Reaction to proposed fraternity rules at Mizzou


COLUMBIA, Mo. - **Tonight, there's an uproar of reaction on social media about a proposed set of rules that would put limitations on fraternities at MU. The proposed rules were created by the MU Fraternity Alumni Consortium.**

There has been a Twitter account created in response called "Stop Loftin," in response. Although, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin did not create the recommendations.

The rules would put limitations on alcohol, out of town parties and female visitors.

ABC 17 News reached out to the Fraternity Consortium today, to ask about the recommendations, but didn't hear back.

According to a number of sources, the rules were put in place as an effort to combat sexual assault.

Here are the speculated rules:
- Women would not be allowed in fraternity houses overnight certain days of the week.
- Liquor would be banned at parties, only beer would be allowed.
- Formals would no longer be able to be held out of town.
- Drug testing for all Greek members. A source tells ABC 17 this may not be included any more.

"I think the only thing that might be a good idea with the whole scheme of things is beer only. I feel like the liquor does contribute to kids drinking too much. But i don't think it needs to be taken this far," said Cameron Price, an MU fraternity member.

"I was really surprised from what I have heard about these proposals about the lack of consideration of women's opinion on this matter," said Paul Sidney Silvio, an MU fraternity alumnus.

The Panhellenic Association, representing sorority members at Mizzou, wrote a letter to Chancellor Loftin addressing the issues.
It said, "The goal is to address the safety of women students in fraternity houses, but the proposal was written by men who are not entrenched in daily campus, fraternity and sorority life."

Some fraternity members expressed to ABC 17 they feel like fraternities are being singled out.

ABC 17 spoke with University representatives today who say they are constantly working to make Mizzou a safer campus, but that the chancellor had no part in writing these proposed rules.

However, Chancellor Loftin will host a forum this summer to discuss the proposed rules from the Consortium. Students and MU administrators are invited to attend and share their thoughts.

ABC 17 spoke with MU system president Tim Wolfe's office today who says the president has not seen a final draft of these proposed rules.

**COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN**

**Boone Hospital opposes plan for Fulton Medical Center expansion**

COLUMBIA — Boone Hospital Center is fighting a proposal from Fulton Medical Center to build a new 10-bed hospital in south Columbia.

**Fulton Medical Center, formerly Callaway Community Hospital, is owned by the Kansas company Neuterra and MU.** It filed an application April 24 with the Missouri Health Facilities Committee for a certificate of need that would allow it to build the hospital at 4130 and 4150 Lenoir St., where Ed's and Sunset mobile home parks are located. The property is east of U.S. 63 and opposite the city's A. Perry Philips Park.

Boone Hospital Center spokesman Ben Cornelius said in an email that the hospital opposed Fulton Medical Center on the day it was filed. It started a petition against the application in late May.

Jim Sinek, president of Boone Hospital Center, said it would be a bad idea for Fulton Medical Center to build another hospital within five miles of the hospitals already serving Columbia. Those include Boone, University, Landmark, Women’s and Children's and Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans hospitals.

In its application, Fulton Medical Center said the proposed new hospital is intended to serve southern Boone County and all of Callaway County, an area it calculated to be 103 medical-surgical beds short of what it needs. The medical center is the only hospital in the proposed service area and has 18 surgical beds available.
According to its application document, the expanded Fulton Medical Center campus in Columbia would include emergency services; general, urology and orthopedic surgery; and behavioral health services. It would also allow the center to expand its rehabilitation, geriatric and outreach services.

Sinek said the 1,100 beds available at Columbia's existing hospitals are not being used to their full capacity. Cornelius noted that Boone Hospital Center had an occupancy rate of 45 percent in 2014.

Sinek also said data from the Missouri Hospital Association indicate that 80 percent of the area that would be served by the new hospital already is served in Columbia and that less than 5 percent of the area is served by the Fulton Medical Center. He said it would make more sense to expand the existing Fulton hospital, which is about 30 miles from Columbia in western Fulton.

“I would invest in my hospital to attract people within a 10- to 15-mile radius,” Sinek said.

Fulton Medical Center said in its application that it is struggling financially and that the new care-delivery model it plans to adopt, both at the existing hospital and the new one, would improve its bottom line.

Amy Leiker, vice president of global marketing at Neuterra, said in an email that revenue from the new hospital would be used to improve both facilities. It projects a loss of $727,839 in 2017 and profits of $821,157 and $1.9 million in 2018 and 2019, respectively.

Boone County owns Boone Hospital Center and leases it to BJC Health Care of St. Louis. Sinek said Boone Hospital uses some of the money it makes from surgeries, radiology and pharmacy services to pay for other services that lose money.

The hospital also gives Boone County government a share of its profits each year. Since 2013, that amount has been about $2.3 million, according to the most recent county budget. That money helps pay for roads and community services, including health screenings and wellness education, Sinek said.

Cornelius said in an email that 75 percent of the hospital's profits remain in Boone County.

Boone Hospital Center's petition against the Fulton Medical Center plan said there is a need to strengthen local care providers' capacity to provide services rather than lose money to a private company in Kansas.

Leiker said in an email that the proposed new hospital would serve some patients from Fulton Medical Center that otherwise would be sent to University Hospital. It also would provide an additional place for medical and nursing students at MU to gain experience in treating outpatients in rural Missouri.
If approved, the new hospital would cost $36.2 million to develop, including the $4 million it will take to buy the property. Ron Netemeyer, who owns Ed's and Sunset mobile home parks, announced in early April that he would close the parks and sell the property.

The Missouri Health Facilities Committee will hold a public hearing on Neuterra's application at 10 a.m. Monday at the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City.

Missouri Orthopaedic Institute begins major expansion

Jodie Jackson Jr.

Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 2:00 pm

A $40 million, four-story expansion of the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute will increase total space for surgical, inpatient, outpatient and other services — including research — to about 200,000 square feet.

The original, $55 million institute opened in 2010 at 1100 Virginia Ave. as the largest freestanding orthopedic care center in Central Missouri.

University of Missouri and MU Health Care officials and staff gathered Wednesday morning south of the institute to kick off construction.

“Our focus on this” expansion and research “is ‘How do we continue to make Columbia a destination medical community?’ ” said Mitch Wasden, MU Health CEO/COO.

State Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia, said the “huge” investment in the $40 million expansion is significant for the community.

“Education and health care drive our economy in a direct way,” Webber said. “It’s important we continue to invest in that.”

The construction will be funded with bonds and operating revenue, and MU Health Care spokesman said.

The expansion should be complete by 2017. The four-story, 85,462-square-foot expansion project will include:
- Five additional operating rooms, two finished and three shelled (for a total of 12 operating rooms).
- Twenty-two additional private inpatient rooms (for a total of 42 private inpatient rooms).
- Three additional digital X-ray rooms (for a total of seven digital X-ray rooms).
- Nineteen additional outpatient examination rooms, both finished and shelled (for about 70 exam rooms total).
- A fourth floor dedicated to orthopedic research.
- A larger restaurant for patients and visitors.
- A new coffee kiosk in the main entrance lobby.

Once completed, the main entrance will shift from the north side of the building to the east side. The new entrance will include a circle drive for improved patient access. A pedestrian walkway from the hospital to a Virginia Avenue parking garage also will be added. The architect for the project is BSA LifeStructures, and PARIC Construction will build the expansion.

Patrice Delafontaine, dean of the MU School of Medicine, said the physicians and medical teams at Missouri Orthopaedic Institute “serve patients from every county in the state.” He said the institute, as part of the academic medical center, “plays a vital role in medical education and research.”

“Our recruiting of orthopedic surgeons has been extremely successful to date,” he said. “I have no doubt that this state-of-the-art expansion will attract” additional faculty members, researchers and staff.

Delafontaine, who was chief of cardiology at Tulane University in New Orleans before taking over as dean at MU on Dec. 1, said Missouri Orthopaedic Institute had 20 physicians and 200 staff members when it opened in 2010. Those numbers have grown to 34 physicians and 400 staff members.

James Stannard, chairman of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at MU’s medical school and medical director of the institute, said the institute hosted 4,000 surgeries in 2011 and welcomed about 42,000 clinic patients. Surgeries in 2014 numbered 4,700, with more than 50,000 patients.

“We need an additional facility,” Stannard said.

He said Orthopedic Institute leaders and MU Health officials started discussing an expansion about three years ago — barely a year after opening.

“After three years of getting to this point, I think we’re ready to put shovels to dirt,” Stannard said.

Stannard said the expansion will allow the institute to provide “the entire spectrum of musculoskeletal care.” The center specializes in sports medicine, joint replacement, pediatrics, hip and knee, foot and ankle, shoulder, hand, spine, oncology and trauma care.
Wasden said after the brief ceremony Wednesday morning that the expansion will help emphasize a program for joint regeneration and a process invented by a collaboration of researchers in MU’s medical school, College of Veterinary Medicine and College of Engineering.

“This is going to do a lot for our research,” Wasden said. “We are going to be in a position in the next few months where we will be the first and only center” to perform joint replacements using cartilage that lasts longer than current materials.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Associated Press

The Star. ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Mizzou center engineers techniques to enhance therapy

COLUMBIA, Mo. — In the basement of Clark Hall at the University of Missouri, biomechanical engineers spend their days in the "gait lab" in Room 6. It looks like a typical lab, with its windowless white walls and fluorescent lighting — except for the infrared cameras strategically aimed at four blue tiles in the middle of the floor.

That's where the action happens.

Two computers are ready to track movements, and a monitor behind them is ready to display them, the Columbia Missourian (http://bit.ly/1I8Yy3S ) reported.

For Columbia resident Josh Tucker, 15, the monitor helps him pretend he's a video game character, said his mother, Donna Tucker.

But there's a serious side to the technology.

When Josh was in an all-terrain vehicle accident in April 2012, he suffered a traumatic brain injury that left him in a coma for five months. When he regained consciousness, he had to relearn to eat, speak and walk.
While trying to help Josh recover his walking abilities, therapists at the Children's Hospital Therapy Center found the left side of his body was significantly weaker than his right.

They advised Josh to go to the Mizzou Motion Analysis Center, as the gait lab is formally known. At the lab, researchers would be able to see what was going on mathematically in Josh's limbs.

It's all part of the way MU biomechanical engineers have been researching improvements in measuring and maintaining human motion. The Mizzou Motion Analysis Center, which opened in the summer of 2014, combines research in biomechanical engineering, orthopedics and physical therapy.

So while Josh is pretending he's a video game character, the forces acting on his muscles and nerves are being measured in the hopes of providing him with a better, more precise treatment plan.

On a recent day, researchers placed motion markers — small plastic balls with reflective tape — on Josh's muscles and had him walk on the four force plates in the center of the floor, which act like scales when weight is applied. When Josh moved, his multi-colored skeleton on the computer screen also moved. On the display, lines and balls around his limbs indicated the forces on his muscles.

The infrared cameras were focused on the balls, tracking motion and calculating extension angles and muscle flexion. The force plates also tracked the power generated by Josh's joints — especially on his weak left side.

Through imaging called electromyography (also known as EMG), the computers show which muscles are being activated during each movement. Later, the lab also uses computational models that combine such gait measurements with images from Josh's tests at the Children's Hospital Therapy Center.

It was exciting for Josh to watch a different version of himself on the screen, his mother said. For the researchers focused on the "computational side" of physical therapy, it was just another day's work, center director Dr. Trent Guess said.

"It's just fascinating to me how you don't even think about touching your nose," Guess said. "But how we coordinate the motion of all our arms and fingers is a pretty amazing task. And when you think about how our tissues withstand these forces we put on them in a lifetime, there's no man-made material that can do what our cartilage does."

Guess has a background in mechanical engineering, but he first took an interest in biomechanics while studying for his doctorate at the University of Kansas. He decided that he wanted to promote wellness and health using computational methods.
"Being immersed in the clinical side, every day I get to see where the problems are," Guess said. "I was at an engineering school for 10 years. It was fine, but it just felt like we were building a lot of tools and not really doing anything with them."

The center has been working on two studies since it opened. One has been in partnership with the University of Missouri women's soccer team. Guess' research team uses computational models to look at the power distribution in the athletes' limbs. The engineers specifically look at the symmetry and rotation of legs during jumps to measure possible indicators of knee injury, specifically to the anterior cruciate ligament, known colloquially as the ACL.

It takes about a year to measure the athletes and sort through the data, Guess said.

But the other study, which explores how knee tissues called menisci absorb shock, has already yielded success. Guess and his researchers found that if menisci become slack over time, this damage can hinder knee movements significantly.

According to the center's research on osteoarthritis, this finding may ultimately impact research on how to prevent joint pain and degeneration.

Such research can benefit patients at the Children's Hospital Therapy center, physical therapist Mary Meyer said.

When Josh was scheduled for a heel lengthening surgery after the weaknesses in his left side became apparent, Meyer recommended going to the gait lab before and after the surgery. That way, Guess' researchers could do a direct comparison to detect changes.

"In Josh, we were seeing a lot of lower extremity weakness," Meyer said. "We wanted to see what kind of motor control he truly has, to dictate what medical therapy is best for him at this time."

Meyer broached the idea of partnering with the gait lab around half a year ago after seeing the success of the James R. Gage Center for Gait and Motion Analysis, which is operated by Gillette Children's Specialty Health Care in St. Paul, Minnesota. Meyer believed that the lab could help the hospital in Columbia make similar strides in treating its patients.

The EMG imagery that MU's gait lab produces can further indicate which muscles a physical therapist should pay attention to, making their jobs easier, Meyer said.

"When working with children, sometimes it's hard to determine and prioritize what the best medical recommendations are," Meyer said. "A lot of our children have multi-system impairments. We've seen how beneficial it is for the pediatric population to make better recommendations."

For now, the hospital is assigning patients to the lab once a month; the goal for the near future is to double that. So far, Guess and his researchers have been able to do computations for six patients, Meyer said. A single appointment is about three hours long.
The gait lab and its interactive science have taken Josh's recovery "a step up," his mother said. "He's had so many big moments in his recovery, but this is one that just gets the details (of how he walks)," his mother said. "We often forget in his recovery how far he's come."

Does BPA turn mice into bad parents?

Baby mice born to parents exposed to Bisphenol-A (BPA) and other endocrine-disrupting chemicals receive less care from both their mothers and their fathers.

The finding could have relevance to human parenting as well, researchers say.

Biparental care of offspring, or care that is administered by both parents, occurs in only a minority of species, including humans.

For a new study, researchers used the monogamous California mouse species to examine parental behaviors because, like humans, both male and female partners contribute to child-rearing.

Male partners exhibit cooperative care of the pups from birth to weaning by cleaning, grooming, and providing warmth by huddling over their young when females leave the nest. Impaired care could lead to adverse consequences for the young.

“Endocrine-disrupting chemicals like BPA mimic the steroid hormones that establish the ‘circuitry’ for the adult female brain during early development, but little was known about how this chemical might affect the father’s behavior,” says Cheryl Rosenfeld, associate professor of biomedical sciences at University of Missouri.

“Our study set out to address this critical void by exposing both males and females to the endocrine-disrupting chemicals BPA and Ethinyl estadiol (EE), the main active component of birth control pills, and examine the repercussions of rearing offspring.”

Distant moms and dads

For the study, published in PLOS ONE, researchers developmentally exposed female California mice to one of three diets. One contained BPA, the second contained concentrations of EE, and
the third was free of endocrine disruptors. Males were developmentally exposed to the same three diets.

Then, the male and female mice were randomly paired. Since California mice are monogamous, one male was paired with a single female for the duration of the study.

After being paired, parents and offspring were observed for a variety of behaviors such as time the females spent nursing the pups, male and female grooming of the pups, and time spent in and out of the nest by both parents. Throughout the study, development of the pups, including body weight gain and temperature, was observed.

“The nature and extent of care received by an infant is important because it can affect social, emotional, and cognitive development,” Rosenfeld says. “We found that females who were exposed early on to BPA spent less time nursing, so the pups likely did not receive the normal health benefits ascribed to nursing.

“Likewise, we found that developmental exposure of males and females to these endocrine-disrupting chemicals resulted in their spending more time out of the nest and away from their pups, further suggesting that biparental care was reduced.”

The findings also suggest that females can tell whether or not the male is compromised by BPA and adjusts her parental care accordingly.

These females, although never exposed to BPA or endocrine disruptors, nursed their pups less and spent more time outside the nest.

Researchers believe this is in response to whether a male partner was developmentally exposed to one of the endocrine-disrupting chemicals, says graduate student Sarah Johnson, the study’s lead author.

The National Institutes of Health funded the work.

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

**Birth control chemicals affect parenting behavior**

*Exposure of parents to an endocrine-disrupting chemicals - an active component of birth control pills - can adversely affect the parenting behaviour, a new study reveals.*

Past studies have shown that maternal care can be negatively affected when females are exposed
to widely prevalent endocrine-disrupting chemicals including Bisphenol-A (BPA).

Now, researchers at the University of Missouri (MU) have used the monogamous, biparental California mouse species to prove that offspring born to parents who are exposed to BPA receive decreased parental care by both the mother and father.

Scientists believe results could have relevance to human parenting as well.

"We exposed both males and females to the endocrine-disrupting chemicals BPA and Ethinyl estadiol (EE), the main active component of birth control pills, and examine the repercussions of rearing offspring," said Cheryl Rosenfeld, associate professor of biomedical sciences in the college of veterinary medicine at MU.

The California mouse is used as a model for examining parental behaviours because they are monogamous and, much like humans, both male and female partners contribute to child-rearing.

For the study, researchers developmentally exposed female California mice to one of three diets. One contained BPA, the second contained concentrations of EE and the third was free of endocrine disruptors.

Likewise, males were developmentally exposed to the same three diets.

"We found that females who were exposed early on to BPA spent less time nursing, so the pups likely did not receive the normal health benefits ascribed to nursing," Rosenfeld said.

"Likewise, we found that developmental exposure of males and females to these endocrine-disrupting chemicals resulted in their spending more time out of the nest and away from their pups, further suggesting that bi-parental care was reduced," the researcher said.

Impaired care could lead to adverse consequences for the young and, since brain regions and hormones regulating bi-parental behaviors appear to be similar across species, this study may have human implications.

New White House report outlines Medicaid expansion benefits

June 4, 2015
By Jordan Shapiro
A report released by the White House on Wednesday outlined the financial and health benefits for Missouri if the state decides to add more low-income residents to the Medicaid program. But it’s likely to have little effect, especially in the short term, on Missouri’s debate.

The analysis is the latest in a series of studies that have sought to use empirical data to build a case for expanding Medicaid programs across the country. President Barack Obama’s health law gives states the option to use mostly federal dollars to add more people to Medicaid, government-funded insurance for the poor. Many conservative states, including Missouri, have resisted. They cite concerns about the long-term costs and a preference to reform the existing program before expanding eligibility.

Even if the report were to change the minds of Missouri lawmakers, they have already concluded their annual session and aren’t scheduled to return until January. The Republican-led Legislature approved a budget plan this year without Medicaid expansion funding and legislative leaders have said it is a “non-starter.”

The White House report mirrors other studies, including one from the University of Missouri, that lay out both economic and health benefits to enlarged Medicaid programs.

Wednesday’s study found that 191,000 currently uninsured Missourians could gain coverage if the state expands eligibility by 2016. Without that expansion, the report estimates Missouri would waive $1.37 billion in federal money next year.

The study also took a deeper dive into the potential health benefits from expansion.

It found that thousands more residents would be able to receive mammograms and cholesterol screenings next year if they had Medicaid. In addition, it found that fewer residents would suffer from depression and 25,000 more would report having good or excellent health.

The report “leaves no doubt that the consequences of states’ decisions are far-reaching, with major implications for the health of their citizens and their economies,” wrote Jason Furman, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

Missouri advocates agreed with the report’s assessment but also conceded that it won’t move the needle of the state’s political debate.

“I wish our legislators were more responsive to data,” said Jen Bersdale, executive director of Missouri Health Care For All. “But there is a blatant disregard for really clear data that shows this is the right thing to do.”

But opponents say such studies and data miss the mark when evaluating whether states should expand Medicaid eligibility. Patrick Ishmael, a researcher at the conservative Show-Me Institute, said the current program is “deeply broken” and that adding more people to it would be irresponsible and immoral.

The report “is meant to drive the conversation in a way that is beneficial to individuals who support the Affordable Care Act,” he said.
Sex Assault Bill Would Lift OCR Funding, Require Climate Surveys

June 5, 2015

NO MU MENTION

WASHINGTON -- Two lawmakers introduced a bill on Thursday designed to combat sexual assault on college campuses. The bipartisan bill, introduced by Representatives Jackie Speier, a Democrat from California, and Patrick Meehan, a Republican from Pennsylvania, would provide $5 million per year in additional funding to the Department of Education's understaffed Office for Civil Rights; require the department to issue stiff penalties for colleges that don't comply with the nondiscrimination law Title IX; increase penalties for violating the Clery Act, which requires colleges to disclose information on campus crimes, from $35,000 to $100,000; and require colleges to conduct biennial climate surveys. The bill, called the Hold Accountable and Lend Transparency (HALT) Campus Sexual Violence Act, would also create an interagency task force to increase coordination between the agencies dealing with campus sexual assault, and require colleges to sign memorandums of understanding with local police.

“No student should have to fear sexual assault on campus and no parent should fear their child is in danger when they send them to college,” said Meehan, who is so far the only Republican member among the 27 sponsors of the bill. “As a prosecutor, I worked closely with the victims of sexual assault on campus and I saw firsthand the need to improve protections for survivors. This legislation takes sensible steps forward to strengthen protections for victims and it will help them access the resources they need in the wake of attack.”
Lawmakers: FAFSA Should Use 'Prior-Prior Year' Data

June 5, 2015

Several dozen Congressional lawmakers on Thursday urged the Obama administration to use its existing authority to allow students to apply for federal financial aid based on their family’s income from two years earlier instead of the immediately previous year.

In a letter to Education Secretary Arne Duncan, 51 Democrats and 2 Republicans said the Education Department should switch the aid application to what is known as “prior-prior year” tax information. Requiring students to provide tax information for the prior year has created a “highly disjoined process timeline” that especially harms low-income and first-generation students, the lawmakers said. The problem is that many colleges require students to apply for federal aid before they are able to file their taxes for the previous year.

“We do not need to wait to provide students and families much-needed relief,” the letter says. “The Department can and should improve the process of filling out the FAFSA right now.”

The change to “prior-prior year” data is backed by a wide range of groups, including student and consumer advocates, college access organizations, and associations representing colleges and universities.

Education Department officials have indicated that they support the change but are concerned about its financial cost to the government.

Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, the Republican who chairs the Senate education committee, also backs “prior-prior year” data and has included it in his student aid simplification bill. But he did not sign on to Thursday’s letter calling on Duncan to make that change immediately.

“Senator Alexander supports the idea,” an aide said in an email. “But thinks it should be done in a fiscally responsible way within the context of a full reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which is underway in the Senate education committee.”
Faculty advocates are up in arms over proposed legislation in Wisconsin calling for a sweeping overhaul of the state’s public-university system. The measure, passed by the Legislature’s Joint Committee on Finance as part of negotiations on the state budget, would greatly reduce faculty members’ say in the University of Wisconsin system’s affairs and scrap state laws providing them job protections such as tenure.

Gov. Scott Walker, a Republican who set in motion the effort to overhaul the university system, and the leading Republican lawmakers who back the measure argue that the system needs to become more top-down and nimble to remain competitive. Faculty representatives who oppose the bill argue it will trigger an exodus of talented professors and hinder the system’s efforts to recruit top scholars.

The American Association of University Professors urged system officials on Wednesday to fight the legislation and keep current state law intact. The group’s letter to them called the proposed changes in faculty-employment rights, along with a proposed $250-million reduction in the system’s state appropriation, "a direct attack on higher education as a public good."

The system’s regents are expected to discuss the legislation, and how they might respond to it, when they meet on Friday. What follows is an analysis of the legislation’s prospects and potential impact, with answers to many of the questions being asked by observers of the Wisconsin debate.

What’s at stake for faculty members?

Wisconsin stands apart in how it has enshrined shared governance and college faculty members’ job protections in state law. They first entered into state statute through the legislation that merged a state-college system with the University of Wisconsin in the early 1970s.

Although a few other states, such as California and Washington, have laws touching upon college faculty members’ tenure rights, most of those provisions cover only instructors at community colleges, stemming from historical ties between those colleges and public schools. Nearly every other state leaves it up to colleges' governing boards or systems to set the terms of employment for their faculty members.
The proposed change in Wisconsin law would scrub from the original legislation both tenure protections and provisions giving faculty members responsibility for the immediate governance of their institutions. It would delete from that law provisions saying that faculty members automatically qualify for tenure after seven years and that tenured faculty members can be fired only for just cause. It would also alter a separate law dealing with layoffs of tenured faculty members to allow their dismissal not just in response to financial emergencies, but whenever necessary as a result of budgetary or programmatic decisions.

What employment rights does the proposed law leave professors?

The university system’s faculty members would be left with rights similar to those Wisconsin affords to any other public employee. They include a right to advance notice of, and an explanation for, any layoff decision, and a right to appeal decisions they regard as discriminatory based on incorrect information or in violation of the university board’s own procedures. Faculty members also would have a distinct appeal right for any employment dismissal they believe to have come in response to conduct or speech covered by academic freedom.

Would the bill strip tenure from professors who already have it?

Almost certainly not. No less an authority than the U.S. Constitution, in Article I, Section 10, prohibits states from enacting laws that impair the obligation of contracts. As a result, the state would almost certainly face an expensive legal fight if it failed to grandfather in tenure for the professors who already have it under state law.

How would the measure change university governance?

It states that the faculty’s role in university governance shall be purely advisory, and it leaves the faculty subordinate to the system’s board, president, and campus chancellors. The proposal would give chancellors significantly more power over spending decisions on their respective campuses, and would require the faculty of each campus to ensure that its organizational structures include adequate representation from academic disciplines related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Does the measure stand much chance of passing?

Yes. It generally reflects Gov. Scott Walker’s thinking on university governance, and it has widespread support among the Republicans who hold a majority in the state’s Senate and Assembly. Noel Radomski, director of the Wisconsin Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education, is highly critical of the proposed legislation but nonetheless characterizes it as "pretty much a done deal."

What, if anything, would university-system or campus leaders be able to do to restore faculty members’ job protections and say in governance?

Not much. The proposed legislation fairly clearly spells out faculty rights and powers in both areas, tying system officials’ hands.
It’s also unclear whether the officials will want to exercise any wiggle room they might have to restore faculty members’ old job rights and powers. Of the Board of Regents’ 18 members, 16 are appointed by the governor, subject to the state Senate’s approval.

Governor Walker has made a name for himself among Republicans by mounting successful efforts to curb the power of unions representing public-college faculty members and other state employees. He and his board appointees almost certainly know where each other stand.