Ferguson prosecutor's MU law school visit creates controversy

Watch story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=28187&zone=5&categories=5

COLUMBIA - St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch visited MU's law school on Tuesday resulting in a variety of reactions from the community.

McCulloch was the prosecuting attorney during the grand jury proceeding that resulted in no indictment of officer Darren Wilson for the death of unarmed teenager Michael Brown.

About two dozen residents and students protested outside of Hulston Hall before McCulloch's appearance. They expressed their distaste of McCulloch as a prosecutor and his involvement in the Ferguson case.

"It's very important that we keep the pressure on," said Joan Wilcox, a Columbia resident and activist.

Another protester and MU graduate student, Reuben Faloughi, said he was displeased because MU didn't publicize the event or make it open for all to attend.

"This McCulloch talk is a perfect example of the lack of transparency on campus," Faloughi said. "A high profile case like this, attorney like this. And no word from the top? I don't get it."

Media was not allowed inside the event. MU said it was for pre-registered law students and staff only. McCulloch did speak to the media after his appearance about what he wanted the law students to take away.

"I think the one thing they can learn, we need to communicate with the public a lot more than we did," McCulloch said.

One law student in attendance, Kayla Jackson-Williams, president of MU’s Black Law Students Association, said she went in with very specific intentions.
"I wanted to know what he was going to do to restore the faith in the black community because I don't think it's there," Jackson-Williams said.

She said McCulloch avoided answering her question in addition to others, but he was more willing to discuss than she expected.

"To a certain degree I had no expectations of him, so the fact that he was willing to answer questions at all was a good thing for me," Jackson-Williams said.

Concerning Ferguson, McCulloch shared what his approach was.

"As the prosecutor, I've got an obligation. The prosecutor is the only lawyer in the grand jury room...So my ethical obligation is to present any evidence that may mitigate an offense, or negate an offense," McCulloch said.

Ultimately, Jackson-Williams is anticipating more actions from McCulloch rather than further discussion.

"I'm just over Bob McCulloch. And I'm ready to move forward, and I want to see what Bob McCulloch is going to do for the community since he says he wants to get out there, and he wants to be more active," Jackson-Williams said.

MU said McCulloch's appearance at MU's law school was intended to teach students about grand juries and how they make their decisions in court cases.

**Capacity crowd expected for McCulloch talk**

Public likely won't be allowed inside.

By Ashley Jost

Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 2:00 pm

*The University of Missouri School of Law expects a capacity crowd of law professors, students and staff for a talk by St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Bob McCulloch set for Tuesday night, meaning the general public will not be able to hear the controversial official's remarks.*

Hulston Hall, the home of the law school, is closing to the public at 5 p.m. ahead of the event.
McCulloch, whose public profile was boosted during the investigation into the shooting death of Michael Brown by a Ferguson police officer, is speaking as part of an event organized by a new student organization, the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys. University administrators and student organizers said students, faculty and staff had first and top priority for attendance and were asked to register beforehand for the ticketed event.

An initial email announcing McCulloch’s appearance said the event “will not be closed to the public,” but is intended for the law school community first. Pre-registration numbers indicate the room will be full, organizers said Tuesday.

Space outside the venue will be set aside for those who want to gather.

MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said the university has talked to other institutions where McCulloch has spoken recently and made security decisions to protect students based on that information.

Banken said MU hopes to maintain a “safe and respectful environment” while allowing for expression of dissent. Because the crowd is expected to meet the room’s capacity, reporters will be put in another room in Hulston Hall during the event, and will be given recordings of the presentation afterward.

Banken said organizers are trying to arrange a media availability with McCulloch, law school Dean Gary Myers and a student leader from the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys. Ryan Nely, a founder of the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys student chapter, said student leaders planned to meet with administrators Tuesday afternoon before the event to finalize arrangements.

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**Public locked out of McCulloch forum at MU**

By Alan Burdziak

Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 10:07 pm

**Hulston Hall’s doors were locked as St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch spoke at the University of Missouri’s School of Law Tuesday, with both the public and members of the media shut out of the forum because, as Dean Gary Myers said, registration had filled the room to capacity.**
“This was a student-initiated and student-sponsored event, and it was designed primarily to be for the law school audience,” Myers said at a joint press conference with McCulloch and law student Ryan Nely after the event. Nely, a founding member of the student chapter of the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, orchestrated McCulloch’s appearance.

McCulloch oversaw the grand jury process in the case against Darren Wilson, the former Ferguson police officer who shot and killed 18-year-old Michael Brown on Aug. 9. The case drew international attention to St. Louis County, particularly after McCulloch announced in November the grand jury declined to indict the white officer for shooting Brown, who was black. A U.S. Department of Justice review of the Ferguson Police Department and its municipal court system found racially discriminatory practices, but McCulloch also was criticized for how he handled the case. The Tuesday event, which was quietly organized and was not advertised, drew criticism from about a dozen protestors outside of Hulston Hall. One student who attended the event said several seats in the classroom where it was held were empty throughout the 90-minute program.

“I've honestly seen that room way, way more crowded multiple times,” first-year law student Ben Levin said. “So whatever that attendance policy is, it seems like it’s enforced very selectively here.”

Nely said any empty seats were due to people walking around during the event because the room was full according to capacity guidelines. McCulloch’s talk focused on the grand jury process in general and specifically on how the grand jury was conducted in the Wilson case. McCulloch said students were curious about how the process played out and why he did certain things in Wilson’s case.

McCulloch presented all of the evidence to the grand jury in the case and provided it with five options for an indictment; grand juries typically are shown a portion of the evidence and the prosecutor recommends one charge. Some people criticized McCulloch for changing the process in Wilson’s case.

“It’s not that we’re trying to skewer it or we’re trying to shift it in one direction or the other,” McCulloch said. “The obligation I’ve got is to present a full case to the grand jury.”

Reuben Faloughi, one of many protesters in front of Hulston Hall Tuesday, said he took issue with the lack of transparency related to the event.

"The fashion in which it was held was very secretive,” said Faloughi, a doctoral student at MU. “There’s still people who don’t know about it. I think McCulloch, being as high profile as he is, not only do people of color need to know he’s here, but I think it should be open to the entire campus.”

While reform is expected within the Ferguson Police Department and its municipal court system — several police, city and court officials have already resigned — McCulloch said any tweaks to the grand jury process need to be carefully considered.
“The worst thing that can happen is that we have some knee-jerk reaction,” he said. “Some in the legislature in Jeff City want to abolish the grand jury system. That’s just a horrible idea, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t be looking at the grand jury system.”

McCulloch conceded that municipal revenue streams need to be checked to ensure police and courts don't gouge people with tickets and fines.

“If municipalities can’t provide their basic service without preying upon people, if they’re not providing basic law enforcement, effective law enforcement, then it shouldn't be a municipality,” he said.

Levin said much of the discussion involved familiar topics from media coverage or other forums at the School of Law. One thing stood out to Levin, though.

“He did say that many St. Louis municipalities would be better served if their police forces just didn’t show up for work,” Levin said. “That was a fairly bold statement.”

Toward the end, Levin said, a black law professor asked McCulloch why Wilson was not indicted for a crime less than homicide. Levin said the two men went back and forth, with the conversation becoming heated at times. Though the event was not advertised, Levin said the community at the School of Law knew it was coming, and people were split on having McCulloch visit MU.

“A lot of people, professors even, did not want him here,” Levin said. “The law school’s been a pretty rough place the last week or so, just in anticipation of this.”

A video of the forum is expected to be available Wednesday.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

St. Louis prosecutor lectures on grand jury process amid protests
Tuesday, March 31, 2015 | 10:45 p.m. CDT; updated 7:55 a.m. CDT, Wednesday, April 1, 2015

BY ALYSSA SALELA, KATIE KULL

COLUMBIA – Only a select few made it into MU's Hulston Hall to hear St. Louis County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch lecture about grand juries Tuesday night.
Ryan Nely, the co-founder and president of the student chapter of the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, which hosted the event, said 140 seats were made available.

MU School of Law students, staff and faculty were given the opportunity to register for the event in an email sent March 21. By 3 p.m. Monday, every seat in Hulston Hall's basement auditorium had been snapped up, Nely said.

But that didn't stop about 40 protestors from groups including MU4MikeBrown, Occupy COMO, Mid-Missouri Fellowship of Reconciliation and Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty from gathering outside the Law School before and during the event to condemn the appearance of the controversial prosecutor.

McCulloch has drawn criticism for his handling of the grand jury that decided not to indict white Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson for shooting Michael Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old, Aug. 9.

McCulloch's impartiality in the case was doubted by black leaders and Brown's parents throughout the grand jury process, according to The Associated Press. State Rep. Karla May, D-St. Louis, expressed her concern in December that McCulloch had "manipulated" the grand jury into a non-indictment.

Members of Occupy COMO and Mid-Missouri Fellowship of Reconciliation handed fliers echoing those accusations and condemning the "sneaky process" the Law School used in restricting the event to law students.

"It's of public interest," community activist Traci Wilson-Kleekamp said. "It looks sneaky for them to announce it over spring break and then only have him confirm it a couple of days ago."

MU School of Law Dean Gary Myers denied trying to keep the public in the dark.

"This was a student-initiated and sponsored event that was meant for the Law School students, faculty and staff," Myers said. "The room was at maximum capacity."

MU4MikeBrown, an organization dedicated to "demanding justice for black and brown bodies," according to its Facebook page, was also present. Its members chanted, "Back
up, back up; we want freedom, freedom," and voiced anger at the prosecutor's appearance.

Yasmin Younis, a freshman at MU and member of MU4MikeBrown, said she thought it was offensive that McCulloch was asked to speak on campus.

"I’m here because I disagree with racial oppression," Younis said. "I am a minority. I am a woman, I am Middle Eastern, and so I can sympathize with this cause."

In an email announcing the event, Nely said that MAPA was neither endorsing nor condemning of McCulloch and his decisions, but security at Hulston Hall took no chances with those who might disagree with the prosecutor.

The email said no bags would be allowed inside the auditorium for safety reasons, and the building's entrances were locked three hours early.

Nely said that the event was free to attendees and that MAPA did not pay McCulloch for the appearance.

After the event, McCulloch responded to criticisms that he confused grand jurors with too much information during their meetings.

"I don't understand the criticism," McCulloch said. "How can you give a decision-maker too much information?"

McCulloch said he enjoyed the reception he received at the event and appreciated the questions law students, staff and faculty asked.

"People asked tough questions, but they were things that people would want to know," McCulloch said.
COLUMBIA -- St. Louis County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch said Tuesday the grand jury system has served the state well despite recent controversy.

**McCulloch spoke at a Tuesday night event at the MU School of Law sponsored by the newly-formed MU chapter of the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys.** He and the grand jury system have been criticized since the shooting death of Michael Brown. Riots broke out in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson after a grand jury decided in November not to indict police officer Darren Wilson in Brown's death. Critics have argued the grand jury system is inherently biased in favor of the prosecution since defense lawyers cannot be present, and one state lawmaker has even proposed abolishing grand juries altogether. McCulloch called that "a horrible idea."

"Everything needs to be reviewed on a regular basis to see if it can be improved," he said. "The worst thing that can happen is that we have some kind of knee-jerk reaction."

McCulloch said prosecutors should do a better job explaining the grand jury process, especially in high-profile cases. He said the media spread a great deal of misinformation about how grand juries work as a result of inadequate communication during the Michael Brown case.

Neither the media nor the public were allowed to attend McCulloch's talk. The law school's doors were locked throughout his visit. Law school dean Gary Myers said McCulloch's visit was organized by and for law school students, so those students got priority seating. Myers said there wasn't enough room for anyone else in the room, though he added the discussion was "vigorous."

The visit drew a small knot of protesters outside the law school building. MU psychology student Reuben Faloughi said he was disappointed the public wasn't allowed to take part in the discussion since MU is a public institution. He said he could understand the desire for security.
but he thought it would have been a good idea to hold a separate event for the public if sponsors were concerned about space.

"Everybody doesn't want to protest. Some people have genuine questions and don't understand why," he said.

Asked about criticism of minority underrepresentation in his office, McCulloch replied that he had two black attorneys working in supervisory roles. He said the best way to increase minority representation in prosecutors’ offices is to encourage recent law school graduates to apply to work there.

**Prosecutor Bob McCulloch talks Ferguson at MU Law event**

The polarizing St. Louis County prosecuting attorney who handled the controversial Michael Brown case spoke to a group of law students and professors Tuesday night.

Bob McCulloch’s speech, organized by the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys student chapter in Hulston Hall, was about the grand jury process in the Brown case. **The event was only open to MU School of Law students and not members of the public or the press.**

McCulloch said in a press conference after his speech that the audience asked tough questions and that it was a “great discussion.”

"I hope that (students) will have a greater understanding of the criminal justice system,” he said. “I hope they got a better understanding of how grand juries work and a better understanding of what went on in this particular case. A lot of what was tossed out in the media just didn't happen.”

A group of about 20 protesters, organized by Occupy COMO, gathered outside Hulston Hall before the speech. Protesters criticized McCulloch’s divisive record as a prosecutor and the choice by organizers to make it open exclusively to law students. MU professor Sandy Davidson, who specializes in communications law, said she didn’t see any “red flags.”

“Just because it’s a public facility, doesn’t mean that it’s open to the public per say,” she said.

She said even though she gives lectures at a public university, they aren’t open to the public. The same rules applied to McCulloch’s speech, she said.
But Mid-Missouri Fellowship of Reconciliation Coordinator Jeff Stack said the situation still made him feel uneasy.

“I'm just concerned (and) saddened about the presence at the university of McCulloch, because it seems like it was handled in a secretive way,” he said. “There was little notice for the public to be involved and talk to him in a forum.”

Law School Dean Gary Myers said during the press conference following the speech why the event was open only to law students and faculty.

“This was a student-initiated and student-sponsored event,” Myers said. “We had a registration process and by the conclusion of that process, all the seats had been filled. It was designed primarily to be a law school event so that (McCulloch) could have that discussion and dialogue.”

MAPA Student Chapter President Ryan Nely said he extended an invitation to McCulloch and began planning the event a few weeks ago.

“I learned that our student body can ask really tough questions in a really respectful way,” Nely said. “It's important to remember this is one part of an ongoing conversation we've been having for the past year and that we're going to keep having.”

Law student Samantha Green live-tweeted the event using #MUMcCulloch in an effort to make the information available to as many interested people as possible.

"I think all things considered it went really well,” Green said. “I was excited to hear McCulloch's view, as a prosecutor, but I walked away feeling like we didn't address much during the event. He didn't answer questions directly and I didn't have my concerns and questions discussed. But being able to watch the law school community interact and react was valuable.”

McCulloch said he received criticism as a result of the failure of the grand jury to indict Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson.

"I don't understand the criticism that I gave the grand jury too much information,” McCulloch said. “I don't understand how you can give a decision-maker too much information. If I'm trying to make a decision, I want as much information as I can get."

McCulloch said the students he spoke to tonight wanted to know what he was doing to “avoid issues like this” in the future.

“We need to communicate with the public a lot more than we did,” he said. “Prosecutors need to get out more and explain the process and the system.”

This event came two weeks after Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin held another in a series of race relations forums in an effort to further dialogue about race.
Carl Kenney, a pastor at Bethel Baptist Church and adjunct journalism professor, said the decision to invite McCulloch was inconsiderate to students who have been frustrated with the MU administration.

“I think allowing McCulloch to come here is bad timing and there is no justification for the law school to be allowed to have him come for the life of this university,” Kenney said. “It follows a community conversation about race on this campus, and for the chancellor to allow this to happen shows a disregard for what happened last week. If the attempt of the event last week was to create an olive branch, this destroyed all of that.”

McCulloch responded to protesters by supporting their right to discuss the issues.

“I’ve always encouraged people to speak their mind and if they want to protest, you should get your views going, but allow it for a way to let others do the same thing,” McCulloch said. “It’s a good idea to have this discussion and see where things go.”

St. Louis County Prosecutor speaks to law school, but others left out


COLUMBIA, Mo. - The St. Louis County Prosecutor who gained national attention during the Ferguson protests spoke at the University of Missouri Tuesday night.

Administrators locked the doors of Hulston Hall during Prosecutor Robert McCulloch's speech to the students, faculty and other prosecutors. The event, organized by the student chapter of the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, filled the auditorium to its capacity at 172 people. That contributed to the school's decision to close the event to the public.

"This was a student-initiated event," law school dean Gary Myers told reporters, standing alongside McCulloch and Ryan Nely, the head of the student group who organized it. "And it was designed primarily to be for the law school audience - students, faculty and staff. We had a registration process, and by the conclusion of that process, all the seats had been filled."
I would challenge them to have a more creative approach, to open the dialogue up to campus," Faloghi said. "This is a public university. People from Ferguson still have questions about the case."

Faloghi disapproved of the way McCulloch handled the grand jury process. The prosecutor came under fire from some critics for presenting a wealth of information to the grand jury - more than is usual in many other grand jury settings. One member of the grand jury filed a lawsuit in order to lift the gag order placed on them, to discuss the feeling the prosecutor's office presented evidence to incriminate Brown, rather than find a conviction for Wilson.

McCulloch, once more, defended his office's handling of the situation, especially with the amount of evidence they presented.

"I don't know how you can possibly ask a decision maker too much information," McCulloch said.

McColluch, though, admitted he and other prosecutors could do better in talking with the public about legal processes.

"We need to communicate with the public a lot more than we did," McCulloch said. "There's certain rules involved, I can't go out and talk about evidence on a particular case. But I think I need to get out, and prosecutors need to get out, and I know we do a lot of that, but prosecutors need to get out more and explain the process and the system."

McCulloch made the announcement that night in November that the grand jury would not indict Wilson for a crime.

Many called for McCulloch to take himself off the case days after the shooting. McCulloch's father worked for the St. Louis City Police Department, and was killed while working when McCulloch was 12 years old.

He has won election in St. Louis County six times, holding the post since 1991.

Other than the attention he's recently received, McCulloch also gained notoriety for prosecuting Axl Rose after a riot at a Guns N Roses concert in the early 1990s.

Letter spells out terms of Alden's departure
Mike Alden is expected to officially hand the reins of Missouri’s athletic department to new Athletic Director Mack Rhoades on April 27. The athletic department will continue to pay Alden his salary through Aug. 31 and allow him to collect incentives totaling more than $430,000 that he would have received had he stayed in his post until that date.

The terms of his departure were spelled out in a letter from Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, dated March 9 and signed by both Loftin and Alden. It was obtained by a public records request.

Alden was under contract through June 30, 2019, when he announced his intention to retire in January after nearly 17 years as AD. He will transition to a position in the College of Education. The letter states that he will draw an annual salary of $125,000 in his new post and that his appointment will extend through April 26, 2018, with the possibility it can be extended by mutual agreement through June 30, 2019.

Alden’s contract, signed on Aug. 6, 2009, and amended three times since, called for him to receive a payment of $50,000 on June 1 of every year he remained as the school’s athletic director. He will also receive a one-time payout of $232,163.75 from an incentive-and-retention account on June 30, as was spelled out in an amendment to his contract from April 2012. Finally, he will receive $150,000 from an annuity on or before Aug. 30. As was outlined in the terms of his initial contract, Aug. 30 was the first day he was eligible to make that annuity withdrawal, which might explain his initial departure date of Aug. 31.

Loftin’s letter to Alden states that “between the date of this letter and the effective date of resignation, you agree to assist in the successful transition and assimilation of the successor Director of Athletics. After the effective date of resignation, I expect that you will be reasonably available, upon request, to help with that process as well, and by signing below, you agree that you will do so.”

Loftin concluded his letter by thanking Alden for “your outstanding service to the University of Missouri, and its Department of Athletics.”
Outgoing Missouri athletic director Mike Alden will relinquish his duties April 27, according to an understanding reached with MU chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

When Alden announced his retirement Jan. 29, he planned to stay on as athletic director through Aug. 31, but that timetable was accelerated when Houston athletic director Mack Rhoades was hired last month.

Alden has served as the Tigers’ athletic director for 17 years and will become an instructor this fall in the MU College of Education.

Alden will continue to receive his salary as athletic director through the end of August.

Before he takes that role, he will receive three lump-sum payments this summer for work helping during Rhoades’ transition. He will receive $432,163.75 in the payments — $50,000 by June 1, $232,163.75 before June 30 and $150,000 before Aug. 30. Those payments are part of his existing contract, which runs through April 26, 2018, and can be extended by mutual agreement through June 30, 2019.

Beginning Sept. 1, Alden will be paid $125,000 yearly in his role as an instructor in MU’s positive coaching program.

As athletic director, Alden received a base salary of $301,917 under terms of an extension he signed in 2012. With bonuses, he made $674,317 in 2013, according to the USA Today database of athletic director salaries.
Column: Let’s help improve our library

MU lacks world-class library facilities, and the proposed fee would be a great step toward fixing that.

We have the nice Rec. We have top colleges in multiple fields. We have new residence halls sprouting up and constant campus beautification projects happening.

What we don’t have is a cutting-edge library. Some say that the libraries on a college campus tell a lot about what the college stands for, and if one was to look at our beloved Ellis Library, they might not think we were a leading institution.

Shabby is a good word to describe the current state of Ellis’ interior. It can definitely be improved and made more efficient. The plans to renovate one of the most-used spaces on campus is a great move for MU to make, even if it is at the cost of students.

Plans have been made to propose a library fee for students in the coming years in very small amounts to fund the renovations. Students have to foot the bill of this costly renovation project because there is virtually nowhere else to pull the money from.

If the plan passes and is accepted by the students through voting in November, students in coming semesters will have to pay $5 more per credit hour. The $5 will increase by $2 each year until the end of the funding timeline, which is planned to be in 2022. The multimillion-dollar renovation will bring new study rooms to students as well as media labs and other useful resources to make students’ experiences great. It won’t apply to just Ellis, but all libraries on the MU campus.

When you tour MU for the first time, the MizzouRec facility is the climax of the tour because of how nice and advanced it is. It should be the same way for our libraries. As an educational institution, we should all be concerned about how accessible new scholarly articles and technologies are to us.

While MU is known all over the world for having a high-ranking journalism school and medical school, on lists comparing libraries, we don’t come close to the top. It’s not to say that we don’t have amazing resources through databases and journals at our fingertips, but as an overall experience, we could definitely do better.

Students should be willing to make a sacrifice in order to better our campus community and enhance our library system. Students’ voices can be heard when they vote yes or no to the plan.
When you’re in Ellis now, there are cords along the floors, small study spaces with chairs and tables that wobble. Bookmark Café is one of the least talked about eateries on campus and many students don’t know how to navigate through the library on their own.

The updated library will be a place for students to enjoy and actually want to spend time. There will be 24-hour study spaces and a brand new Digital Media Lab on the first floor of Ellis where students can create digital media content.

Since students are paying for much of the transformation of the library, we should be voicing our opinions on what we want to see out of the final project and how we plan to use the resources. Students know what is best for students, and we should be fully active in deciding how our money is spent.

Take the time to think about and research how other institutions around the country have revamped their libraries and made them more practical and usable. It is a known fact that MU is behind in library innovations and resources, and that is not okay. With a new, modern, easily accessible library, MU will be a powerhouse that continues attracting students and scholars from every corner of the world.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU Police Chief Jack Watring to leave department this week after 44 years

Tuesday, March 31, 2015 | 7:25 p.m. CDT; updated 10:49 p.m. CDT, Tuesday, March 31, 2015
BY LAUREN STYX, NATALIE HELMS

COLUMBIA — **MU Police Department Chief Jack Watring is leaving his post Wednesday after 44 years with campus police. Watring’s official retirement date is June 15, but he is using vacation time to cover the final weeks.**

Watring began his law enforcement career with the Missouri State Highway Patrol in 1958 before joining MU police in 1971. He worked for decades in the department, and Vice Chancellor Jackie Jones promoted him to chief in 2003.

Watring said when he was promoted to chief that his three goals were to make sure the department had the resources it needed, to keep the budget in line and to be a cheerleader for the department. Watring said he accomplished all of those during his time there.

"I think I'm leaving the department in really good shape," he said.
Watring said one of his biggest accomplishments was helping the department operate at a professional level.

Almost all immediate staff have attended the FBI academy, and the department has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. since March 2001 under Watring's jurisdiction.

Watring said MU police is "everything a police department should be."

MU police Maj. Doug Schwandt, who was appointed interim chief March 1, has worked in the police force for 35 years, 15 of those with MU police. He and Watring started out as majors at the same time.

"Without a doubt, he's one of the best," Schwandt said. "I don't think you could find a person who cares more about this university. Why else would he stay so long?"

Schwandt said Watring always had an open door and wasn't afraid to ask for advice in tough situations. Following in Watring's footsteps, he said, he plans to continue to provide the resources to keep campus safe.

"He's really empowered us to do our jobs and has provided good guidance," MU police Captain Brian Weimer said.

Weimer remembered that when the department underwent some changes, such as relocating and accreditation, Watring held it together.

"He's the one who made it stick," he said.

Although Watring has headed campus police for quite some time and his co-workers know it will be strange without him, Schwandt is confident this ship will continue to sail.

"I'm optimistic we'll step up and fulfill his legacy," he said.
Nick Bira leads initiative to bring 3-D printing to all students

Imagine having the option to print out anything from daily tools like a screwdriver or wrench to elaborate art sculptures.

Beginning April 2, you can. Ellis Library will house two 3-D printers for students to use, the culmination of a seven-month effort from sophomore Nick Bira, an engineering student who is head of the project.

On what type of items students will be able to print, Bira said that you are “basically limited only by your imagination.”

*Print Anything at Mizzou, the 3-D printing program, is a play on words from the Print Anywhere service, Bira said. Prices for the program are yet to be finalized.*

He said the printer will have endless academic applications. Students studying architecture will have the opportunity to print out miniatures of their building designs. Artists can print sculptures that would otherwise be too complicated to make on their own.

“If you’re an anatomy student and you’re studying for some bone test and you have to know all the bones in the hand, you could print out all the bones of the hand and you’d have a miniature hand model that you could have, well, in your hand, so to speak,” Bira said. “You could create all sorts of miniatures of anatomy bits to use or study with.”

Likewise, the printer will offer assistance in many other areas far beyond just academic purposes. Bira said the printer could be used for anything from creating a hammer to replacing a broken handlebar on your bike.

“It’s a tool,” he said. “It has a lot of different applications.”

Bira began the process to bring 3-D printing to students last semester.

While working on a 3-D printing project, Bira said he realized that most of the MU community cannot access this technology.

He said that although there is a larger 3-D printing lab in Lafferre Hall and a few others around campus, they are reserved for certain individuals or groups and none of them are available to the average student.
“All of these things really limit access to the technology,” Bira said. “I was reading stuff online about how other universities had access to 3-D printing and that really got me thinking, you know, ‘We should have this access. This is something that is rapidly becoming more relevant these days.’ And I thought it would be really good for all Mizzou students to be able to use one.”

After doing some searching around, Bira decided to write a proposal to the MU Interdisciplinary Innovations Fund, a program that provides funding for student-driven projects or initiatives that utilize innovative technology.

In October 2014, Bira presented the proposal to the board of the fund. After that, Bira said not much happened.

“It wasn’t until over winter break that they notified me that I was receiving funding for that,” he said. “So we’ve been working on it ever since.”

A launch party for Print Anything at Mizzou will be held at 1 p.m. on April 2 in Ellis Library. Students will be able to learn more about how to place a print request and staff will begin accepting orders. For the people attending the event, Bira said they can expect a few free giveaway prints and discounts.

Greg Emanuel, manager of the Engineering Laboratory in the College of Engineering, has been working with Bira on the project for several months now.

With plans already in action to offer the printing solely to students within the College of Engineering, Emanuel said he thought Bira’s idea to offer the service to all of campus was a great idea.

“He came with his idea about wanting to do this for campus and I just thought, ‘Well, okay. This is great. This would be a great opportunity to have a student present an idea and taking the initiative to present an idea and follow through with it,’” Emanuel said. “He did all the work to present the idea to the IIF.”

The students running the program will deal with everything from deciding pricing, figuring out the best way to advertise and market, setting the schedules and choosing the process for day-to-day activity. Emanuel said his main role in the initiative is to act as a sponsor for the project.

“From my experience and from my perspective with the large 3-D printing lab, I was able to give him tools to think about, maybe some ways to approach it and how to help him set the scope of this project,” Emanuel said.

Along with answering questions and offering overall guidance, Emanuel said he will also manage the profit aspect of the project.

“I think the important thing, kind of what I keep telling Nick, is I’m here to provide guidance and generally what I do is give them maybe some overall direction or a scope and I usually end
everything with, ‘You make the decision,’” Emanuel said. “This is a student-run organization, it was thought up by a student and it’s being initiated by students.”

The 3-D printing services are students from all areas across campus, such as the College of Business and the School of Journalism.

“I think that’s a key part to this is that it’s truly a student organization and it’s not just comprised of engineering students,” Emanuel said. “Hopefully it turns out to be an inaugural year.”

Emanuel said he hopes to see the service expand in the future.

“Right now, they can only offer this to the MU campus for the staff and students, but hopefully it gets to a point to where it can extend,” Emanuel said. “Hopefully it takes off.”

Free program offers help for eating disorders, body image

College is one of the major transitions after puberty that can trigger unhealthy body image.

Researchers at Stanford University and Washington University in St. Louis have developed the Healthy Body Initiative as a way to help college students gain feedback on their habits and self-image and get help if necessary.

“There’s a whole spectrum of eating disorders,” said Ellen Fitzsimmons-Craft, one of the postdoctoral fellows working on the program at Washington University. “Some people might be on one end or the other, but most people fall somewhere in between.”

At MU, the Healthy Body Initiative program is called BodyU, and is offered out of the Student Health Center. Any undergraduate or graduate student can follow the link at BodyU to the Healthy Body Initiative and take the free survey.

To participate, students complete a brief online survey that determines the risk of unhealthy habits or eating disorders. Based on the student’s answers, the program offers several different self-improvement tools to encourage positive body image, good nutrition and healthy eating.

Grace Monterubio, a doctoral student from Washington University working with the program, said the program is not just for students who think they have disordered thinking. She and Fitzsimmons-Craft said they would like healthy students to also take the survey, so the program can encourage and reinforce existing positive behaviors.
“Ideally, we’d like to screen everyone on a college campus,” Monterubio said. “Then the program could help those who are doing well and those who could use some additional support, and reinforce staying healthy in a college environment.”

Monterubio and Fitzsimmons-Craft both became interested in eating disorders and body image issues while in college.

“I saw how common and detrimental negative thoughts were for my peers,” Monterubio said. “I got really interested in body positivity, and wanted to promote overall health and wellness for everyone.”

Fitzsimmons-Craft said she was discouraged by common fears and negative thoughts about food and bodies among her friends and classmates in college.

“It was really sad to me how normative that was,” Fitzsimmons-Craft said. “I became really excited by the chance to change the culture of health, from a culture of poor body image and negativity, into something healthier for everyone.”

Fitzsimmons-Craft explained that it’s important for every person to have an understanding of their own body image, eating and exercise, which makes it easier to maintain that health.

“In college, when your whole environment changes and you’re not living with your family and you’re not around your old friends — when everything changes like that, it can be hard to know if what you’re eating or doing is normal,” she said.

Fitzsimmons-Craft said she hopes to expand the program to more campuses and schools. For now, she encourages every MU student to take the survey.

“I think we can offer every person something helpful and something that will make them feel better,” she said. “Plus, it’s free. Why not take it?”

The Chronicle of Higher Education

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The Decreasing Affordability of Public Flagships, in One Chart

By Goldie Blumenstyk, Lance Lambert, and Beckie Supiano

NO MU MENTION
Public flagship universities appear to have become less affordable over the past five years to the very people they were created to serve — the residents of their home states.

Affordability at public colleges depends on two factors: the price, which is itself partly a function of state support, and students’ ability to pay it. And as this Chronicle analysis shows, in nearly four out of five states, the average net price of the flagship university now makes up a greater proportion of the median household income for state residents than it did five years earlier. Put another way, the average net price at flagships increased at a far faster pace than did median household incomes.

You can plainly see that in this simple chart. Or, maybe not so simple, so stick with us for the full breakdown of the findings.

The Chronicle undertook this broad-brush and admittedly wonky analysis in response to experts who have noted the importance of measuring public-college affordability in the context of individual states, because states differ not only in their approach to tuition, financial aid, and state support, but also in income levels.
We looked at the net price of the flagship institution relative to median family income in each state because we wanted to consider affordability from the vantage of families whose incomes stagnated — or worse, fell — during the Great Recession, which hit hardest beginning in 2009.

As a matter of public policy, "universities should be priced according to what people can pay rather than what institutions spend," says Arthur M. Hauptman, an independent consultant who writes frequently on college finance.

Our analysis is in no way comprehensive or conclusive. (Mr. Hauptman, for one, takes issue with our use of net prices rather than sticker prices.)

Still, state higher-education policy experts like David A. Longanecker say a measurement that compares college prices with incomes, rather than with say, inflation, make sense. "It captures what families have to pay for college rather than what colleges want to charge," he says.

And if the findings show that costs are out of whack, adds Mr. Longanecker, who is president of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education and a former top official at the U.S. Department of Education, "it is incumbent on policy makers to ask why. I think it is important for states to think about, and maybe have a threshold."

The analysis shows that in 29 states, the change in that all-important ratio of net price to income grew because the median household incomes declined at the same time net prices at the universities rose. You can see that represented by the dots in the upper left quadrant of this scatter-plot chart.

**Incomes Down, Net Price Up in 29 States**
The dot representing the University of Florida shows that net prices increased by 37 percent even as the median household income in the state fell by 3.4 percent. The average net price is what students pay after federal, state, and institutional grant aid is taken into account. (It is calculated based on all full-time beginning students who pay in-state tuition and — importantly — receive grant or scholarship aid, but not those who pay full price.)

The 2008-9 net price of $11,025 (in January 2013 inflation-adjusted dollars) at the University of Florida was equal to about 22 percent of the state’s median income that year; by 2012-13, the net price of $15,157 was equal to nearly 32 percent, an increase of 9.45 percentage points.

For all 50 flagships (we got the list of flagships from the College Board but used net tuition numbers from the federal Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, or IPEDS) net tuition was equal to 26.2 percent of the median national income in 2008-9. By 2012-13, it had grown to 28.7 percent.

But looking at national statistics obscures the very real differences that students and families face depending on which state they live in and which flagship institution they want to attend.
For example, the net price at the University of New Hampshire of $21,545, in a state where the median household income was over $71,000 in 2013, would sting a lot more if that’s actually what it cost at, say, Louisiana State University, where the state’s median household income was $39,622. (For the record, the net price at LSU was actually $12,882.)

Louisiana’s median income fell by more than 19 percent over the five-year period while the net price to attend LSU increased by a little more than 8 percent. Over the five-year period, the net price as a proportion of median income at LSU went from 24.2 percent to 32.5 percent, an increase of 8.3 percentage points.

In Nevada, another state where median income declined precipitously during the five years, the average net price at the University of Nevada at Reno increased by 4.6 percent. But because of the declines in income, the average net price as a share of income increased from 26.4 percent to 34 percent.

The period studied deliberately includes the years of the Great Recession, when household incomes suffered, so that the analysis could partially reflect how states and institutions responded. (A chart showing 2013-14 net prices and the share of median income they represent can be found below this article.)

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was the institution with the second-biggest increase in net price relative to median household income from 2008-9 to 2012-13: It increased by nearly nine percentage points. (Again, on a nationwide basis the average change for this was 2.5 percentage points.)

But while Chapel Hill showed the second-biggest percentage increase on this measurement over the five-year period, officials there note that it still remains relatively affordable because its net price started out a lot lower.

Indeed even with an increase in net price of more than 30 percent over the five years and a 9.5-percent decline in household income in North Carolina, in 2012-13 Chapel Hill’s net price amounted to 29.1 percent of median household income. Recall that nationwide, net price as a proportion of state median income averaged 28.7 percent for all flagships. So even though it had the second-biggest change, by this measure Chapel Hill still ended up being just slightly less affordable than the average.

Chapel Hill officials said that they have actually increased spending on financial aid over the past five years to include more students, and that as a result, an analysis based on its average federal "net price" figures doesn’t do the institution justice. The university began offering financial aid to a greater number of students, and its
financial-aid spending went from $51-million a year in 2008-9 to $91-million in 2012-13, according to data the university supplied. Some of that money was in the form of small awards to students who had not previously been receiving any aid at all, according to Shirley A. Ort, associate provost and director of scholarships and student aid.

Because of the way the net-price figure is calculated in the federal database, "it causes us to look like we’re not doing nearly what we’re doing," says Ms. Ort. Had the university not increased the number of students receiving relatively small financial-aid awards, its overall average net price would have been lower. (The federal formula calculates net price only for students receiving financial aid, so as more students get added into the calculation the overall average net price could come out higher.)

Incomes Up, Net Price Up in 14 States
other states median incomes rose, but net prices did too. That’s visible on the top-right quadrant of the scatter plot. But for some the increases in net prices outpaced the increases in income. One example of that came at the University of Georgia, where the median income increased by barely 1 percent but the average net price increased by nearly 29 percent. In South Dakota, the median income increased by 9.4 percent, and the average net price at the state’s flagship increased by just over 4 percent.

For Georgia, the share of median income represented by the net price went from about 21 percent in 2008-9 to 27 percent in 2012-13. But for the University of South Dakota, rising levels of income more than made up for the increases in net price; there the net price as a proportion of the median household income actually declined by more than one percentage point.
In four states, both the average net price at flagships and the median household incomes fell: Alaska, Michigan, New Mexico, and Ohio. But in some cases, incomes fell at a faster rate than net prices. At Ohio State University, for example, the average net price represented 36.2 percent of household income in 2008-9 but about 37.5 percent in 2012-13.

The best combination of circumstances for families — median incomes up and average net prices down — was found in three states: Idaho, Montana, and Texas.

Incomes Up, Net Price Down in 3 States
In an ideal world, states concerned about the affordability of their public colleges would find a way to keep them affordable to families during economic downturns. While it’s true that such an effort would be difficult to achieve because state finances would also be affected by the downturn, it appears that most states didn’t manage to stave off the effects. What’s worse, according to Dennis P. Jones, an expert on college finance, "I don’t think there has been any attempt to do so in most states."

Until states develop pricing policies specifically tied to affordability, families will get squeezed when the economy declines, says Mr. Jones, president of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, a nonprofit consulting organization. "When state appropriations go down, there’s a strong pressure for tuition to go up," says Mr. Jones. The same economic factors drag down incomes levels of families, he notes, but families "still have to pay more."

His formula for a holistic approach to affordability: States should consider appropriations, tuition, and financial aid, along with the savings they might achieve from increased productivity at colleges, and then "put all those factors in the mix" to determine what combination does the best job of maintaining affordability for both families and the state.
A Florida higher-education leader, Marshall Criser III, said his state is doing just that. In November, the Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida began re-evaluating the system’s approach to funding with a particular aim of increasing college affordability for families making $40,000 to $100,000 a year. "The old mantra would have been to look at where tuition was relative to other states," said Mr. Criser, the system’s chancellor. But now he said, officials will look at tuition relative to state appropriations and financial aid.

Mr. Criser said the attention is being driven by the affordability push coming from Gov. Rick Scott, a Republican who came into office in 2011 and who was just re-elected.

Considering the price of college in the context of what families can afford, says Mr. Criser, is "the right conversation to have."

The Limits of Our Analysis
This kind of analysis is far from perfect. Here are some of the issues that we recognized and that others brought to our attention:

Net price is an imprecise measure.

As the folks at Chapel Hill were quick to note, one problem comes from relying on the federal net-price figure. It can "punish" colleges when they give more students modest amounts of financial aid. Mr. Hauptman took issue with using it for another reason: Since it takes into account the value of federal Pell Grants, he says using the net-price figure in effect gives colleges and states credit for reducing costs when it is actually the federal taxpayers providing that aid.

We chose to use the net-price figures for the basis of this analysis, however, because we wanted to acknowledge that the sticker price isn’t necessarily what students would be paying, particularly since we were keying this to median-family incomes, and many families earning the median income would qualify for financial aid. Besides, the federal government is highlighting net price as an important metric for families to consider.

Averages and medians can be misleading.

Even as we tried to home in on issues by using a state-by-state focus, some experts questioned our use of average figures for net price and median figures for household income. They argued that since many colleges focus more of their financial aid on the
financially neediest families, a fairer approach would have been to look only at net-price figures for the lowest-income students. (That data is also available in IPEDS.)

We chose the average net price because we felt it was most consonant with our use of the median family income data. Mr. Longanecker said that the use of averages could also hide efforts universities have made. "Perhaps they are maintaining access for the most needy students," he says. One way to tell that is to look at enrollment of students who qualify for Pell Grants. Indeed over the past five years, in each of the five states where the net price relative to income increased the most, the flagships also increased their proportion of students needy enough to receive Pell Grants. But it is also true that eligibility for Pell Grants expanded nationwide during this period, so most colleges would have seen an increase in students receiving such grants.

Using flagships can distort the picture.

The student population at flagships tends to be wealthier on average than the college population as a whole. That’s because those institutions are the most selective, and upper-income students often have better opportunities to prepare for college. Some officials we talked to noted that some of the other public colleges in the states might have managed to remain more affordable than the flagships. And, they note, there is a good argument for flagships’ increasing their tuition because there is high demand for them. In many cases, says Mr. Longanecker, "these are institutions that by market principles, were underpriced."

We chose to look at flagships because it gave us a clearly defined universe that could be more readily presented within the confines of a news article, rather than a dissertation. And they are arguably the most prominent institutions in each state and largely represent the most prestigious public-college choice for students.