Mizzou's proposed rules for frats draws criticism

By Koran Addo, Jack Witthaus

A proposal to ban women from fraternity houses during peak party hours and other recommendations meant to cut down on sexual assaults have provoked a sharp backlash at the University of Missouri-Columbia from critics who call the suggestions overreaching and demeaning, especially toward women.

The anger is both about the content of the proposed rules — which would also ban all alcohol other than beer at frat houses — and the process by which they have come forward.

Critics say the university has put sweeping changes on the table before seeking the opinions of students and key groups.

Late last year, Mizzou Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin asked the Mizzou Fraternity Alumni Consortium advocacy group to come up with recommendations to improve student safety within Greek organizations, specifically related to sexual assault.

A draft of those proposals leaked online this year, touching off an outcry from both Greeks and non-Greeks. Ted Hellman, a spokesman for the consortium, said it was unproductive for anyone to be upset over ideas that had not been finalized.

“People are getting all riled up over old and incomplete information,” Hellman said. “Student safety is a significant issue, and the chancellor is trying to be proactive. I think he should be applauded for that.”

The tension could soon come to a head as students will get a chance to weigh in on the proposals on June 20 during an invitation-only summit that Loftin has organized with administrators and members of Greek organizations.

Hellman said critics should “stay calm” before representatives headed to the summit to talk through the proposals, which include:

• Prohibiting women at fraternity houses between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturdays.

• Banning alcohol except beer from fraternities.

• Drug-testing students who live in fraternity houses.

• Forbidding fraternities from hosting social events outside of Columbia.

Hellman describes the four recommendations merely as proposals. And, in fact, the plan to drug test in-house fraternity members is no longer being pushed as a requirement but rather as an option, he said.

Still, criticism of proposals involving restrictions — particularly regarding women in frat houses — remains strong.
Laura Palumbo, a prevention campaign specialist at Mizzou’s National Sexual Violence Resource Center, said restricting women from fraternities at certain times “misses the mark” of creating a fraternity system based on respect and encouraging community standards of consent.

Palumbo said that looking at the consortium’s proposals, it was clear the group had considered some of the risk factors associated with sexual assault.

But if their idea is to create a new culture, the ideas fall short, she said. “The backlash from students to the policies shows that disconnect.”

**LIMITED SUPPORT**

Both the university’s Panhellenic Association, which governs sororities, and the Intrafraternity Council, which oversees certain fraternities, have offered support for certain proposals — the alcohol restriction, for instance — while pushing back at others.

The Panhellenic Association was particularly hostile to the idea of restricting women from visiting fraternity houses at certain times.

“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,” the Association states in a letter to the chancellor.

It goes on to say that “restricting women from certain locations under the guise of safety, lends itself to the notion that women cannot make choices for themselves about their own safety.”

Panhellenic Association spokeswoman Carolyn Welter said students were initially upset because they didn’t think they would have any input into the proposed changes. Now that Greek organizations have been invited to the summit, some of the tension has lifted, she said.

“These are conversations we need to have on university campuses,” she said. “I would not be opposed to any conversations that would help stop sexual assault on our campus.”

Parker Briden, a spokesman for the Intrafraternity Council, said fraternities were already taking greater steps to police themselves, including a plan to establish a peer education system to help fraternity members better understand sexual assault.

He said that any new rules the university adopted should not be unreasonable to the point that people would want to break them.

**SOCIAL SPACES**

Rob Fox, a Mizzou graduate and a Delta Sigma Phi fraternity alumnus, was highly critical of some of the proposed changes in a blog posting on the Total Frat Move website.

In an interview, Fox said certain changes would drive down Greek membership, and transform fraternity houses from social spaces into “just living spaces,” in effect killing Mizzou’s Greek system.

Fox said that although he supported limiting the types of alcohol available inside fraternity houses, some of the other ideas were unworkable.

“Eighty percent of the problem with alcohol is that you have younger students, who are 18 and 19, and they don’t know how to drink yet,” he said. “You kind of have to learn how to drink, so limiting alcohol to just beer, I think, is a good idea.”

But Fox said drug testing fraternity members was a nonstarter.
“Why would I want to join an organization that drug tests me? Obviously you don’t want students tripping acid, but weed is legal in two states,” he said. He said it was not a drug that would make anyone go insane.

Fox said he felt fraternities were being unfairly singled out.

“They’re trying to hold one group responsible for sexual assault, when it’s a campuswide issue,” he said. “It goes on in the dorms, and what about the athletes?”

Sexual assault has been a focal point at Mizzou since early 2014, when ESPN’s “Outside the Lines” reported that swimmer Sasha Menu Courey committed suicide in 2011 after alleging she had been raped by university football players.

Since 2010, 22 sexual assaults and rapes have been reported to the University of Missouri Police Department, according to information supplied to the federal government under the Clery Act. Of those, one allegedly took place at a fraternity.

Mizzou spokesman Christian Basi said the safety proposals related to the Greek system were part of an overall effort on campus to increase student safety.

“No one is being singled out,” he said. “An alumni group says they know the Greek community well; the chancellor asked them to come up with some proposals.”

---

**seventeen**

**A College Is Considering Banning Female Students From Frat Parties to Stop Campus Rape**

Colleges across the country are scrambling to figure out how to curb the problem of sexual assault on campus. But one college is facing major scrutiny for one idea they're considering.

The Huffington Post reports that the University of Missouri is weighing whether to make sweeping changes to its fraternity and sorority life in a proposal called "Safety of Women Students in Fraternity Houses." The school might ban out of town formals, hard liquor in frat houses, and stop women from entering frat houses between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

And that's not all. The Columbia Tribune reports that they thought about requiring drug tests for everyone living in fraternity or sorority houses, but the response was so negative that it was dropped from their proposal.

Women on campus have spoken out against the new policies for placing restrictions specifically on female students. The university's panhellenic association said they "deemed the very premise
of the proposal problematic and found many of the policies to be ineffective and uneducated." In a letter to chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, they point out that the proposal was written by men in order to protect women, and it treats women as second-class citizens. "By restricting women from certain locations under the guise of "safety", this policy lends itself to the notion that women cannot make choices for themselves about their own safety.,” they write.

A spokesman for the University of Missouri told The Huffington Post that the policies aren't final, and won't go into effect until officials speak with student leaders. In the meantime, someone has created a @StopLoftin Twitter account in protest.

BPA study on mice shows parenting change and links to humans

Watch story: [http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=29244&zone=5&categories=5](http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=29244&zone=5&categories=5)

COLUMBIA - **New University of Missouri studies show exposure to a common chemical could have an effect on how you parent.**

The research uses mice and centers on the chemical Bisphenol-A, or BPA, and shows it can adversely affect parenting behaviors.

University of Missouri researchers used monogamous, biparental California mice to study the effects of BPA.

Biparental care for offspring occurs in a minority of species including humans. The California mice were used because they carry this trait and can therefore be linked to humans.

The mice were fed BPA in their daily diets, which can act as hormones in the body.

Researchers found that pups born to parents who were exposed to BPA received decreased parental care by both the mother and father.

They said this is important because results could link to human parenting as well.
California mice exposed to BPA spent less time feeding and interacting with their babies.

Researcher Cheryl Rosenfeld said this study is significant because if the offspring are receiving less care, then they could experience other cognitive disorders down the line.

Rosenfeld said they need to serve as a model for how we start studying the effect of BPA on parenting in humans.

**Health professions summit matches inner-city youth with MU students**

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 2:00 pm

As she wrestled with her fear of animals during a tour of the University of Missouri Veterinary Hospital on Tuesday, 16-year-old senior Samantha Metellus said she was a long way from her Bronx home.

“This is gross to me,” Metellus said when she saw a cow relieving itself in its stall. But Metellus quickly noted she was more comfortable earlier in the day when students were learning about careers in speech therapy and sports training. She also was enthralled with the experience of helping deliver a “baby” in the Shelden Clinical Simulation Center.

Metellus and two of her classmates from Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School were among 39 students from seven states who participated in the University of Missouri Health System’s Cristo Rey Health Professions Summit. The eighth annual event was a three-day experience designed to introduce underrepresented minority students from urban areas to career possibilities in health care.

Doug Tindall, coordinator of student recruitment for MU’s College of Veterinary Medicine, told the students most diseases on the planet are zoonotic — they stem from animals — and that “veterinarians are largely responsible for” monitoring and researching that aspect of health. Protecting animal health also is related to human health and disease prevention, he said.

The summit had a dual purpose of giving health professions students a chance to spend time with people from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Kathleen Quinn, associate dean for rural health at the MU School of Medicine, said health outcomes improve for patients if their health
providers share their culture, background, ethnicity and race, “but many times this isn’t the case.”

Dominic Haertling, 22, graduated last month with a degree in biochemistry and will start the next phase of his education this fall in the MU School of Medicine. He’s from Perryville, a town of slightly more than 8,000 people in southeast Missouri. For now, Haertling said, he plans to pursue his interest in family medicine, “particularly rural medicine.”

Students from the inner city don’t fit preconceived stereotypes, Haertling said, in the same way everyone from rural areas does not fit small-town stereotypes.

“We can find some common ground,” he said.

The summit was funded by a grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. The three-day schedule was packed with lectures, job shadowing and some hands-on experiences in medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, pharmacy, speech and communications disorders, and other health professions.

“We keep them busy,” Quinn said. The summit has hosted about 150 students over the past eight years. Quinn said her office will begin tracking the numbers to see how many students wind up at MU and where the others go.

The Cristo Rey Network comprises 28 Catholic, college preparatory high schools for low-income urban youth.

Metellus said she liked the MU campus but would prefer to find a Mizzou-like university closer to home.

“I want to come here, but it’s too far,” she said.

Metellus’ perspective identified one of the biggest barriers preventing inner-city, minority students from pursuing a college education, said Katie Hoekzema, a biology teacher at DePaul Cristo Rey in Cincinnati.

“Many of these students are the first” in their families “to go to college,” Hoekzema said. “And they don’t have support” from family or finances “sending them off.”

She said many of the students feel added pressure because they help their families financially or provide childcare for siblings.
Former University of Missouri president Elson Floyd battling cancer

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

Former University of Missouri System president Elson Floyd is battling cancer and has gone on medical leave from his post as president at Washington State University.

Floyd, 59, is battling colon cancer, Washington media have reported. Washington regents granted the leave last week.

“These have been incredibly challenging times for me, and it is with great regret I ask to take a leave of absence to address this personal battle with cancer,” Floyd said in a university statement.

Floyd was named president of the four-campus Missouri system in November 2002, after serving as president of Western Michigan University. He served in the UM post four years and left in 2007 for the WSU job.

Floyd took over the MU system and quickly whacked almost $200 million from the system’s budget and raised tuition 20 percent to offset state funding cuts. He also boosted enrollment and established two new university research parks.

He tenure was also marked by controversy surrounding MU basketball player Ricky Clemons, who attended a Fourth of July party at Floyd’s university residence. At the time, Clemons was living in a halfway house after pleading guilty to assaulting his former girlfriend. He wrecked an all-terrain vehicle at the party and ended up hospitalized and went to jail for violating halfway house rules.
A program that taught college women ways to prevent sexual assault cut in half the chances they would be raped over the next year, a Canadian study found. It was the first large, scientific test of resistance training, and the strong results should spur more universities to offer it, experts say.

Five percent of freshman women who went through the four-session program said they had been raped during the following year, compared to 10 percent of others who were just given brochures on assault prevention. Attempted rapes also were lower — about 3 percent in the training group versus more than 9 percent of the others.

The results are "startling," said a prominent researcher on sex assault with no role in the study, University of Arizona psychologist Mary Koss.

"Universities should move right away to figure out how they can implement a program like this," she said. "We don't have to look at women as being so helpless and vulnerable. There are tools to empower women that can dramatically cut their risk of rape."

The study involved about 900 students, ages 17 to 24, at the universities of Windsor, Guelph and Calgary. It was funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the University of Windsor. Results are in Thursday’s New England Journal of Medicine.

THE PROBLEM
Researchers say as many as 20 percent of women are sexually assaulted during their college years with the risk greatest the first year. Women who have been assaulted in the past are more likely to be again,
and about a third of the women in this study had such a history, partly accounting for the high rate of rape at one year. Some universities try various rape prevention or self-defense programs, but many have not been tested and some that were tested didn't help.

THE TRAINING
The study's leader, psychologist Charlene Senn at the University of Windsor, developed the program — four, three-hour sessions on recognizing danger, resisting pressure to have sex, and physical self-defense.

As opposed to strangers, "known men are responsible for 90 percent of the rapes on campus," from dates to casual acquaintances, she said.

Women were randomly assigned to get either training or the kind of advice and brochures many colleges provide.

MEASURING SUCCESS
One year after training ended, participants took an online survey largely developed by Koss, the Arizona researcher, and widely used by other researchers.

"It's the best measure because it doesn't label, it doesn't say, 'have you been raped,' but asks about experiences such as penetration against the person's will," Senn said.

Responses were grouped as completed rape, attempted rape, sexual coercion, attempted coercion or nonconsensual sexual contact.

RESULTS
All types except coercion were lower in the group given training. Only 22 women would need to take the program to prevent one additional rape within a year, the researchers calculated.

WHAT WOMEN IN THE STUDY SAY
Bonita Loki Teixeira, 24, now a senior at the University of Windsor, said "knowing the cues, how to avoid being in situations where there can be the possibility of harm," and tips like keeping a close eye on any drinks she has at a party, were helpful. The program also stressed "it's OK to say 'no,'" and that sex isn't owed if a date buys dinner.

Jenna Harris, 21, a senior at the same school, said parents and others warn about assault, "but it's not really something you think about. This program was in your face, like, 'this is real. This stuff does happen,'" she said.

NOT THE WHOLE ANSWER
Recent data show that among women who were raped, 40 percent were raped before age 18, Kathleen Basile of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention writes in a commentary in the journal. "We must start younger," and target prevention efforts at men, too, she wrote.
WASHINGTON -- Seeking to put some policy heft behind the progressive vision of debt-free college that is gaining steam on the campaign trail, Senator Elizabeth Warren on Wednesday outlined a sweeping college affordability agenda to “dramatically reform” higher education.

“While not every college needs to graduate every student debt-free, every kid needs a debt-free option” at a public university, Warren said in remarks at the American Federation of Teachers.

Making college more affordable, she said, would require a boost in federal spending but also greater accountability for how colleges and states use that money -- a “one-two punch” that she said should have bipartisan appeal. Warren wants a new federal program that would provide funds to states that make some public higher education options so inexpensive that borrowing would not be required, and she wants more federal funding to come with more strings attached.

“We can do it if Republicans admit that we will never have affordable college without investing more resources in education,” she said. “And if Democrats admit that we will never have affordable college without demanding real accountability in exchange for those investments.”

Warren spread around the blame for the rising college costs students currently face: some colleges’ wasteful spending on luxury amenities like climbing walls, administrative costs and extensive marketing (she reserved special criticism for for-profit institutions); state budget cuts to public higher education; and an Education Department not doing its part when it comes to consumer protection and regulating colleges.

“There are real reasons to worry about whether the Department of Education is committed to enforcing federal rules designed to help students,” Warren said, echoing
the rhetoric she’s used to slam financial regulators she views as too favorable to Wall Street interests. She criticized, for instance, the department’s “bailout” of Corinthian Colleges last year and its investigation into the loan-servicing company Naivent, which she said was “too big to fail.” She also slammed officials’ refusal turn over data and information about the performance of federal student loan programs and troubled colleges.

“The Department of Education needs to show that there’s a real cop on the beat,” Warren said. She called on department officials to “get tough.”

Warren also called for external checks on the Education Department like allowing the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to review complaints relating to the federal student loans the department manages.

“We don’t trust a bank to handle its own complaints, and we shouldn’t trust the federal student loan program to do it, either,” she said.

Aside from bureaucratic improvements at the Education Department, though, Warren said the federal government’s financing system of higher education needs a fundamental overhaul. Too much federal money is flowing to colleges, she said, without any incentive for those institutions to keep prices affordable.

For-profit colleges are one culprit, Warren said, but she alluded to others, calling out amenities of residential nonprofit colleges like lazy rivers.

Warren called for greater funding of higher education from the federal government -- but she said it should come with far greater accountability.

For states, Warren proposed both carrots and sticks. On the one hand, she wants the federal government to pour more money into states to prod them to create “at least one path to a debt-free college degree for all students” at public universities. At the same time, she said, states should be required to maintain a minimum level of investment in their own colleges in order to receive federal financial aid dollars.

In addition, as her own plan to refinance student loans stalls in a Republican-controlled Senate, Warren called on states to create their programs to allow existing student loan borrowers to lower the cost of their debt.

Colleges should also have to pay up when large numbers of their graduates aren’t able to repay their loans, Warren said, reiterating for “risk sharing” between the government and institutions.

Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, the Republican who chairs the Senate education committee, similarly endorsed, in concept, risk sharing as a new accountability tool in his higher education agenda earlier this year. He’s also said that scaling back burdensome federal regulations on colleges and simplifying federal student aid are his main goals in the upcoming rewrite of the Higher Education Act.

Although there may be some alignment over holding colleges more accountable, Warren’s push for large investments in higher education is likely to face Republican
opposition. She did not identify Monday how she planned to pay for the increased federal spending. Far more modest proposals -- such as student loan refinancing or free community college -- have not fared well in Congress.