President of University of Missouri System Tim Wolfe spoke to the Board of Curators today about the future of University of Missouri campuses.

He talked about three main goals that will not only brighten the future of UM System schools, but also give them a single unifying vision.

One topic Wolfe discussed was the way the campuses handled Title IX, which aims to help with sex-based discrimination and campus safety. He says that the UM System’s forward thinking and diligence in regards to this statute has placed it as a leader among Universities.

“We are getting validation on a frequent basis that our aspiration of being a leader in higher education, of having a safe and secure environment, we’re realizing it. That being said, it’s a never ending journey and we have to continue to focus on it. It’s not a 2014-15 issue it’s an issue that we’ll continue to focus on” he said.

President Wolfe also stressed the importance that the Board and the Universities continue to focus on spatial growth.
“We’re forecasting to grow another 10,000 to 15,000 students across our four campuses. When you think about how constrained we are right now, being proactive and building the capacity necessary to handle the 10,000-15,000 additional students by 2020 is absolutely a prerequisite.”

He says that the environment in which one is taught plays a role in a successful education, and that is why this aspect of the UM System’s growth is so important.

This past fiscal year the UM System brought their square footage of classroom and lab space up to 500,000 with the addition of four new buildings across four campuses. The $100 million for the four new buildings was raised on a 50-50 basis, meaning that the Universities raised the first half of the money and then the state matched that amount.

Wolfe said that he hoped the state would provide the same support when it came to another project he wants to put into place. This project is a scholarship assistance program based off of Georgia’s very successful HOPE scholarship program. The program would provide thousands of dollars in tuition money to high school graduates who earned a 3.0 GPA or higher.

The meeting was held Thursday, June 25, through Friday, June 26.
COLUMBIA - UM System President Tim Wolfe voiced his approval of the Missouri Promise at a UM Board of Curator news conference Friday.

The Missouri Promise would help graduating high school seniors pay for tuition at colleges and universities. Missouri State Treasurer Clint Zweifel created the Missouri Promise. It would benefit students graduating high school with a 3.0 GPA or higher.

The board met Thursday and Friday to discuss budgets, growth objectives across the four campuses, and closed the meetings with the discussion on the Missouri Promise.

"If you look at, for example, a year ago, of the approximately 28,000 Missouri high school seniors graduating in the state who had a 3.0 or better, about 40 to 45 percent don't end up going to college in the state of Missouri. That's a huge missed opportunity for the state," UM system spokesperson John Fougere said.

Fougere said the purpose of the Missouri Promise is to find a way to get high-achieving Missouri seniors to attend colleges or universities in state. He said keeping the students in state is beneficial for Missouri's future economy.

He also said there is a possibility the Missouri Promise program could be sent to Missouri voters next year. The treasurer has not announced a source of funding for the Missouri Promise yet.

"Funding would have to come from a source similar to something like a tobacco tax increase, which is one thing that has been looked at," Fougere said.

Georgia has a similar program called Georgia Hope, and funding for it comes from the Georgia Lottery.

Also at Friday's news conference, Wolfe said the UM Curators highlighted some system achievements over the past year.

"We had all time highs in terms of graduates at 10,400 graduates, all time highs in terms of student credit hours delivered, all time highs in terms of average ACT per student, and earlier in the year I talked about all time highs in terms of student population," Wolfe said.

Wolfe also addressed state funding.

"We also made considerable progress in attracting resources from the state from capital financing for maintenance and repair of almost one hundred million dollars of new buildings which are called 50/50 projects where we raised half that money and the state matched that half," Wolfe said.

He said the combination of the new buildings and the maintenance and repair on existing buildings is about 500,000 square feet.
University of Missouri officials emphasize importance of faculty

By MEGAN FAVIGNANO
Saturday, June 27, 2015 at 12:00 am

Recruiting and retaining great faculty will be an area of focus for the University of Missouri this year, UM System President Tim Wolfe and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said Friday to the Board of Curators.

Faculty recruitment will be critical at UM’s flagship campus as it works to replace 110 retiring faculty members, Loftin said.

“The key to our success is faculty, faculty, faculty,” Loftin said. “We have to attract and retain the greatest faculty.”

Wolfe stressed the importance of faculty in his State of the University address Friday, and Loftin updated the curators on faculty recruitment and retention. Those 110 faculty members leaving MU, Loftin added, are 10 times the number of retirees in an average year. MU implemented a voluntary program this year that encouraged retirement.

Professors are increasingly working in groups rather than alone, Loftin said, which means the quality of a faculty member’s colleagues is key for retention. Resources provided by the university also are imperative when it comes to keeping great faculty.

“We have to make this the place they want to be,” Loftin told the curators.

This year’s higher turnover will allow MU to bring in a mix of experienced and young teachers, Loftin said. That opportunity will bring different perspectives and energy, he said.

MU’s hiring strategy, Loftin said, is to build upon the university’s strengths, grow research expenditures, raise national and international status, and improve MU’s standing in the Association of American Universities.
While MU is focusing on faculty, Loftin said the university also is working to attract quality students and is targeting those with higher ACT scores. The board, Loftin said, will be able to see a difference in two or three years.

“We will begin to see a measurable change in our profile,” Loftin said.

Loftin said MU is hoping to raise its AAU rating, which he said is an important piece for parents.

“In talking to parents about brands, that profile matters,” Loftin said.

Wolfe highlighted some positives for the curators, including the 10,400 students who graduated from the UM System in May, which was an all-time high.

The UM System’s invested interest in Title IX, Wolfe said, is helping it become a leader in that area.

“We really are being looked at as a model,” Wolfe told the board.

MU officials held a meeting on campus last Saturday that attracted more than 200 people to talk about Title IX enforcement with the Greek community. Students discussed ways to limit sexual violence on campus, specifically when sororities and fraternities are involved.

“I couldn’t be prouder of our Greek leadership,” Wolfe said.

During his report, Wolfe showed the board photos and design renderings for new buildings and renovation projects, which have received a 50/50 funding match from the state. Those new buildings and improvements, he said, will affect 42 percent of the UM System’s student base, or about 32,600 students.

“We couldn’t be more pleased with the state’s support of these 50/50 projects,” Wolfe said.

The UM System is expecting an increase of 10,000 to 15,000 students across its four campuses by 2020, which is one reason Wolfe said building projects are important. Wolfe also discussed the Missouri Promise initiative with the curators Friday, which he said he hopes will be on the ballot in 2016. The Missouri Promise would provide funding to high-achieving students who are struggling financially to afford college.
The University of Missouri System should behave more like a hedgehog and less like a fox, system President Tim Wolfe said during a State of the University message during the board of curators meeting Friday.

Taking a cue from Jim Collins, author of "Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap ... And Others Don't," Wolfe explained that a fox is a more scattered animal that will try to tackle five tasks at once, while the hedgehog, like UM’s administration body, remains focused on a single simplified mission that guides its overall purpose.

“What we’ve done in the last two or three years is plan for success,” Wolfe said. “We’ve had goals that are time bound, and those goals prioritize everything that we do. I can safely say on behalf of the University of Missouri System that we plan for success, we’re measuring that success, and we expect it.”

Wolfe used his address at the Reynolds Alumni Center to review ongoing activities and UM accomplishments during the 2014-15 fiscal year. He said the UM system had set several records, including the graduation of 10,400 students and 1.79 million student credit hours taken. It also set records for average ACT scores for incoming freshmen.

The UM administration's focus on the singular overarching mission of building upon the people, technology and money already available to the UM system — “the hedgehog approach,” in his words — gets credit for those accomplishments, Wolfe said. He also said the collaborative nature of the four UM campus has led to more shared services, such as general counsel expertise and the financial system. That, he said, has led to better distribution of assets.
Wolfe said there have been significant investments in MU’s Title IX Office to help ensure the safety of students on UM campuses. He noted that despite the progress, combating sexual assault remains a “never ending journey.”

“Our aspirational goal is to be a model for all higher education institutions,” Wolfe said.

Wolfe also declared his support for the Missouri Promise initiative, which would help pay tuition at colleges and universities for students who earn a 3.0 GPA in high school and perform community service. He said political leaders in Missouri agree that education equals economic development.

He said a primary goal for the coming fiscal year would be working to attract more resources for the campuses and capital financing from Missouri.

**Fiscal 2016 budget**

Earlier in the two-day meeting, the curators approved a fiscal 2016 operations budget of $2.96 billion for the four-campus system. The MU portion of that budget is $1.3 billion.

Nineteen percent of the budget comes from student tuition and fees, while 16 percent comes from state appropriations. The largest chunk of revenue — 45 percent — comes from sales, services and patient revenue.

"We continue to get more of our funds from the students than we do from the state," UM chief financial officer Brian Burnett said. "That's a phenomenon that most states now face."

The budget represents a 3.1 percent increase in revenue over fiscal 2015 and a 2.9 percent increase in spending.

Highlights of the budget include:

- 49 percent of the budget is for salaries and wages, while another 15 percent is for employee benefits.
$2 million to hire "high-impact faculty" and $1 million "to recruit the best faculty, staff and postdoctoral fellows and graduate students," according to budget documents provided to the curators.

$286,000 for a joint faculty hire between MU and Missouri S&T.

Appropriations for Operations

The curators approved a request for $497.3 million in state funding for operations for fiscal 2017. The request included:

- $10 million to help the MU Medical School establish a third- and fourth-year clinical campus in Springfield and to address a shortage of doctors in southwest Missouri.
- $21.7 million in performance funding to reward UM for its student graduation and retention rates.
- $8.7 million to invest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs. The request argues that it is the job of the system to educate people to fill STEM-related jobs.
- $3.7 million through the Missouri Returning Heroes Act, which limits the tuition charged to some returning combat veterans. The act was intended to reimburse universities for tuition abatements, but UM said Missouri has failed to do so since 2009. The $3.7 million would cover the costs incurred since then.

Appropriations for Capital Improvements

The curators also approved state appropriations requests for operations and for building projects in fiscal 2017. The MU projects included:

Reconstruction of McKee Hall: MU wants $16.8 million from the state and would chip in $4.2 million. It cited several reasons why the project is a good idea:

- A need for more classroom laboratories to improve access to STEM laboratory courses.
- McKee Hall's proximity to the central part of the MU campus.
- A desire to ease the capacity bottleneck some students experience in taking these fundamental classes.

School of Music: MU wants $12.8 million and would match that amount through the Higher Education Capital Fund. The 60,000-square-foot school would be built near the northeast corner of Hitt Street and University Avenue. UM said in its request that music classes now are scattered among five buildings and lack acoustic consistency.
Missouri Orthopedics Institute, Center for Regenerative Orthopedics: MU wants $3 million from the state and, again, would match that amount. The building would be a three-story, 65,400-square-foot expansion to the existing structure at MU Health Care.

Teaching and Research Winery: This would also be a 50-50 match project, with the state and MU each contributing $1.5 million. The facility would be a two-story, 9,300-square-foot teaching and research winery addition to the Agriculture Engineering Building and would allow students to experience hands-on training in producing wines and other grape products.

KRCG-TV (CBS) – Columbia, Mo.

2017 Funding Request Approved by UM Board of Curators

The wolves of Jeff City: Sexual harassment at the Capitol

BY JASON HANCOCK AND STEVE KRASKE

NO MU MENTION

JEFFERSON CITY - First came a hand on her back. Then on her leg. When fingers inched higher, Sarah Felts bolted. She was a 21-year-old intern in the Missouri Capitol out for drinks with co-workers.

A few legislators showed up. Felts found herself alone with one lawmaker after the crowd thinned.

That’s when he touched her, and she hurriedly conjured excuses to get away. She had to use the restroom, get back to the office. She faked a smile.

Soon she was in her car, crying.

“It makes me feel kind of slimy that I didn’t say something,” she said, “and didn’t speak up for myself.”

Felts recalls endless comments during her internship about how she looked, how her body filled out her clothes. The perpetrators were young and old, Republican and Democrat.

Her unsettling initial brush with Missouri’s Capitol culture dates to 2008. But dozens of women — current and former interns, legislative aides, lobbyists and lawmakers — told The Star lechery and harassment remain commonplace.

The Capitol poses a ceaseless onslaught of unnerving and sometimes treacherous situations.
One woman recalls being asked the color of her underwear while lobbying a lawmaker on a bill. Another talks of late-night texts from her boss asking if she would like to come to his apartment for a drink. A former intern says that when she finally got her boss to stop sending flirty text messages, he began treating her coldly and left her out of important projects.

Accounts of unending come-ons, of retaliation for sexual rejection, of false accusations that they must be sleeping with the boss, are legion.

Some women who spoke with The Star were ready to share their stories publicly. Most were not, fearing it would only damage their careers or leave them ostracized in the Capitol.

With friends and family many miles away, fundraisers and lobbyist-funded parties fill the evenings — offering no shortage of free alcohol to fuel the atmosphere.

“The culture of Jefferson City is very anything goes,” said former state Sen. John Lamping, a St. Louis County Republican who left office in 2014. “We’re in town three days a week, and we don’t work particularly late very often. So the mentality is, ‘Wow, this is so much fun. We’re doing crazier stuff than we did in college. But now we have power, prestige and money.’”

**Capitol culture**

Every lawmaker and Capitol staff member must participate in sexual harassment training. Both House and Senate sexual harassment policies spell out a complaint process and outline corrective measures.

The House policy directs harassment complaints first to House administrators, including the chief clerk. The policy states that “all complaints will be investigated promptly, thoroughly and fairly” by House staff.

If the complaint involves an elected lawmaker, disciplinary action can be taken by an ethics committee of 10 lawmakers and chaired by the House majority leader. A lawmaker can be expelled from the House with a two-thirds vote of the full 163-member chamber.

Over the last five years, only four sexual harassment complaints have been filed with the Missouri House. House counsel David Welch said the harassment policy informs employees they also have the right to file a discrimination charge with the
Missouri Human Rights Commission or the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or to consult with an attorney.

Most of those willing to share their stories with The Star said they kept quiet out of a belief that a complaint would never result in real consequences — save for the targets of the unwanted overtures.

“If a legislator harasses a staff member, the general feeling is that nothing is going to happen,” said a former female legislative assistant to a Republican state representative. “It’s not like (the legislator) can get fired. But our lives can be ruined.”

Another former Republican House staffer said she endured months of sexual harassment, from lewd comments to a torrent of unwelcome advances. When her male boss spoke up for her to the perpetrators, it sparked hurtful and untrue rumors that the two were having an affair.

“The best thing that ever happened to me,” she said, “was getting another job and leaving that building.”

The isolation of a small-city capital dominated by powerful men away from home — and the idea of what happens in Jefferson City stays there — makes the place hostile territory for women pursuing careers in state government.

A recent Harvard study found that geographic isolation of state Capitols reduces accountability. And out of 197 seats in the Missouri General Assembly, only 49 are held by women. In the House, four of the 12 leadership positions are held by women. In the Senate, three of 11 leaders are women.

“It’s a place where power and money and isolation mix together and create an atmosphere that is more like a convention at times,” said Dave Robertson, professor of political science at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Kelly Schultz has a name for the first volley from a Statehouse male looking to gauge a woman’s interest in a less-than-professional relationship: “test-fire shots.”

They can be seemingly innocent, such as asking for a ride home at night. Or they can be clearly offensive, like when Schultz was an intern crouched on her office floor doing some filing. A lobbyist told her, “You don’t have to be on your knees every time I walk into the room.”
Schultz, now the director of the Office of Child Advocate in Jefferson City, counsels interns on how to handle life in the Capitol. She says an informal network of women try to look after younger females.

That they must do so speaks volumes.

Schultz once intervened to stop an elected official from texting one of her interns by taking the young woman’s phone and writing, “This is Kelly. Don’t text my intern.”

This year has been distinctive because the Capitol’s treatment of women has drawn attention to what’s long been seen as just ordinary behavior of the legislative crowd. Two high-profile incidents sparked renewed concern.

In the Senate, an investigation into a workplace harassment complaint is focused on the office of Democratic Sen. Paul LeVota from Independence. Two interns from the University of Central Missouri abandoned their posts in his office two months early. Their school is also investigating possible violations of Title IX, the federal statute designed to guarantee equal access to higher education for women — including their safety.

But the biggest reason the topic is getting so much attention: House Speaker John Diehl resigned from office after The Star revealed he’d exchanged sexually charged text messages with a 19-year-old college intern. Missouri Southern State University cut short the internship program she and three other students were enrolled in and brought the interns back to its Joplin campus.

Schultz said she wasn’t surprised by Diehl’s relationship with an intern.

“You could have inserted many names into that story,” she said, “and I would not have been surprised.”

Former state Sen. Luann Ridgeway, a Smithville Republican who left office in 2012, said serving in Jefferson City “puts stresses and tensions and temptations in front of you the likes of which most people in their hometowns will not have experienced.”

Lawmakers get away from home, Ridgeway said, and away from “their normal accountability situation, and things are much more likely to happen.”
Kenneth Warren, a professor of political science at St. Louis University, said the Capitol culture does more than present a hostile environment for women. It also creates lots of opportunity for drinking and, often, hook-ups between eager partners.

“It's a very lonely place, and then you have lobbyists who are wining and dining and spending a lot of money on booze,” Warren said. “It just acts as a catalyst to promote the rather free-wheeling culture of partying and affairs.”

Schultz said young people sometimes place elected officials on a pedestal and get caught up in an environment they aren’t equipped to handle.

The key to dealing with unwanted advances, Schultz said, is how you react. Sending emphatic signs that you don't tolerate the game will cause most men to move on.

“It may happen,” she said. “How you react to it makes a difference.”

**Playing defense**

But being assertive isn’t always easy.

“There's a very real prospect that you could suffer professionally because you’re not willing to put up with it or willing to accept terms of conversation going in a direction that it is,” said Casey Millburg, an associate at a consulting firm that manages nonprofits. “On top of losing that professional opportunity, there’s the risk of getting punished for not being OK with what's going on.

“It’s absolutely ludicrous.”

Millburg interned in the Capitol in 2010 and said that, time after time, she was forced to deal with sexually charged public shaming.

Arriving at a Capitol lunch line once, a male legislative staffer told her she could get lunch if she kissed him on the cheek. The remark was made in front of other staffers and lobbyists to see, Millburg thought, how she would respond.

Another time at a bar, a lawmaker asked how much he would have to pay to get Millburg to date one of his staffers. That remark, too, was made in front of others. Millburg spent several humiliating minutes trying to end the conversation.
Such harassment carries a professional cost for women, she said. They must devote time and energy dealing with unwanted sexual advances or comments instead of doing their jobs.

“It’s really hard to talk about that sometimes with my professional guy friends,” she said. “There’s really no point of reference for them.”

Korey Lewis interned for a Democratic senator in 2009. She vividly remembers being groped in crowded Capitol hallways, whistled at by passersby and enduring all manner of comments about her appearance.

“That was a given,” Lewis said, “and a constant.”

She says she had a passion for education and politics. But at the Statehouse, Lewis said she spent too much energy “fighting negative experiences and assumptions and rumors and treatment.”

Kelly McCambridge remembers a trip to the Missouri Capitol when someone pointed to a group of women and referred to them as “skinterns.”

“It just made my stomach turn,” said the Kansas City attorney who specializes in employment law.

She says that typically when women turn to her because they were sexually harassed “they are somebody in their 30s or 40s, and this wasn’t the first time this happened to them. But when it happened to them when they were 18 or in their early 20s they didn’t have awareness that it would be illegal or what to do about it.”

For women in government or politics, who may hold aspirations to continue in the field, fear that complaining about harassment could damage their professional reputation usually scares them into silence, McCambridge said.

“Oftentimes, when a women steps forward to complain of harassment, she gets labeled a tattletale or someone who you can’t trust or someone who is too sensitive,” she said. “They are worried they’ll get blackballed and are unable to find other jobs.”

One former intern for a Democratic lawmaker says she was originally turned down for an internship in the Capitol because a lawmaker she applied to work for told her “he was attracted to me and was afraid things might go too far.”
Her experience mirrors that of many women who recently participated in a survey of congressional staffers working in Washington, D.C., by the National Journal. It found that in some offices, female staffers aren’t allowed to spend any time alone with their male bosses in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety.

**Ugly atmospherics**

Rep. Tracy McCreery, a St. Louis Democrat, says a fellow lawmaker pulled her aside when she was first elected in 2012 “and told me which legislators to steer clear of because they didn’t have the best reputations.”

Both men and women in the Capitol describe a sensibility reminiscent of early episodes of “Mad Men.” Twenty-four years after Anita Hill’s charges against Clarence Thomas launched a national awareness of sexual harassment in the workplace, women say they’re still commonly seen in the Capitol as possible conquests rather than as colleagues.

Lines in other workplaces are pretty clear about what’s acceptable and what isn’t, said Fatima Goss Graves, vice president for education and employment at the National Women’s Law Center. She said those lines have to be enforced by those in power.

“Individual women shouldn’t have to take on a culture of harassment by themselves,” she said. “Whoever is in charge has to make it clear that harassment is not tolerated. … It has to come from the very top and be communicated all the way through. Otherwise, you have a situation where it is allowed to persist.”

When Todd Richardson took over in May as Missouri House Speaker following John Diehl’s resignation, he vowed to improve the legislature’s reputation.

“It’s important for us to focus on not only improving the public perception of the legislature, but to actually improve the environment,” Richardson said in an interview with The Star.

Richardson said a “majority of people who serve in the House and Senate are there for the right reasons and are not part of that negative culture.”

But, he said, “we do have to take the issue seriously and commit to doing better. … We have to change the culture in Jefferson City.”
One of Richardson’s first actions as speaker was dispatching a group to look at the House’s internship policy. Next, Richardson said, he hopes to look at the sexual harassment complaint process.

He also stressed the need for meaningful ethics reform, specifically limiting the amount of gifts lobbyists can give to lawmakers to rein in some aspects of the Jefferson City party scene.

“It’s important that (legislative leaders) convey to our members that we expect a higher standard and a better level of behavior,” Richardson said.

Rep. Diane Franklin, a Camdenton Republican, sits on the panel reviewing the intern policy. She says she expects the group to present its findings later this year.

But as for any bad reputation the Capitol may have garnered, Franklin agrees with Richardson that it’s a small number of bad apples making the vast majority of lawmakers look bad.

“I haven’t seen anything pertaining to unwanted advances in my time here,” Franklin said. “I’ve had five interns. They’ve all been female. And I haven’t had any of them have any issues.”

Felts says she still thinks about that night back in 2008.

These days, she’s still in the Capitol a few days a week during sessions in her work for a health care membership association. She doesn’t have the same problems with males any longer. Maybe, she said, it’s the no-nonsense vibe she gives off.

But she notes that dealing with sexual harassment in the Capitol is difficult. There are so many overlapping interests.

Reputations are on the line. Friendships, too. And both of those, she said, are critical in a Statehouse environment.

“You can’t just report it,” she said.
Nationwide college-rating system won’t happen

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

Which rates better: University of Kansas or Kansas State University; University of Missouri or Missouri State University?

The nation’s education leaders aren’t going to tell you. You will have to decide for yourself.

Plans to launch the first national rating system for colleges are dead.

Instead, the plan announced by President Barack Obama two years ago has morphed into an information tool.

Rather than score colleges on performance, it would be left to parents and students to peruse data collected by the federal government about each school and compare colleges based on what’s most important to each student.

The college choice process already is a deep sea of information, challenging for even the well-prepared to wade through. Now the U.S. Department of Education is expected to make public more information than ever before. Some education officials worry the average student or family isn’t prepared to sift through it.

“I’m not sure having more data available would really help students or parents,” said Barmak Nassirian, director of policy analysis for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. “We need better ways of helping people with comprehension of the data.”

The new analytics would resemble College Navigator. That federal online system collects, analyzes and reports statistics such as a school’s enrollment, graduation rates, net cost and campus crime statistics.
The Chronicle of Higher Education described the new information system as “a ratings system without any ratings.”

“The department decided it was not doable within the timeline and the framework they were working,” Nassirian said. “It was a daunting task.”

The plan to develop a federal college rating system came charged with controversy from the moment it was announced. College and university leaders across the country said that while they welcomed accountability, they worried that because schools vary so much — private, public, two-year, four-year, large, small — there was no way universal ratings would be fair.

But Nassirian said his association did not find the idea of a rating system an assault on higher education. Public schools, he said, believe “if you take the money, you have a moral obligation to explain why you do what you do.”

Public colleges and universities, Nassirian said, were more concerned that a flawed rating system could penalize public schools “for doing what they were formed to do: give access to more at-risk, minority, first-generation students.”

A large portion of the students who choose the University of Central Missouri fit those categories, said Deborah Curtis, provost and chief learning officer. So her concerns about a rating system were similar.

She thinks the information tool is a good idea as long as the information the federal government demands from schools is clearly defined so that reporting results are uniform.

“The key piece is, and has always been,” she said, “what type of data is being reported and the accuracy of that data.”
Strong-armed robbery reported on campus

By Elizabeth Loutfi | June 26, 2015, 10:01 p.m.

The University of Missouri Police Department issued a statement via email and social media regarding a strong-armed robbery Friday night that occurred around 9 p.m. on campus.

The robbery happened at the corner of Hitt and Rollins streets.

Capt. Brian Weimer said MUPD is currently looking for the suspects and tending to the victim. No other information has been released at this time.

Follow The Maneater for updates on this story.

MUPD investigating robbery

MUPD investigating robbery on campus

ABC 17 News Staff, news@kmiz.com


Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=81ad16a9-083e-4ab1-a9a6-4d514f64655d
COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri Police Department is investigating a strong armed-robbery Friday evening near Hitt and Rollins Streets.

A person reported being assaulted by three black males. One of the suspects is described as between 6 feet and 6 feet 2 tall.

The University of Missouri Police Department is investigating the case. They’re asking people not to call unless it's an emergency.

The university sent out an alert to students, encouraging them to take precaution.

Stay with ABC 17 News for the latest from this developing story.

MUPD responds to strong-armed robbery on MU campus

Posted: Jun 26, 2015 10:43 PM by Claire Chatterton, KOMU 8 Digital Producer

Updated: Jun 27, 2015 5:38 AM

COLUMBIA - MUPD said three men robbed someone Friday night on MU's campus.

The robbery happened near Hitt Street and Rollins Street. Police said three men assaulted a victim and fled north on Hitt Street.

KOMU 8 News reporters witnessed MUPD officers with flashlights searching the area around the McKee Gymnasium, parking lot WC-5 and Tucker Hall, all on the MU campus.

MU sent an alert about the reported robbery to students and staff around 9:15 Friday night. The alert advised people to "take precautions".

According to MU, the only suspect information is as follows: "The victim reported being assaulted by three black males. One suspect is described as 6 feet to 6 feet 2 inches tall, wearing a white T-shirt, and a cloth on his head."
An update to the MU alert system advised people to stay aware of surroundings.
No further information was immediately available.
KOMU 8 News will update this story as more information becomes available.
MU students, faculty and staff can sign up for MU Alerts here.

Robbery reported on University of Missouri campus
By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF
Saturday, June 27, 2015 at 12:00 am

Three men fled north Friday night on Hitt Street after a strong-arm robbery near Hitt and Rollins streets, said University of Missouri spokesman Christian Basi.

MU Police Department Capt. Brian Weimer said the call came in at about 9:06 p.m. An MU Alert went out at 9:26 p.m.

The victim of the robbery described the three assailants as black men. One was reportedly about 6 feet tall and wearing a white T-shirt as well as a cloth on his head, according to the alert.

One of the men punched the victim, Weimer said. He said the injury was not bad enough for police to take the victim to a hospital. Weimer said the Columbia Police Department was working with MUPD to locate the assailants Friday.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Strong-arm robbery reported on MU campus

MISSOURIAN STAFF, Jun 26, 2015

COLUMBIA — MU police were searching for suspects in a strong-arm robbery that took place on campus Friday night.

The university's MU Alert system sent a notification around 9:15 p.m. that university police were investigating a robbery on campus. The alert system urged people to "Take Precautions!"

Capt. Brian Weimer said the robbery took place near the intersection of Hitt and Rollins streets. He said a male victim was struck with a fist and that "items were taken."

The MU Alert website was updated at 9:26 p.m. to indicate that police were looking for three suspects who fled north toward downtown Columbia.

Weimer said the Columbia Police Department was aware of the investigation.

He said that the victim was "fine" and was not hospitalized.
For the second time this month, Boone County's presiding judge has appointed a special prosecutor to review a fatal shooting involving law enforcement in Columbia.

Boone County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Knight on Wednesday received the Missouri State Highway Patrol's investigation into the officer-involved deadly shooting April 15 of parole absconder Mark W. Adair, 51, in a downtown Columbia parking garage. Knight filed a motion for a special prosecutor, citing the relationship his office has with the Columbia police detective and University of Missouri police officer who fired their weapons during the struggle in the Hitt Street parking garage.

Presiding Judge Christine Carpenter on Friday morning appointed Cooper County Prosecuting Attorney Doug Abele to review the case and decide whether the officers were justified in the use of lethal force or should face charges. Abele could not be reached for comment on Friday. A woman who answered the phone at his office said he had not received the case yet. Knight declined to comment, citing the pending nature of the case.

Police launched a manhunt for Adair after he tried to kidnap a woman at gunpoint at about 5:30 p.m. April 15 at a northeastern Columbia grocery store. After the woman fought him off, Adair fled on foot, making his way downtown. An MU police officer found Adair in the parking garage, and, police say, Adair "engaged" the officer. Two Columbia police detectives arrived during the scuffle to help the MU officer, and Adair was shot and killed. The MU officer suffered a hand injury, and the detectives were unharmed.
At the time, a warrant was out for Adair’s arrest for absconding from parole. He had recently been released from prison, where he was serving a sentence for kidnapping and raping a 9-year-old girl in 1988. Adair spent more than 22 years in prison in three stints after he was sentenced for the crime. He also had convictions for second-degree burglary, assault on a law enforcement officer and felony resisting arrest.

In his motion, Knight said the Columbia police detective involved is a 19-year veteran of the department and has been involved in 970 cases Knight’s office has prosecuted and another 32 pending cases. The MU officer, the motion said, has been with that department for more than a year and was involved in more than 10 cases Knight’s office has prosecuted and another six pending cases.

Adair was the second man to die at the hands of law enforcement in Columbia in 2015.

On Feb. 28, a Boone County sheriff’s deputy shot and killed 28-year-old Cornelius Parker at East Broadway and Highway 63. Parker shot his three roommates and then led the deputy on a chase that ended when Parker’s vehicle spun out in the snow. He left the car and fired at least two shots at the deputy, a veteran officer and firearms instructor, who returned fire and killed Parker.

Two of Parker’s roommates died at the scene, a duplex just east of Columbia, and the third died June 4. Knight also asked for a special prosecutor in that case, and on June 11, Callaway County Prosecuting Attorney Chris Wilson concluded the deputy was justified in using lethal force.

None of the names of the officers involved in the two incidents has been released.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Special prosecutor appointed to review fatal Hitt street shooting

TANZI PROPST, Jun 26, 2015

COLUMBIA — Presiding Judge Christine Carpenter appointed Cooper County Prosecuting Attorney Doug Abele to review a Missouri State Highway Patrol investigation of the fatal Hitt Street parking garage shooting case that occurred on April 15.
Boone County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Knight asked for a special prosecutor to review the case because of the relationship his office has with the MU police officer and the Columbia police detective who fired their weapons in the incident, which left Mark Adair dead.

Police reported Adair had tried to kidnap a woman earlier that day. He had recently been released from prison after serving time for multiple violent crimes. He had a warrant out for his arrest for an alleged parole violation after he spent 22 years in prison for kidnapping, rape, second-degree burglary, assault of a police officer and felony resisting arrest.

It was the second fatal shooting of the year involving local law enforcement. On Feb. 28, a Boone County sheriff's deputy shot and killed Cornelius Parker, who was suspected in the fatal shootings of three people. That deputy was cleared of any wrongdoing by Callaway County prosecutor Chris Wilson, who reviewed that case after Knight recused himself.

Neither officer in the Adair shooting was harmed.

Abele's law office confirmed it had received the motion to review the Adair case but a spokeswoman said she was unsure whether Abele had done so. Abele's job is to determine whether either of the officers involved should be charged with a crime.

Knight said in his motion that the Columbia police detective has been with the department for more than 19 years, and he has worked with his office on more than 970 cases. The MU officer has been involved in 10 of Knight's cases and has six pending.

First look at proposed softball facility at Missouri
By News Tribune
Saturday, June 27, 2015
The next step has been taken in getting a new softball stadium at the University of Missouri.
The new facilities will provide fans with a “full-view” concourse and outfield plaza, a 1,500-1,700 seat venue, and an outfield berm-lawn area offering increased capacity for an additional 500-1,000 spectators.

The stadium will be built in what currently is the parking lot for the Hearnes Center.

At a February 2015 meeting, the University of Missouri Board of Curators approved the new $16 million Missouri softball stadium project. It will be funded from $13.5 million in private gifts and $2.5 million in debt financing. Additionally, at the February 2015 meeting, the Board approved employing Lempka Edson Architects (L+E), Overland Park, Kan., as the project architect.

The project also includes the redevelopment of the existing 1,109-vehicle MU student and commuter parking lot that will displace 503 parking spaces. A new parking lot will be constructed south of Champions Drive at the intersection with Providence Point Drive to replace 251 spaces.

The new parking lot is anticipated to be completed in November 2015, with the new softball stadium completed by December 2016.

Press Box: Days appear numbered for Hearnes Center
News Tribune Sports Commentary
Sunday, June 28, 2015
Its days are numbered.

With the announcement last week of the new softball facility at the University of Missouri, the Hearnes Center is taking another step toward being just a memory.

Sometimes progress, though necessary, stinks.

The Hearnes Center opened in 1972, with a seating capacity of 13,611, to replace Brewer Fieldhouse as the home primarily of the basketball teams.

Back in the early 1980s, it was one of the toughest buildings in the country to play in for opposing teams. It didn’t hurt that Missouri had great teams, with players such as Steve Stipanovich, Jon Sundvold and Doug Smith wearing the Black and Gold.

And as the teams got better, so did the fans. Hearnes was built upward, not outward. The fans go up, not out. And that helped make a lot of noise to rattle the opposition as Missouri improved on the basketball floor.

As a sophomore at Missouri, I had a men’s basketball season ticket. In the D section, middle of the top row. D stood for “Darn, it sure is high up here.” I would enter Hearnes and start climbing the stairs until there were no more stairs. It’s what passed for a good cardio workout back then.
One game stands out, sort of. The Tigers were in the middle of what turned out to be a 19-game winning streak and were ranked No. 2 in the country behind North Carolina. Missouri beat whoever it played that night and it was announced North Carolina had lost, so the Tigers were going to be No. 1 in the next national ranking.

There was quite a party that night, which might have something to do with the fact I can’t remember who Missouri defeated.

After college, my trips to Hearnes were either for the annual Missouri-Kansas basketball game or to work for the Missouri State High School Activities Association’s basketball and wrestling championships. I saw a lot of state titles won by Mid-Missouri teams in the building.

The last time I was in the Hearnes Center was a couple of years ago for a MSHSAA state semifinal basketball game. With the addition of a fifth class in basketball, the MSHSAA decided to bring the Hearnes Center back into the rotation to keep games from having to start at 8 a.m. or 10 p.m. on the small-school weekend.

The building was showing its age.

The softball team deserves a new facility, which will be built next to Hearnes. Missouri softball has outgrown University Field in both stature and fan support.

And after it’s built, it’s likely a final decision on the future of the Hearnes Center will be announced. It’s a big building that still houses the indoor track facility as well as wrestling and volleyball. Those sports will get a new home as well, one that isn’t quite as large, but will suit their needs better.

Progress, while necessary, stinks.

Mizzou Curators approve to step up softball facility, bring big improvements to overall fan enjoyment

June 26, 2015 by Bill Pollock

When talk of expansion and improvements to all University of Missouri athletic fields and facilities began, with their entrance into the Southeastern Conference, Mizzou softball coach Ehren Earleywine stressed the importance that softball not be left behind. His first choice was to have a new stadium built in a high visible area. His wish will come true very soon.

Back in February, the University of Missouri Board of Curators approved a new $16,000,000 Mizzou softball stadium project to be built by Lempka Edson Architects (L+E), Overland Park, Kansas. The location of the new complex will be located just off Stadium Blvd and east of Hearnes Center.
The project will be funded from $13,500,000 in private gifts and $2,500,000 in debt financing. The new stadium will provide Mizzou softball fans with a “full-view” concourse and outfield plaza, with 1,500 to 1,700 seats, plus an outfield berm that can accommodate an extra 500 to 1000 spectators. New MU and commuter parking lots will be redeveloped and will be completed by November of this year.

More seating and better parking arrangements will make getting into the park easier for more fans. The overflow berm seating in the outfield will also help during events such as regional tournaments, when the park must accommodate fans from three extra teams. The positioning of the stadium will also keep most of the warmer afternoon sun out of the eyes of spectators.

The new softball stadium should be completed by December of 2016, ready in time for the spring 2017 season.

MU's Bradford Research Center hosts educational field day

By BRUNO VERNASCHI
Sunday, June 28, 2015 at 12:00 am

Four wagons carried students, farmers and enthusiasts around the University of Missouri’s Bradford Research Center on Saturday morning as part of its Bobwhite Quail Management in Modern Agriculture Field Day.

More than 72 people attended the event, which was designed to educate the community on the habitat management techniques used at Bradford.

“The main objective is to show how to promote the quail population and get them on farms and basically to increase” their population in Missouri, Bradford Research Specialist Ray Wright said. “It’s been going down for years, and it doesn’t necessarily have to.”

The bobwhite quail population has fallen sharply in the past few decades, but Wright said management techniques at Bradford have given it a “decent quail population.”

Wright said the event has been going on for several years, with hopes of teaching farmers how to maximize the number of quails on their land without limiting their production capabilities.
Kevin Feiock, an intern at the center and an environmental science major at Columbia College, said increasing the endangered bird’s population is important to the state’s biodiversity.

“It’s an entire system that benefits not only the farmer but the environment and society overall,” Feiock said.

The field day was organized by MU, in partnership with national not-for-profit Quail Forever and the Missouri Department of Conservation, Wright said.

Four different wagon tours took attendees around the farm and covered varying topics. Jessica Kellie, an intern with the Bradford Research Center, said the tours focused on pollinators, summer burn, quail covey headquarters and cover crops.

Feiock said attendees included cattle farmers, clover farmers, “people who have 20 acres and just want flowers on it,” and more. He said no particular event was more popular than the others, it was simply a matter of “whatever they’re interested in.”

Farmers came to find solutions to problems with their land, including one who needed to reseed clover and another who wanted to know whether cattle can eat partridge peas.

Feiock said Dr. Terry Woods, an entomologist at Bradford, was one of several specialists who were available to assist and educate the landowners.

“It’s important to raise awareness,” Feiock said. “This farm wants to be part of the community. ... If we’re going to be out here growing stuff, why not?”

June 26, 2015

What the Landmark Ruling on Gay Marriage Means for Higher Education

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on Friday that the Constitution guarantees a right to same-sex marriage. What will the effect be on higher education? For most colleges, not much.
But for others — in particular, Christian colleges — the ruling beckons toward an uncertain future. Some people at Christian colleges worry that they might lose federal benefits if they don’t change their own policies on same-sex relationships and marriages.

Since colleges have been dealing with a "patchwork of laws across states," the ruling will probably make it easier for institutions to support gay students and professors, said Suzanne B. Goldberg, director of the Sexuality and Gender Law Clinic at the Columbia University Law School, which filed a brief with the Supreme Court in support of same-sex marriage.

Colleges in states that have already legalized same-sex marriage have recognized benefits for those employees already. While the ruling will lead to a potential increase in benefits for same-sex couples who do get married, same-sex couples receiving co-habituation benefits who choose not to wed could see those benefits disappear, said Brian Powell, a professor of sociology at Indiana University at Bloomington.

Students who hailed from states that had not legalized same-sex marriage and, for that reason, who had chosen to attend a more-progressive institution out of state could also be more inclined to attend a public institution in their home state now that marriage equality is legal there, Mr. Powell added.

The ruling could also expand choices for professors considering job opportunities, said Steve Sanders, an associate professor of law at Indiana University’s Maurer School of Law. Gay and lesbian professors have had to take into consideration whether a potential job was in a state that had legalized gay marriage. Now they will no longer have to worry about that when looking for a position.

"To the extent that colleges and universities are part of a truly nationwide marketplace of higher education, this decision tears down barriers and corrects market problems," Mr. Sanders said. He served as co-counsel on a brief to the Supreme Court arguing that state laws banning same-sex marriage were not justified under the Constitution. Advocates for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and other students said the ruling would help them move on to other issues, such as access to higher education and mental-health concerns for young LGBTQ students of color and transgender students of color, said Shane L. Windmeyer, executive director of Campus Pride, an advocacy group.

"I’m hopeful that we can now say we won one game; now the next game is looking at trans rights, how we treat queer people of color, especially first-generation LGBTQ students of color," Mr. Windmeyer said.
Raymond E. Crossman, president of the Adler University, said he had learned of the ruling while giving the opening remarks at a conference for LGBTQ academics looking to advance to higher-education leadership.

"I feel very proud to be part of the higher-ed community that helped start this whole movement. We were among the first to say domestic-partner benefits are important," Mr. Crossman said. "This will certainly help continue that movement."

Challenges for Religious Colleges

But not everyone in academe welcomed the Supreme Court’s decision. Christian colleges across the nation — many of which forbid same-sex relationships among students and faculty members — said they faced an uncertain future, with the decision potentially affecting their tax-exempt status, accreditation, student-housing policies, and ability to admit and hire people based on religious convictions.

This month more than 70 educational institutions, including evangelical colleges, sent a letter to the Senate majority leader, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, and the House speaker, John Boehner of Ohio, expressing concern about losing their tax-exempt status should the Supreme Court rule that same-sex marriage is a constitutional right. Their concern centered on an exchange, during oral arguments in April, between Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. and Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli Jr., who represented the Obama administration.

In the exchange, Justice Alito asked whether a college would not be entitled to tax-exempt status if it opposed same-sex marriage, citing a 1983 Supreme Court decision allowing the Internal Revenue Service to rescind Bob Jones University’s tax-exempt status because it opposed interracial marriage and dating. Mr. Verrilli responded that he wasn’t sure and that "it’s certainly going to be an issue."

That answer, and the uncertainty over the effect of the ruling, has put some Christian colleges on edge.

"Many religious institutions simply could not afford to operate" without tax exemptions, said R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Kentucky, and a signer of the letter to the congressional leaders. "So it’s not just a question of tax exemptions, it’s a question of existence."

For his part, Jerry D. Mackey, general counsel of Biola University, a Christian institution in California, said that the ruling could affect colleges’ tax-exempt status, though in his opinion it was "too premature" to make any predictions.
Benjamin Merkle, president of New Saint Andrews College, in Idaho, said that he was concerned that the ruling could affect accreditation agencies, including the one that oversees his college, the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, if colleges did not align with federal standards. He and H. James Towey, president of Ave Maria University, in Florida, also said they thought the Supreme Court had overstepped its bounds in the ruling, which would restrict the autonomy of religious institutions.

But Jennifer E. Walsh, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Azusa Pacific University, in California, was more optimistic. She said the ruling would not infringe on religious colleges’ liberties and that, "undoubtedly, Christian colleges will find themselves engaging in more discourse" about gay rights.
fight any attempt to undermine it.

Whatever potential battles emerge over policy issues will not preclude shorter-term negotiations and debates over spending levels for various programs, as the competing House and Senate bills differ significantly on numerous fronts from the Obama administration's preferred budget levels and, to a lesser extent, from each other, as seen in the table below.

To the satisfaction of higher education groups, both spending bills would increase spending on the National Institutes of Health beyond the $1 billion increase requested by President Obama, with the Senate adding a full billion dollars on top of that. College leaders are much less happy about a proposal to use $300 million (in the Senate bill) and $370 million (in the House bill) in surplus funds from the Pell Grant program for other purposes, even though the maximum Pell Grant would rise to $5,915 under both bills.

The table below shows proposed spending levels for many key federal programs for higher education, based on the recently passed House and Senate bills for the Departments of Labor, Education, Health and Human Services, and related agencies.

### 2016 Spending Plans for Education, Health and Labor Programs

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### Support for Institutions

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