main goal at American Heritage is to "share how people use language and how careful writers choose words."

This dictionary came to be with a linguistic fight over the word "ain't." David Skinner presents the argument in great detail in "The Story of Ain't." Nowadays, a 175-member panel of writers and linguists and other cultural icons weigh in on words to include, delete or expand upon. Many words in this dictionary are accompanied by notes, telling how its usage has changed throughout time and why, including the vote of the usage panel.

For example, for the phrase "It ain't likely," the usage panel once voted 1 percent to 99 percent against using the phrase in formal writing, but it did acknowledge that ain't is indeed a word.

Later, we're going to hear from stylebook editors at The Associated Press. Whispers and promises of major changes float through hallway discussions. But, today is Friday and the deadline day for this column, so we'll have to wait a bit to tell you more.

The talk here reminds me of a recently read book "Quite Enough of Cavlin Trillin." A longtime writer for The New Yorker and The Nation, Trillin wrote: "As far as I'm concerned, 'whom' is a word that was invented to make everyone sound like a butler."

My money is that AP might be listening to those types of complaints and that this is the year that we'll no longer need to sort it out and simply use "who." For those of you who/whom care, I'll let you know more next month.

There were six participants and six errors reported in the Show Me the Errors contest in February. The winner for the month is John Beaumonte. As the contest's winner, he will receive a Missourian T-shirt and a copy of "My Bookstore."
We invite you to join in the contest by filling out the entry form that can be found at the bottom of every article. If you find any errors in ColumbiaMissourian.com's content, go to the entry box at the end of every article, type in the information and send it along.

We'll take it from there, and your name will be entered in the monthly drawing for the contest winner.

*Maggie Walter is an associate professor at the Missouri School of Journalism and an interactive news editor at ColumbiaMissourian.com.*

**THE KANSAS CITY STAR.**

**Joelouis Mattox: We all must work together to overcome racism**

*BY JOELOUIS MATTOX*

03/29/2015 10:00 AM

*March is National Woman’s History Month. I dedicate this article to Lucile H. Bluford, late of Kansas City. Bluford encountered state-sponsored racism in 1939 when she was denied admission to the University of Missouri School of Journalism. She overcame the denial and today is known as an early fighter for civil rights and a distinguished newspaper editor. The Bluford Branch of the Kansas City Public Library is named for her.*

I am a dark-skinned man, in my 70s, who grew up in cotton-picking country during the 1940s and 1950s. I know much about racism and racists.

My grandmother, late of Mississippi, and my elders, late of southeast Missouri, told me stories about slavery and instructed me to obey Jim Crow laws and why I should do so.

I remember the times when African-Americans were not permitted to walk through the front doors of white establishments, such as hotels, movie theaters and restaurants.
More importantly, in many states, blacks were kept from voting by illegal voter registration laws.

How does one overcome racism and gain the respect of racists? My high school teachers, at a segregated school, advised me to become somebody in the line of great black men. Such heroes as the soldiers who fought in the Civil War, World War I and World War II, the founders of Lincoln University-Jefferson City, George Washington Carver and my namesake, Joe Louis.

Since the historic march in Selma, Ala., 50 years ago, have African-Americans overcome the legacies of Jim Crow and reached the Promised Land that Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of? The answer is about half the population of black America has made it over.

However, racism, as seen in recent incidents of police brutality, racial profiling and voter suppression, is much the same on each “side of the mountain.”

The NAACP has a branch in Kansas City and two branches in Johnson County, a land of white progressives. Across the country, the fathers and grandfathers of outstanding black athletes face racial profiling, joblessness and are treated with little respect by white community leaders. The men often claim racism is the blame.

How do you overcome racism? Buy from black-owned businesses. Join and donate time and money to black institutions and organizations. Vote for and support like-minded people who stand up and fight for equality, fairness, justice, righteousness and human rights. Keep your cool when you meet racists at ball games, in hospitals, in law enforcement, in stores and in the workplace.

Keep a level head when you hear racists on the radio and television. Just as important, if you’re African-American, become a banker, doctor, educator, entrepreneur, lawmaker, writer or a community organizer. These professions can help black communities overcome racism.

Racial equality is not where it should be in Kansas City, but it is much improved from the 1960s when Troost Avenue divided the city into “The Black Side” and “The White Side.”
I have traveled in Africa and Europe. Racism is worldwide. But racism in the United States of America conflicts with our country's lofty ideals and values. It stains our nation's image around the world and diminishes the United States as the greatest place on earth to live.

For these reasons, black and white people must work together tirelessly to make this nation “the home of the brave and land of the free” for all classes, races and religions.

Exhibit of women's wartime clothing on display through D-Day

March 28, 2015 11:05 am

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Dresses, uniforms and other examples of women's wartime clothing are on display through D-Day in Columbia to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The exhibit at the State Historical Society in Ellis Library on the University of Missouri campus shows what happened when women's changing lives combined with limitations on the use of fabrics such as wool, silk and nylon, the Columbia Missourian (http://bit.ly/1FQ0JJe ) reports.

Women, who were increasingly spending their time working in factories and raising money for war bonds, looked for ways to conserve by shortening hemlines, using more synthetic fabrics and altering old clothes. Women also compensated for the regulations by personalizing their clothing with buttons, accessories and other embellishments. A set of plain jackets with cinched waists and exaggerated shoulders, for example, were made to have ruffles, lapel details and fabric-covered buttons.

Hats were another way to express glamour. The exhibit shows how plain turbans and felted wool hats could be enhanced with feathers and rhinestones.
Until the 1960s, women wore hats as a part of their everyday outfits, said Jean Parsons, a curator with the Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection and an associate professor in the Textile and Apparel Management Department at MU. So when federal restrictions during the war called for less fabric and less frequent bathing, women wore hats to add style, as well as to hide unruly or unwashed hair.

"So, it didn't matter that you hadn't gotten to your hairdresser," said Parsons, whose research concentrates on the American apparel industry in the mid-20th century.

When war restrictions were finally lifted, women celebrated with longer, fuller skirts and softer styles.

Nicole Johnston, the costume collection's manager and archivist, hopes viewers will see not only the changes in fashion, but also the effect both world wars had on women.

"Women won't ever be the same," she said.

Information from: Columbia Missourian, http://www.columbiamissourian.com

Uncertainties dog spring planting season for farmers

March 29, 2015 12:15 am  •  By Tim Barker

Like many farmers around the nation, Eric Van Tuyle is in the midst of a waiting game.

For the next month or so, he’ll keep careful tabs on the weather and the condition of his fields around Roodhouse, Ill., looking for the right time to start planting corn.

But he’ll also be watching the commodity markets for help in figuring out just how heavily he should invest in the crop.

Van Tuyle, 64, has been farming the area pretty much all his life. In a typical year, he splits his acreage with 85 percent going to corn and the rest to soybeans. But with corn prices in the tank — around half of what they were a couple of years ago — he’s looking to boost soybean acres as high as 35 percent this year.
It’s not as if he’s all that confident in soybeans. Those prices are down too. But he said it costs considerably less to grow them — about a fourth the cost of corn.

“If I’m going to get a zero or negative return, I’m going to put as little as possible into it,” Van Tuyle said.

And there’s always a chance things could take a turn between now and early May, when he needs to make a decision on the corn, which goes into the ground a couple of months earlier than soybeans.

It’s a quandary for farmers, who find themselves facing another year of declining income and steady, if not rising, production costs. The problem is that record harvests have generated a glut of corn and soybeans, driving prices down to the point where some tracts of land simply can’t turn a profit, once production costs are factored in.

Just three summers ago, corn was fetching $8 a bushel. More recently, prices have fallen below $4 — perilously close to the break-even point for many corn farmers.

As a result, net income for farmers is expected to drop by more than 30 percent this year, according to a recent report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

That’s forcing farmers to shift acreage to minimize losses or, in some cases, to jump into alternate crops such as sorghum, where demand is still rising.

But the biggest change is likely to a movement from corn to soybeans, according to a recent survey by Farm Futures, a company that specializes in agricultural publications.

The company asked 1,300 growers about their planting intentions for the coming year. The results show a 2.5 percent drop in corn acreage and a 4.2 percent increase in soybeans, putting the crop at a record 87.25 million acres.

Still, there’s been a dampening of the enthusiasm for soybeans since January, when a similar survey had farmers with more than 88 million acres. The problem is that bean prices have continued to slip, taking away some of the incentive to switch.

“Soybeans are actually penciling out to a larger loss than corn,” said Bryce Knorr, senior market analyst for Farm Futures. “It has farmers rethinking the extent of the soybean expansion a little bit.”

This uptick in soybean acreage is actually an extension of a movement that started last year, when falling corn prices prompted the addition of some 7 million soybean acres.

“That was largely due to economics,” said Ronald Plain, an agriculture economist with the University of Missouri Extension. “If you budgeted it out, the odds looked better with soybeans.”
There is a rule of thumb that farmers tend to follow, when making the decision: If corn prices are 2.5 times higher than soybeans, you plant corn. If not, you go with the cheaper-to-grow soybeans.

This growth of the soybean market has been often talked about by Creve Coeur-based Monsanto, which has seen a drop worldwide in sales of corn, its top seed product. Earlier this year, the company warned investors its first quarter results (scheduled to be released Wednesday) would likely be impacted.

The company’s own projections suggest a 5 percent increase in soybean acreage this year.

“Corn acres are projected to go down, really around the globe,” said Jennifer Ozimkiewicz, Monsanto’s U.S. marketing and project management lead, in a recent interview.

A true picture of this year’s planting season won’t be seen until later this summer, when everything is in the ground.

“Spring weather is important for the last-minute decisions these farmers make,” she said. “And it really depends on commodity prices the week they are making these decisions.”

For some local farmers, grain pricing and market uncertainties are having little impact on this year’s game plan.

Greg Schneider has been farming in the Warrenton area for three decades. The usual strategy is to divide his acreage down the middle — half soybeans and half corn.

And he sees no reason to change things up this year.

“It’s for the soil health and erosion control as much as anything,” Schneider said.

Things could change, however, if we end up having a long, wet spring that delays corn planting beyond the middle of May.

“Late planting is what would switch us,” he said. “In my lifetime, that’s the only thing that’s changed us.”
By Eric Kelderman

NO MENTION

It’s getting hard to keep up with the number of shocking incidents attributed to fraternities.

As headlines pile up — racist and sexist speech, sexual impropriety, destruction of property, hazing, illegal drugs, and even the death of a student — there is a growing sense that Greek organizations are out of control.

As a result, some colleges have moved to close fraternities, suspend or expel student offenders, and — in cases of alleged criminal activity — open their own investigations.

But the latest spate of bad behavior has raised bigger questions about Greek organizations’ place on campuses: Why don’t colleges, or the national associations the fraternities represent, hold frats more accountable? Can they, or should they, do more? How?

Cracking down on fraternities faces big hurdles, such as upsetting powerful alumni and donors who were members of those groups. But some colleges and national associations have taken it upon themselves to limit their responsibilities chiefly because of the cost and potential legal liability.

"The greater control you set up for Greek life, the more liability you assume," says Scott Schneider, who leads the higher-education practice at a New Orleans law firm and is a former associate general counsel at Tulane University.

Rules, Rules, Rules

In some ways, at least, fraternities and sororities are already subject to lots of rules, many of them self-imposed, says Mark Koepsell, executive director of the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors. "The bar is absolutely higher for Greek organizations," he says.

Those rules begin with the basic ones that apply to their peers. Individual members of Greek organizations are, of course, subject to student codes of conduct. And as chapters, fraternities and sororities usually must meet the same expectations as other student organizations, Mr. Koepsell says. In the meantime, they generally must also meet the standards of an umbrella group of Greek organizations on a campus.

"There’s no doubt" that national Greek organizations want to protect students, says Emily N. Pualwan, executive director of HazingPrevention.org, a nonprofit group that works with both colleges and Greek organizations. While reports of hazing are on the rise, she says, actual incidents are most likely decreasing. Training and prevention programs, she says, are simply making students more willing to report such behavior.

But national Greek organizations have not always hired enough staff members to monitor the number of chapters they have, Ms. Pualwan says.
The national organizations do have a clear oversight role: They set standards for the behavior of individual members, and they require local chapters to follow an extensive set of rules under risk-management policies that bar activity like the use of illegal drugs or the provision of alcohol to minors. Individual chapters must also purchase insurance through a company established by the fraternities and paid for by member dues.

National associations of Greek organizations say their key role is to provide "ongoing education and advice" to their local chapters, which are "self-governing and independent student organizations." And they act quickly to enforce their policies, primarily by closing or suspending individual chapters, according to an email from representatives of the National Panhellenic Council and the North-American Interfraternity Conference.

"While each chapter is self-governing, it has been educated by its national organization and its local advisers on these topics and should understand its responsibilities, just as each individual member should understand what behavior is expected," the email says.

But the policies often work, first and foremost, to protect the national organizations legally, says Douglas E. Fierberg, a lawyer who has handled numerous high-profile lawsuits against Greek organizations for injuries and deaths related to hazing. In doing so, they leave individual members on the hook.

"What members don’t know is that if individuals are found to have violated the risk-management policies, they will be excluded from insurance coverage," Mr. Fierberg says. Because of that, the national groups have little or no incentive to do a better job of monitoring members’ behavior, he says.

What’s more, the national Greek organizations also have not been responsive to concerns of campus leaders, says Kevin Kruger, executive director of Naspa — Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

"Many vice presidents of student affairs are frustrated that they can’t get a phone call back from the nationals," Mr. Kruger says. "That’s a problem."

Campus Cop-Out

Colleges, too, have often avoided the tough decisions to punish fraternities or sororities, often for financial reasons, say several higher-education experts.

One reason is that members of Greek organizations are often reliable donors to the institution.

"There’s generally been a fear of responding in a strong way," says Gentry R. McCreary, associate dean of students and deputy Title IX coordinator at the University of West Florida. "If you’re upsetting alumni, you’re upsetting potential donors."

Another reason is that fraternity and sorority members maintain powerful positions in Congress and in statehouses across the country.
For example, the Fraternity and Sorority Political Action Committee represents Greek organizations on Capitol Hill and boasts contributions of more than $2 million over the past decade to more than 100 Congressional candidates.

Its website features a quotation from Rep. Steny Hoyer, a Sigma Chi member and Maryland Democrat who is minority whip in the U.S. House of Representatives. Eight U.S. senators and more than two dozen U.S. representatives who were members of Greek organizations are expected to attend a dinner in Washington that the committee will host in late April.

But the challenges to overseeing Greek organizations on campuses are sometimes the result of policy decisions made by the colleges.

For example, a college may allow members of Greek organizations to live on campus property — sometimes in houses owned by the chapter — with little or no supervision of the kind provided to students in traditional dormitories.

That arrangement can create both legal and practical hurdles to enforcing college rules, say Mr. Fierberg and others.

Because the houses are privately owned, campus police officers may be able to enter in only two situations: if they’re invited in or in an emergency.

And even if residence-life staff members live in the houses, as is sometimes the case, colleges may not have or be willing to spend more money for adequate staff coverage, Mr. Koepsell says.

Mr. Schneider, the higher-education lawyer, says that the struggles to oversee Greek organizations are part of a bigger conversation about how much colleges should be responsible for students in general.

Since the 1960s, institutions have slowly given students more and more responsibility for their own actions, he says. Now the pendulum may be swinging the other way.

He warns in an article, however, that colleges should weigh the unintended consequences of greater regulation.

"Put simply, it is a mistake for institutions to simply assume that they are under a legal duty to corral rowdy fraternities," he wrote. "To the contrary, there may be instances that such a duty is created solely by efforts to rein these organizations in."

Mr. Koepsell says that kind of approach will not work in the long run: "You can do the arms-length thing and minimize your liability, but are you really? It’s eventually going to blow back on the university."

Eric Kelderman writes about money and accountability in higher education, including such areas as state policy, accreditation, and legal affairs. You can find him on Twitter @etkeld, or email him at eric.kelderman@chronicle.com.
WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Education plans to name the colleges whose access to federal money it has restricted because of concerns about the risk they pose to students and taxpayers. And most of the institutions placed on those financial sanctions in recent years have been for-profit colleges, newly disclosed federal records show.

Officials will release the list of colleges currently subject to extra scrutiny known as heightened cash monitoring at some point next week, according to Dorie Nolt, the department's press secretary.

The department on Friday sent a message to colleges on the cash monitoring list, notifying them of the forthcoming release.

“We have determined that the designation of institutions as being on heightened cash monitoring (I or II) is a matter of public interest,” the department said in the message, which was obtained by Inside Higher Ed. “Therefore, we will be releasing a list of institutions that were under those designations as of March 1, 2015, early next week.”

The decision to release the information comes after Inside Higher Ed reported on Thursday that the department was keeping secret the list of colleges that concerned regulators to the point they had curtailed access to federal funding at those institutions.

A department spokeswoman said last week that officials had been considering releasing the list.
Partial, redacted records released by the department on Friday under the Freedom of Information Act show that most of the colleges on heightened cash monitoring in recent years have been for-profit institutions.

The department provided a spreadsheet of 74 colleges that were on cash monitoring at some point between October 2011 and February 2014. The document was originally compiled for Government Accountability Office analysts who were examining the integrity of accreditation decisions.

Of the 36 colleges facing the most stringent restrictions during that time, 30 were for-profit institutions and the others were private, nonprofit colleges.

Department regulators may place a college on heightened cash monitoring for a variety of reasons relating to the risk the institutions pose to students and taxpayers.

Colleges that fail the department’s financial responsibility test, for instance, are typically placed on the lower level of heightened cash monitoring. In other cases, department regulators may impose cash monitoring after they identify a problem at a college or find that it hasn’t been following the proper rules for doling out federal loans and grants.

The most frequently cited reason for colleges on the highest level of scrutiny on the partial list released Friday was “accreditation problems.” For the lower level of scrutiny, colleges were most commonly cited for a lack of “financial responsibility.”

According to the most recent information provided by the department, 76 colleges or universities were subject to the most stringent form of cash monitoring at the end of last October. Another 455 institutions, as of last August, faced a lower level of scrutiny.