From money to quality to sexual assault, Mizzou chancellor juggles many issues


R. Bowen Loftin found that a lot of things were the same when he moved from the top job at Texas A&M to become chancellor of the University of Missouri-Columbia last year, but he did have to make one big change.

Instead of greeting his Aggie crowd with a hearty “Howdy!” he learned to get a big response at Mizzou with three simple letters: “M-I-Z”.

The proper reply, of course, is “Z-O-U.”

Loftin said he feels right at home on the Mizzou campus after 18 months on the job. He told St. Louis Public Radio in a recent interview that one reason for his comfort level is how similarly students are treated both in Columbia and in College Station, where he worked for several years, leaving after four years as president.

“Texas A&M played Missouri at Columbia in November 2013,” he said. “At that point, I had been offered the position [at Mizzou]. I walked into the football stadium, Faurot Field at Columbia, and I saw something I didn't think I would see anywhere else but where I'd been before.

“Turns out that the University of Missouri — Mizzou — provides most of the prime seats on the east side of their stadium to students, which is exactly the way it was done where I came from at Texas A&M. That was a sign perhaps, that this place had some shared values, especially the value of students. Much like I had had at Texas A&M. So, I was quite taken by that.”

Loftin said 6,500 of those students, as well as 55,000 graduates, are from the St. Louis area, so the region has the largest single Mizzou alumni base in the nation.

Right before Loftin officially became chancellor, the Mizzou campus became the focus of a national story on a subject that has taken up much of his time and attention: sexual assault.
Sasha Menu Courey, a student at the Columbia campus had committed suicide in 2011. After her death, information emerged that Courey had said she was sexually assaulted more than a year before, possibly by one or more members of the Mizzou football team.

In the interview, Loftin discussed actions taken in the wake of the Courey story as well as other issues facing the university including affordability, access and quality at Mizzou and in higher education in general. His responses have been edited for length and clarity.

The Sasha Menu Courey story broke the weekend before I became chancellor officially. So, I was actually on campus, getting settled basically, and this thing happened. Steve Owens was serving as the interim chancellor, and he was on a hunting trip in a place with no cell coverage. So, there was kind of a void of leadership, shall we say, right there. President [Tim] Wolfe was engaged in that situation. He was concerned about it and made a decision that day moving the entire system to a better place in terms of how we addressed Title IX concerns.

We have done a lot in terms of training all of our employees, faculty and staff, to be reporters of any events they may see. We have produced what I think is one of the best websites in the country for Title IX reporting and accessing information. We've put in place a number of programs to both raise awareness and prepare our students to be better able to deal with those kinds of issues, especially reporting, intervention and, obviously, support after the fact.

Are universities equipped to handle these kinds of cases?

I think we are better equipped today than we were. The last couple of years have been tough in higher education in this area. There's no doubt that many universities struggle to do this well. We are not typically placed in the role of being a prosecutor and a judge, which is part of what happens right now the way the laws and regulations are written. So this has been something that's been difficult for universities to move into. I think we've learned a lot in the last couple of years.

How do you change the culture on campus concerning sexual assault, before it can get to the reporting stage?

We are very interested in the Green Dot program. The green dot program is a program which really says, 'I'm not going to be an idle bystander. I'm going to watch, and if I see inappropriate behavior, I'm going to intervene.' That's not exactly human nature. Let's just walk on by. We don't necessarily stop and think, 'Should I now say something? Should I now try to stop something happening which I see happening, which is not appropriate?' That's not our tendency. So, we've really pushed hard on that. Our students have stepped up to it. We have a program that's called Enough is Enough that's totally student driven. It's a very grassroots approach, saying we're tired of this continuing on a college campus. Let's change the culture. I can't hire enough people as chancellor to enforce thing from a top-down perspective. This has to be solved by the students themselves. That's critical.

Some campuses have programs that outline step-by-step processes. Can we go beyond this step, can we go beyond this step, in intimate situations? Is Mizzou going to go that route?
We are very concerned about what yes and no means, like many campuses are. I believe we have a lot of training in place right now. We've mandated every student who entered this campus this year as a freshman go through a training program. They won't be able to get their registration completed until it's done. That's a big step for us. Never done before. So now we have everyone exposed to the same criteria, the same discussions about what their responsibilities are, what the processes are that are available to them to report and how they can access counseling, support and others kinds of things they may need if they have any issues of this type occur to them personally.

And I see that hard liquor is going to be banned from fraternity houses. Will that be a factor in these kinds of cases?

If you look at the last few years of sexual assault cases that have come into student conduct, almost all have involved alcohol abuse by both parties, both the victim and the perpetrator. So you draw your own conclusion about it. It is what it is. That's what you see. Alcohol plays a role. And underage drinking is especially a problem at any college campus. Mizzou is not free from that. We worked hard to teach people about the results of alcohol abuse. We also worked very hard to make sure we had the right people in place. As you may know, Missouri several years ago, through a budget reduction process, eliminated the plainclothes people who used to come into bars and check, make sure that IDs were inspected, things like that. That sort of meant there was nobody looking over anybody's shoulder.

This is not a mandate from me, although I certainly encourage it. But to remove the hard liquor, especially things like vodka, which can be consumed in very large quantities without even knowing it, that has been a big deal. I think the IFC, the Interfraternity Council, has looked at this very carefully and they made a decision to come forward and tell the houses no more hard liquor in the houses. Beer and wine can be appropriately handled, but not liquor. And that, to me, is a big step forward, driven by the students themselves, not by me.

Will it be enforced by the university?

We can't. I can't hire enough people. Also, at Mizzou, unlike at some schools, we don't own the property the houses are on. So literally, that's Columbia Police Department territory, quite frankly. And they'll tell you, they have a lot going on. This isn't their highest priority. And I can understand that. I believe the secret is going to be having maturity and responsibility in every house. Some houses have had a large number of freshmen in the house. You put a lot of 18-year-olds in there with nobody else, you can imagine what can happen. I've told all the houses I've gone to speak to, 'Look, I expect to see some senior leadership in the house. Own your house. Instill responsibility, both in yourselves as leaders of the organization but also in your freshmen.'

University officials talk about three factors in making sure the school is doing well: access, affordability and quality. How do these interact?

Access to me is a very important thing. Access has more than one dimension, though. Part of access is simply financial. Can you afford to go to school? Part of access is also intellectual. Do
you have the right preparation to be successful? One of the worst things we can do is admit a student who can't make it, and that's a loss for us and a loss for them too.

So we want to be sure students who come to Mizzou are able to complete their studies there. To retain them. I was very proud, for example, this fall that we saw our retention rate from the freshman to sophomore year increasing by a whole point, which is rare. That's a big change from year to year. This year we have 87.1 percent of our freshman from last year came back as sophomores. That's a new record for us.

The other part of it is, of course, financial, and that's really part of access in my mind. Access means I can afford to come to school and stay in school. If you ask a student why they don't come back in their second year, the first answer you get will be financial. It costs more than I thought it would, and I wasn't prepared for that. My parents weren't prepared for that. The number two reason is academic. They didn't do well in their first year. Number three reason is a variety of things like family issues and such that happens to anybody. That's a pretty small number. So you see right away that retention is tied really to money, it's tied also to academic success. So access to me is really the key.

*When it comes to affordability, state support is weak. Is that a threat to quality?*

I think it's a threat to students. This is not Missouri by itself. Every single state has gone through the same process over the last several years. We've seen nationwide a reduction of the per-student support given to universities by states over time. I don't think that will change. I don't believe we're going to see a turn-up for that overnight, if ever. I believe we have to understand the new reality is that higher education affordability is going to be tied to other things. The state support is vital to us. It helps us keep the cost under control. But it's not going to be the salvation or the future for our universities.

The major piece of this really has been for the last few decades philanthropy. The private schools like WashU have done it a long time. Privates came to that conclusion early in their lives. They have to support themselves by going out and getting donors to provide funding. Publics, because they had great state support for a long time, didn't worry about that a whole lot. Now they do. And so where I've been the last decade, my time is spent — more than half of it — spent on fund-raising. That's what we do.

At Mizzou we think we have a fourth possibility. We have an extraordinarily creative faculty and student population. We believe that the ideas they come up with, the discoveries they make, oftentimes can have potential in terms of commercial success. So our goal is to be able to support entrepreneurial activities on the part of our faculty and students, that allow us to have the ability to draw money from that over time as well.

*That’s modern alchemy, turning ideas into money.*

I think we have to. There is no other way to make it happen. Philanthropy is very, very successful, at Mizzou and other places. Much of it's not immediate money. I may get a million dollars from you in your will. When are you going to die, sir? That may be a long time from
now. So that's the challenge you have. You may have very generous people. Your alumni, who will be willing to put you in their will. That's fine. We love that. But you can't predict that.

*Is it difficult to get out the message we have a fine university and at the same time we need more money?*

I believe we have to be very clear that we have a fine university. We haven't been clear enough about that for a long time. I think Mizzou has not been as aggressive as it could be and as it should be in terms of telling people how good it really is. But I think we have to understand there is a reality I have already talked about. A reality about tuition, which can't be raised forever, and state support, which will not get larger in my opinion over a long period of time. That reality is out there: How are you going to keep what you have, and even go beyond that? We want to be excellent. We want to be better tomorrow than we are today. To be able to better tomorrow than today will take resources, and that's my story to a donor.

*What attracts St. Louis area students to Columbia, when there is a University of Missouri campus also located in St. Louis?*

People want to be on a campus which has all the pieces. I think UMSL is a fine school. It has a lot of good attributes to it, and a lot of good programs. But it's largely a commuter campus. We're residential. And so between the housing on campus, the nearby housing for students near campus, people can walk to class. They can walk around. They don't have to drive necessarily. That's helpful. They see a college campus, which is beautiful.

This is the flagship university in the state of Missouri. [People say], 'my mom and dad went there, I want to go there. My grandparents went there, I want to go there.' I have children coming to the campus now who are seventh generation Mizzou grads. Think about that. Their parents, grandparents and so on back to seven generations have been students there. We have that kind of a reach here in St. Louis.

**MU medical school dean resigns after less than a year**

*University of Missouri School of Medicine Dean Patrick Delafontaine resigned Monday after less than a year on the job.*

Delafontaine’s resignation was effective Monday. His first day at MU was Dec. 1.
He will receive $1.2 million from MU — Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin wrote in Delafontaine’s resignation agreement that the former dean is guaranteed “$600,000 per year base salary for the first two years of ... employment at the University of Missouri.”

Delafontaine declined to comment on his resignation, saying he does not want to talk to reporters at this time.

Delafontaine’s letter to Loftin and Provost Garnett Stokes did not elaborate about the reason for his resignation, and officials will not talk about the reason, citing a desire to keep personnel information confidential.

James Stannard, chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, will be interim dean, MU spokeswoman Ellen de Graffenreid said.

“Heis leadership should be very helpful to the school,” de Graffenreid said of Stannard’s appointment.

Stannard was not available before deadline to comment on his new role.

Huron Consulting recently reviewed the organizational structure of the MU Health System and recommended the university restore its executive vice chancellor for health affairs position eliminated earlier this year when Hal Williamson retired. In an MU Health Care newsletter, Loftin said the university was accepting that recommendation.

Once the job is filled, de Graffenreid said, the vice chancellor will be responsible for hiring a new medical school dean.

“We will be moving very quickly on the executive vice chancellor for health affairs search,” de Graffenreid said, adding that she expects MU to name a search committee for the position in the next couple of weeks.

Delafontaine’s departure comes a few months after MU kicked off significant health-related projects. In July, the School of Medicine began its $42.5 million expansion project that includes a new medical school building at MU and a Springfield clinical campus. Additionally, MU Health Care began construction in June on a $40 million, four-story Missouri Orthopaedic Institute expansion.

In the MU Health Care newsletter, Loftin emphasized the importance of MU’s research mission and its health system.

“One of our most significant goals is improving our status with the Association of American Universities (AAU), an objective that can only be met with a strong and robust health system,” Loftin wrote.

He said Stannard will provide continuity as the school and health system work toward their goals.
Delafontaine came to MU from Tulane University in New Orleans, where was chief of cardiology. He was ordered to boost MU’s School of Medicine research.

When Delafontaine started at MU, Faculty Council leaders were examining concerns raised by MU School of Medicine faculty. The Faculty Council completed a report in February, which included 18 recommendations for administrators. Recommendations focused on boosting shared governance in decision-making and increasing research productivity.

Craig Roberts, MU Faculty Council chairman when the report was published, said some faculty members met with top MU officials multiple times to discuss the report’s conclusions. Delafontaine, Roberts said, was responsive to faculty concerns.

“He agreed these were good points and recommendations,” Roberts said.

University of Missouri School of Medicine dean resigns

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - The dean of the University of Missouri School of Medicine has resigned after less than a year on the job.

The Columbia Missourian reports the university announced the resignation of Patrice "Patrick" Delafontaine in a newsletter to University Health System employees. Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin did not say why Delafontaine had resigned, effective immediately.

Delafontaine became dean on Dec. 1.

Loftin also announced that James Stannard, chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, will be interim dean.
He also said he had accepted a consultant's recommendation to restore the position of executive vice chancellor for health affairs to improve the system's structure.

Delafontaine was previously chief of cardiology at Tulane University.

MU School of Medicine dean resigns

James Stannard, chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, set to take over as interim dean

**MU School of Medicine Dean Patrice “Patrick” Delafontaine resigned from his position effective immediately on Sep. 14. His tenure lasted for about nine and a half months.**

James Stannard, chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the School of Medicine, will step in as the interim dean. Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin made the announcement Sep. 14 in Insight, the newsletter for employees of the University Health System.

“His proven leadership will provide continuity as we advance the goals outlined in the university’s, the health system’s and the School of Medicine’s strategic plans; continue clinical integration by fostering strong partnerships with all of our health-related schools; and contribute to the university’s leadership team,” Loftin said in the newsletter.

Loftin did not say why Delafontaine resigned.

Delafontaine worked in medicine for the past 37 years, and was the chief of cardiology at Tulane University before taking the dean position at the School of Medicine.

During his time as an associate professor at Emory University, Delafontaine discovered the link between the renin-angiotension system and the hormone Insulin-like growth factor-1, which is important in the understanding of the biology of muscle function and aging, according to a Dec. 10, 2014 Maneater article.

Delafontaine continued that research by examining the link’s impact on several chronic diseases, including heart failure.

Three months after Delafontaine was appointed, four MU faculty members presented an unfavorable report to Faculty Council about the School of Medicine.

The report found that department leadership was perceived as “lacking research competence, autocratic, intimidating and vindictive.”
It also found that MU’s research productivity was far below other schools in the Association of American Universities, the Southeastern Conference and the Midwest. The school placed below average in each measure of research productivity and ranked 91 out of 138 schools in funding received from the National Institutes of Health.

In the same newsletter that announced Delafontaine’s resignation, Loftin addressed MU’s low research productivity by announcing the restoration of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs position. Loftin made this decision at the recommendation of Huron Consulting, a group the university hired to examine the medical school’s organizational structure.

“This structure will help us align strategy and operations around the goals for both our clinical and research enterprise and to support the academic mission of our Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Health Professions,” Loftin said in the newsletter. “We will recruit for this position a physician leader who fosters collaboration, is focused on the future of the health care industry, is able to provide visionary and strategic leadership, [...] and has a track record of fostering and growing sponsored research.”

The School of Medicine dean’s office did not respond to The Maneater’s request for a comment.

Missouri Senate Republicans: 'No witch hunt against Planned Parenthood'

Verbal fireworks punctuated the latest round of hearings by a Missouri Senate committee investigating Planned Parenthood's operations in the state, which included accusations and denials that Republicans on the committee are conducting a "witch hunt."

Chairman Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, began by stating that Tuesday's hearing was reserved for comments from the public, which turned out to be top-heavy with official representatives from several anti-abortion groups and one citizen speaking on behalf of the National Organization for Women.

But before the first witness took the stand, Sen. Jill Schupp, D-Creve Coeur, asked whether they would be sworn in, as were members of the Department of Health and Senior Services at earlier hearings.

"Nope, this is public testimony," Schaefer answered.
Schupp then asked, "And these witnesses are held to a different standard than the other witnesses who were brought forward?"

Schaefer responded, "The purpose of this hearing is to provide public testimony, so members of the public can weigh in to their elected representatives. That is different than when we subpoena witnesses who have information that's relevant to the investigation that we're doing ... so no, I do not plan on swearing these witnesses in, and it is different."

Schupp again countered with, "But not all the other witnesses were subpoenaed; some were just asked to come here, and they did, and yet they were sworn in."

Schaefer fired back, "That's true, for those witnesses that have information that we want to make sure that they're being complete and truthful with us, we will put them under oath."

After Schupp and Schaefer's testy exchange ended, testimony began, with much of it highly critical of UM Healthcare's working relationship with Planned Parenthood's clinic in Columbia.

Mike Hoey with the Missouri Catholic Conference fired the first salvo.

"'Now, I understand that they don't perform abortions at the University of Missouri, I understand that, but they gave hospital privileges to an abortion doctor,' Hoey said. "'But for the blessing of Mizzou, there would not be the taking of unborn life in Columbia and in central Missouri.'"

Kathy Forck is with the group 40 Days for Life. She accused the staff at Planned Parenthood's Columbia clinic of using fear and intimidation to discourage their patients from having any contact with anti-abortion protesters, or from visiting an abortion alternative clinic across the street.

"We know of one instance where a woman went back for her follow-up care after an abortion, and because she spoke to us, that care was refused," Forck said. "'(An) off-duty policeman came out and told her 'your presence is not welcome here.' She said, 'What do you mean? I paid for this abortion...I took the RU-486 pill.' He said, 'I'm sorry, but if you do not leave, you'll be arrested for trespass.'"

Susan Gibson of Jefferson City spoke on behalf of the National Organization for Women, who began by telling committee members that she wished the Missouri Senate had the same level of outrage over the unrest in Ferguson and over "sexual predators" within the legislature.

"That huge mess of a problem is not isolated to two (lawmakers), so don't think you have successfully distracted anyone," Gibson said.

She continued, "You cannot convince me that your overwrought emotion is not motivated by your thirst for campaign donations (from the ultra-conservative crowd), because you insist on using inaccurate (and) inflammatory language, like babies, body parts, and selling, rather than scientifically and medically accurate language."
And it was Gibson who leveled the charge of "witch hunt" against the committee, "It has been clear from the beginning of this witch hunt that Planned Parenthood in Missouri does not participate in the fetal tissue donation program ... reproductive freedom is essential to our liberty, and your attack can only be interpreted as a tantrum hoping to bring back the mid-20th century."

Minutes after Gibson's testimony, Sen. David Sater, R-Cassville, denied that the committee was conducting a witch hunt, saying that they were "only looking for the truth."

There is no word yet on when the next hearing is scheduled, but Schaefer told reporters he wants Planned Parenthood officials to testify; voluntarily or, if necessary, by subpoena.

When asked if Planned Parenthood would be put under oath if they agreed to testify, he answered, "Yes, I suspect so."

Schaefer is also seeking the Republican nomination for Missouri attorney general.

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**Public testifies on Planned Parenthood investigation**

Sept. 16, 2015 • By Alex Stuckey

JEFFERSON CITY • Republican state Sen. Kurt Schaefer has held four meetings investigating Planned Parenthood since July, but one woman thinks he should spend more time investigating the state's response to Ferguson.

"I wish the Senate would invest this much energy into Ferguson," said Susan Gibson, a state board member of the National Organization for Women.

Gibson was among several individuals who testified Tuesday at the fourth Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life. The committee was created in July to investigate Planned Parenthood after controversial videos were released that raised questions about whether the national abortion provider was selling fetal tissue for profit. One video specifically mentions St. Louis as a potential location to obtain fetal tissue.

Planned Parenthood has vehemently denied these allegations.

Schaefer, who is running for attorney general next year, was put in charge of the committee. He also was put in charge of another committee last year tasked with investigating how Gov. Jay Nixon, a Democrat, handled Ferguson-related events.

That committee, known as the Joint Committee on Government Accountability, came with a promise to collect records and examine why Nixon did not send in the National Guard to save burning Ferguson businesses after the grand jury announced that former police Officer Darren Wilson would not face criminal charges in the fatal shooting Aug. 9 of unarmed teen Michael Brown.
That committee has met just twice since December. Schaefer previously said he planned for a September hearing, but it has not yet been added to the calendar.

Though Gibson was critical of the Senate's investigation, others testifying Tuesday applauded members' efforts.

Mike Hoey, Missouri Catholic Conference executive director, called the videos "shocking."

"We don't know the facts in Missouri and an investigation to get the facts is the responsible way to approach it," Hoey said.

The committee also has been looking into the resumption of abortion services at the Columbia Planned Parenthood. That location stopped offering abortions in 2012, leaving the St. Louis facility as the only location licensed to perform abortions in Missouri. The new doctor started last month performing medical abortions, which use two medicines that can end a pregnancy up to nine weeks after a woman’s last period.

University of Missouri Health Care provided the Columbia abortion doctor, Colleen McNicholas, "refer and follow" privileges, which means she can refer her patients to the hospital and check their medical record after they're admitted.

Republican senators believe that and other aspects of the Columbia facility's licensure do not jive with state law and several testifying agreed.

"I truly believe (the facility) should never have gotten a license," said Kathy Forck, campaign director for 40 Days for Life in Columbia. "I believe Planned Parenthood ignores regulations and statutes ... my opinion is Planned Parenthood doesn't care about the safety of women."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

State investigation focuses on decades-old relationship between MU, Planned Parenthood

COLUMBIA — The decades-old relationship between MU and Planned Parenthood, partly described in contracts obtained by the Missourian through the Sunshine Law, has ended since the Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life began its investigation this past summer.

Between Aug. 21 and Sept. 3, university officials canceled 10 contracts with Planned Parenthood clinics in five cities in four states where MU students could complete clinical hours. In three of the cancellation letters, the university stated the contracts had not been used “for quite some time.”

Nursing and medical students were never required to work at any Planned Parenthood clinic, work at the clinic was not part of the core curriculum in either the nursing or medical schools and
the placement was an optional rotation students could choose, University of Missouri Health System spokeswoman Mary Jenkins said Tuesday.

The 26-year relationship between the university and the health care provider has come under scrutiny since former Senate Leader Tom Dempsey formed the committee in July in response to the release of videos purporting to show Planned Parenthood senior staff selling aborted tissue. Led by state senator and attorney general hopeful Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, the committee aims to determine how Missouri clinics dispose of aborted tissue, whether any state funds were used to facilitate abortions and whether the health care provider has broken any state laws, according to the Missouri Senate website.

The committee met again Tuesday to get public feedback on its inquiry. All but one of the people who spoke said they were opposed to abortion and many opposed any facilitation of it by MU.

Representatives from the MU School of Medicine signed a letter of understanding with Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri in 2005 that gave obstetrics and gynecology residents the option of learning how to perform surgical and medical abortions. If a resident were interested in learning to perform abortions, he or she was to contact the residency program director who would give the student contact information for the Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic, according to the letter of understanding. Clinic staff provided arrangements for “orientation, observation, training, and supervised provision” of abortion services, according to the letter. The student would then become “a credentialed provider of medical or surgical pregnancy termination services,” according to the letter.

The agreement with the medical school was required to meet Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education requirements that mandated schools provide training on abortion procedures at a student's request, MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said in a letter to Schaefer.

The requirements have since changed, Loftin said. The agreement expired in 2011 and was not renewed, Jenkins said. One medical resident chose to shadow a nurse practitioner at the Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic in 2010 to learn about family planning and the placing of birth control devices, Jenkins said. No other medical students have worked at the clinic since 2010, Jenkins wrote in an email.

Nursing students' training included instruction on birth control, female health exams and cancer screenings, she said. About one or two nursing students each year elected to take the rotation at the Planned Parenthood clinic, she said. Those contracts have also been canceled.

"The nursing school administration reviews contracts routinely and decided to cancel them since there were ample opportunities at many other learning sites," she said.

**Hospital privileges through MU**

The two people at the center of the committee's attention are a nursing professor, Kristin Metcalf-Wilson, who is also the lead clinician at Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, and St. Louis doctor Colleen McNicholas.
Metcalf-Wilson could bring nursing students to shadow her during her shifts at Planned Parenthood but could not perform or assist an abortion procedure or counsel a woman to have an abortion, according to a 2008 agreement between MU and the health care provider. Missouri law prohibits public employees from any of these activities.

Planned Parenthood paid the university for the nurse’s time, and her professional liability was covered under the university’s liability plan, according to the agreement.

During an Aug. 25 committee hearing, Schaefer alleged that Metcalf-Wilson had recruited McNicholas to perform abortions at the Columbia clinic through her role at the university, according to the Columbia Daily Tribune.

Metcalf-Wilson has never testified before the Senate committee and referred all questions to Planned Parenthood. The organization declined numerous requests for interviews.

The dozens of emails she wrote containing paperwork to be passed between hospital staff and the doctor and inquiring about what the next steps were to get the hospital privileges required to perform abortions in Missouri came from Metcalf-Wilson’s Planned Parenthood account.

In a Sept. 2 letter to the Missouri Catholic Conference, Loftin acknowledged that the “emails indicate that she (Metcalf-Wilson) may have facilitated communication between McNicholas and MU Health Care’s medical staff office in her capacity as a Planned Parenthood employee” and not on behalf of MU.

The conversation that Schaefer cited as proof that Metcalf-Wilson was recruiting McNicholas on university time is the only correspondence the nurse had with the doctor through her university account and it took place when both women were at a conference in Orlando in August 2014, according to Missourian analysis of hundreds of emails. In that instance, Metcalf-Wilson used her MU email address to arrange a time when the two could meet.

McNicholas later sent a follow-up email to Metcalf-Wilson’s MU email address outlining the topics they had discussed at the meeting, including how to get privileges at University Hospital and whether the refer and follow privileges would meet state requirements.

"It's exciting that you have some commitment and forward progress in restoring your services in Columbia," McNicholas said in the email. Metcalf-Wilson never replied.

McNicholas was granted “refer and follow” privileges at University Hospital on Dec. 15, according to a hospital letter to the doctor, and began performing medical abortions at the Columbia clinic on Aug. 3, according to previous Missourian reporting.

The Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic had not provided any abortion services since late 2012 because it did not have a doctor who met state requirements, according to previous Missourian reporting. The clinic only recently has begun providing medical abortions, but representatives said they planned to resume surgical abortion services in early 2016.
Medical abortions are induced by medications and are generally used in the first nine weeks after conception, according to the University of California San Francisco Medical Center. During a surgical abortion, a doctor uses a suction cup to empty a woman’s uterus. Surgical abortions effectively end pregnancies six to 14 weeks after conception, according to the center.

The Columbia clinic is the only abortion provider in mid-Missouri. The state’s only other provider is in St. Louis, according to previous Missourian reporting. There is also a clinic just over the state line in Overland Park, Kansas.

**Gray area in Missouri abortion laws**

Much of the Senate committee's debate has focused on different interpretations of Missouri laws on abortions.

Two different laws regulate the privileges doctors must have to perform abortions in the state. One requires that doctors performing or inducing abortions have clinical privileges at a hospital no more than 30 miles from the clinic where the abortions are performed. The other requires that doctors performing surgeries have surgical privileges at a community hospital or have an agreement with a community hospital that will guarantee the transfer and admittance of patients for emergency treatment.

Neither law specifically addresses medical abortions — the only kind provided at the Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic.

On Tuesday, Schaefer alleged that the refer and follow privileges granted to McNicholas by MU Health Care do not meet these requirements because they do not allow her to admit patients and ensure their continued treatment.

Refer and follow privileges allow McNicholas to refer patients to the hospital and to follow their treatment but does not allow her to provide patient care in the hospital, said Elizabeth Sepper, a health care lawyer who also serves on the board of Planned Parenthood. The privileges do not allow her to admit, treat or prescribe medications at University Hospital. Generally, refer and follow privileges are considered clinical privileges, Sepper said.

Confusion about Missouri abortion law often occurs when "separate targeted regulations of abortion providers have to work together," Sepper said.

'More questions'

At Tuesday’s meeting of the Sanctity of Life committee, Kathy Fork of Columbia told committee members she prays weekly outside the Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic as an organizer for anti-abortion group 40 Days for Life. “We have people on that sidewalk every day and we see what happens,” she said. “It’s appalling.”

Others criticized MU’s role in granting hospital privileges to McNicholas.
“But for the blessing of Mizzou there would not be the taking of unborn lives from Central Missouri,” said Mike Hoey, executive director of the Missouri Catholic Conference. Hoey was also the author of a letter to Loftin in August in which he expressed disappointment that the university was connected to abortions and urging the revocation of the doctor's privileges.

Loftin responded on Sept. 2 noting that MU Health Care was reviewing the policies and procedures it uses to grant privileges. McNicholas was not a university employee and had not used her privileges at University Hospital, Loftin said in his letter.

Susan Gibson, representing the National Organization for Women, told the committee it was spending too much effort on the topic of abortion while other issues, like gun violence or racial inequality, received less attention.

“Your attack can only be seen as a witch hunt trying to bring back the 19th century for women's rights,” she said.

The committee has yet to hear testimony from McNicholas or any representative of Planned Parenthood.

At the end of the hearing Tuesday, Schaefer said the Senate committee plans to ask for the health care provider's testimony soon. The committee must release a report on its findings and policy recommendations to the Missouri General Assembly by Dec. 31, according to the Missouri Senate website.

“The more we find out about this the more questions we seem to have,” Schaefer said. “We will keep plowing forward.”

Planned Parenthood hearing gets heated in Jefferson City


JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - ABC 17 News has reporters at a Planned Parenthood hearing at the state capitol in Jefferson City. The Senate's interim committee on the sanctity of life started meeting Tuesday morning. They already talked about the recent allegations involving the national agency and the sale of body parts from abortions.
Sen. Kurt Schaefer, along with the rest of the committee, wanted to give the public an opportunity to weigh-in on the discussion.

Mike Hoey with the Missouri Catholic Conference addressed the licensing at the Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic. He said letting the facility operate was the same as the University of Missouri "aiding and abetting the abortion industry."

The committee also heard testimony from Sue Gibson from the National Organization for Women. She criticized the committee's efforts, calling them politically-motivated witch hunts.

Planned Parenthood stirs heated discussion in public Senate forum

NO MU MENTION

Watch story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=30535&zone=5&categories=5

JEFFERSON CITY - The Missouri Senate's interim committee on the sanctity of life hosted a public forum so members of the community could state their opinion on the committee's Planned Parenthood investigation. Of the 17 witnesses, only one was opposed to the investigation.

Rep. Stacey Newman (D-St.Louis) said the hearing was a "witch hunt" and the committee only allowed certain witnesses to testify.

Committee chair Sen. Kurt Schaefer (R-Columbia) said any member of the public was invited to speak. He said most that did said it is important to "protect the unborn and save lives."

Sue Gibson, a board member for the Missouri chapter's National Organization of Women offered the only public testimony against the committee's investigation.

"There shouldn't even be a committee," Gibson said. "It's up to law enforcement to investigate egregious charges. The senators themselves are using inflammatory language and telling outright lies."
The committee is investigating allegations against Planned Parenthood for a recent viral video showing the organization illegally selling fetal tissue.

Schaefer said the committee plans on subpoenaing a representative from Planned Parenthood in the next hearings.

"The committee is going to move forward. It does appear from what we've learned in the committees so far, in the state of Missouri, the law is not being followed and we're going to pursue that," he said.

The committee has not scheduled the next hearing.

MSA president Payton Head combats campus discrimination

Missouri Students Association President Payton Head decorated his office, unsurprisingly, in all black and gold. On his desk sits a black canvas with gold letters featuring an Albert Einstein quote: “The world will not be destroyed by evil, but by those who watch without doing anything.”

Head was walking through MU’s campus on the night of Friday, Sept. 11 when a group of men in the back of a pickup truck yelled racial slurs at him as they passed. Saturday afternoon, he posted a Facebook status detailing the experience and calling for more awareness and discussion on the treatment of minorities.

It quickly went viral. Yet, it wasn’t just a rant.

He said in an interview that he wanted to focus on creating a dialogue instead of making the post about his own personal hurt.

“Of course there’s a lot of hurt and pain that’s associated with living in a world that’s not created for you,” he said, “but at the same time, if you’re not able to vocalize that to the people with privilege, who can help change that world, who have the institutional privilege to create change, then there’s no way to see change.”

Head is no stranger to this sort of challenge. He almost didn’t run for president because he was told he “would never win” as a black man who wasn’t involved in a fraternity. That was his first experience with racially motivated aggression.
During his sophomore year, another group of young men on the back of a pickup “booed at him and his friend, and repeatedly called him the n-word,” he said.

“I’ve always dealt with microaggressions, and there’s racism in all sorts of things that we do, but never directly had someone said something like that to me, out of hatred, to my face,” he said. “Like, they looked me in the eye and called me the n-word.”

“I’ve experienced moments like this multiple times at THIS university, making me not feel included here”

That was when Head decided he had to stay involved with campus leadership to make a positive difference at MU.

“It was in that moment that I realized I had a decision to make: I could go back down South to the historically black college that was still offering me a scholarship, but then I realized, what would I be doing if I left?” he said. “Later that semester, I decided that I was going to run for MSA president and that I was going to do it regardless of what everybody told me was possible.”

Head won the election with the [biggest voter turnout in MSA history](http://www.themaneater.com/stories/2014/11/13/students-elect-ignite-mizzou/), and he and MSA Vice President Brenda Smith-Lezama were the first slate with two minority students to win an election.

Now, with only a few more months left in his presidency, it’s happened again: a racial obscenity spat at him from the back of a pickup truck. He said he doesn’t want to hear about it happening anymore.

“It started as a hurt for me, but then it became a hurt for my school, because what kind of legacy am I leaving if I don’t talk about these issues?” he said. “I love my school. This place is my home, but I want my home to be better.”

Many of you are so privileged that you’ll never know what it feels like

For many students, this is nothing surprising. Other minority students have experienced it firsthand themselves.

“I would notice at parties my friends would introduce me as their ‘Asian friend Crystal’ when I would be standing right there,” said Crystal Duan, junior diversity peer educator and former Maneater staffer.

Duan said she had also been catcalled with racially specific language. Head also references the experiences of others to whom he’s close, such as a transgender student who was spat on and a Muslim woman who was called a terrorist. These students’ stories never went viral on social media.

“When this happens to them, they don’t have administrators calling them and MUPD checking up on them to make sure they’re OK,” Head said.
Head said that though his influential position allowed his story to gain attention, for many students, their own personal run-ins with discrimination go widely ignored.

“I really appreciate Payton using his voice,” said Rivu Dasgupta, student co-coordinator for Diversity Peer Educators and former Maneater staffer. “That being said, I think it’s kind of awful that it has to be this way, and we have to have our MSA president speak about (the issue for people to listen).”

Head has been involved in a variety of different student organizations, but he said his favorite is DPE, an organization that offers sensitivity training and education to promote greater cultural understanding and awareness. He said that his involvement in the organization gave him the tools to communicate about these issues with others.

“Sometimes you can feel some sort of oppression, but you don’t really have the words to talk about it,” Head said.

The objective of being a DPE is promoting inclusivity in every facet of university life. Part of the DPE program is conducting facilitations, which is a diversity simulation in which people can role-play different kinds of identities. Duan said the facilitations “get people to think more about the concept of inclusivity.”

“If you see violence like this and don’t say anything, you, yes YOU, are a part of the problem.”

Head encourages everyone to be aware of biases present in society and to wake up “because some students don’t get to sleep.”

“If your simple existence is not a political statement, I’m really going to need for you to check your privilege,” Head wrote in his post.

Head said that there are many things that MU students don’t hear about because of their privilege, which allows them to ignore issues that do not directly impact them. As MSA president and a self-identified advocate for those who can’t speak up for themselves, Head has conveyed that he has fought and will continue to fight for those who are oppressed for “simply being who they are.”

“If this post made you feel uncomfortable, GOOD! That means I’m doing my job. It’s time to wake up Mizzou.”

From 2012 to 2015, nine hate crimes were reported to the MU Police Department. Four of the nine crimes occurred in 2015, including [an incident in April](http://www.themaneater.com/stories/2015/6/2/mu-freshman-charged-crime-motivated-discrimination/) where a swastika was burned onto the ceiling of a stairwell in Mark Twain Hall.

“We take every incident of bias and discrimination very seriously, and we are going to take any action we can against any perpetrators we can identify,” MU spokesperson Christian Basi said.
Basi elaborated on MU’s response to hate crimes or incidents of racial bias.

“We encourage any member of the university community who feels unsafe to contact the MUPD immediately,” Basi said. “We also encourage anyone who ever experienced or even witnessed what we call a biased incident involving discrimination within the MU community to file a bias report as quickly as possible.”

MU has offices devoted to expanding campus policies and behaviors to include students of every identity, including the Equity Office, the Chancellor's Diversity Initiative, the Disability Center and the LGBTQ Resource Center.

“Our school could be doing more,” Duan said. “I’m not saying the efforts we’ve put in so far are very good or very bad, but I think our school could be aspiring to have a higher level of inclusivity.”

Head said he plans to use his remaining time in office to combat the inequalities on campus mentioned in his Facebook post.

To students who are experiencing oppression on campus, Head advised: “Breathe. Fight. Repeat.”

Doctor says: Too many lawyers on UM board, changes needed
Sept. 16, 2015 • By Koran Addo

Of the board members who oversee the University of Missouri’s four campuses, seven of eight are lawyers. All were appointed by Gov. Jay Nixon.

It’s an unusual situation, and it prompted Republican state Sen. Kurt Schaefer to ask, “Why so many lawyers?” as the Senate was in the process of confirming the sixth and seventh lawyers to the University of Missouri Board of Curators.

Schaefer and other critics argue that when you have a complex university system with a medical school, a well-regarded journalism program, a significant agricultural operation and notable science programs, the people appointed to steer the ship should come from professionally diverse backgrounds.

But it doesn’t appear the unease over the situation is resonating with the public at large. The governor declined to comment through a spokeswoman.

The issue was serious enough for Dr. John Hagan, a Kansas City ophthalmologist, that he felt compelled to send out a public email resigning from Missouri 100.
The group of 100 professionals is called on to advise and assist the University of Missouri System president on any number of issues.

In his resignation letter, Hagan first blasted Nixon for appointing a board of seven lawyers and one businessman, then he blasted Missouri 100 for not taking a stand.

“Why are there no engineers, teachers, physicians, agriculture experts, farmers?” he asked. “I call it bad for the University of Missouri System and therefore a subject that should concern Missouri 100.”

Hagan said that he has to speak out because the people he knows who work on any one of the four campuses can’t speak out for fear of retribution.

The Association of Governing Boards, a higher education consulting group, reports that of the different university boards nationwide, about 50 percent of sitting board members have business backgrounds, while lawyers, accountants doctors and others in the professional service industry account for 24 percent of board membership. Sixteen percent of board members have educational backgrounds, with the remainder comprised of nonprofit executives, clergy, homemakers, artists, government officials, and people in the agricultural and ranching fields.

Cristin Toutsi, director of policy analysis with AGB, said the most important things to look for are board members’ commitment to improving educational attainment for students, an understanding of the issues and the autonomy to make decisions without political interference.

“We want board members to have deep care and concern for the mission and the willingness to commit,” she said.

Students learn to protect themselves against active shooters

Watch story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=30537&zone=5&categories=5

COLUMBIA - **MU Alert is designed to let students, faculty and staff at the University of Missouri know when there is an active threat on campus, and the University of Missouri Police Department also offers training for what happens if people are directly impacted by the active threat.**
Citizen's Response to Active Threat training, or CRAT, offers examples from other school shootings across the country, and teaches people how to act in that situation to minimize personal risk.

One of those trainings took place Tuesday night on Mizzou's campus.

A slideshow presentation was coupled with group participation to get attendees to think about how to barricade doors and escape if they are caught in an active shooter situation.

For example, one officer showed the way to grab a gunman while minimizing harm to a person's body.

CRAT is created for people in the immediate area of an active threat, while other parts of campus rely on the MU Alert system to let them know what areas of campus are safe.

MU Alert has adapted after events that have happened on or near campus as well as community input.

"We went from the type of response we did have to more of a canned quick response that comes out that gives them the basic facts, it refers people to the MU Alert system where they will get more details as they become available," Weimer said.

CRAT is taught multiple times throughout the school year.

"Everybody should have a plan in their head of what they are going to do, so if you're in a room you know your exits, you know how to get out, you know that if you have to use a fight what you can use around you to defend yourself," Weimer said.

This event was a part of MU's Safety Week.
State board approves plans for historical society bond issue

By Rudi Keller
Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 2:00 pm

JEFFERSON CITY — Construction of a new research center and museum for the State Historical Society of Missouri can’t happen soon enough, society Director Gary Kremer said Tuesday after a state board gave preliminary approval to a $35 million bond issue for the project.

“There are many moving parts here, and obviously we want to move as quickly as we can,” Kremer said. “I would be out there tomorrow with a shovel.”

The Missouri Development Finance Board’s unanimous vote in favor of the bonds allows the detailed work of writing leases, bond covenants and other legal documents to proceed. The vote to actually issue the bonds should come in the next few months, perhaps as early as the board’s November meeting, Executive Director Bob Miserez said.

The “Center for Missouri Studies,” as the project is called, is anticipated to be a three-story, 100,000-square-foot building that can house and protect the irreplaceable artwork and documents in the society’s collection. Planning for the new building has been underway for eight or nine years, Kremer told the board. The society is now using space in the basement of Ellis Library on the University of Missouri campus. It is cramped, has poor environmental controls and is difficult to access because of the pedestrian campus road closings, Kremer said.

About 75 percent of the society’s collection of manuscripts, art and other historical artifacts is stored off-site, Kremer said. Only about one-quarter of 1 percent of the art collection can be displayed at any time.

“The State Historical Society of Missouri desperately needs a building,” Kremer said.

State lawmakers authorized the board to issue $35 million in bonds in the budget that took effect July 1. The society will use university-owned land at Sixth and Elm streets. **Under the terms of the arrangement presented to the board, the land will continue to be MU property and the building will be owned by the state.** The society will be given a 50- to 99-year lease, with the exact term to be decided in negotiations between the university, the state and the society.
The city has agreed to provide 140 parking spaces in the nearby parking garage at Sixth and Locust streets, Kremer told the board.

The society is raising funds to cover about $5 million of the project’s expected total cost of $40 million. About $1 million in pledges has been secured, Kremer said.

The bonds will be repaid from annual state appropriations and will not be the responsibility of the society or MU.

Once completed, the society expects to add as many as 12 additional staff to its current 28-employee workforce. Utilities and routine business maintenance will add about $700,000 to annual expenses.

The society operates on a budget of $2.2 million in state appropriations, supplemented by membership dues and private donations. Gov. Jay Nixon has advised the society to plan on opening the new museum with no additional state funding, Kremer said, which will put added pressure on the fundraising efforts to endow the society to support the building after it is completed.

Lawmakers will feel a bit of that pressure, Kremer said. “We have every intention of seeking additional funding.”

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MegaBus ending service in Columbia, Kansas City; Mizzou senior petitioning to save it

Sept. 15, 2015 • By Leah Thorsen

COLUMBIA, MO. • Students at the University of Missouri looking for rides on the MegaBus will be out of luck at the end of the month.

The bus company — known for its often cheap fares — is ending service in Columbia as well as in Kansas City, effective Sept. 30.

A company spokesman did not immediately respond to an email requesting more information.

MegaBus faces strong competition in Columbia from Greyhound and Mo-X, which does 12 daily roundtrips to St Louis and another five to Kansas City.

MegaBus is running one bus a day from Columbia to St. Louis through the end of the month.

David Wallace, a Mizzou senior, wants MegaBus to keep running. He takes the bus back to his home in St. Louis about once a month, he said Tuesday.
He launched an online petition on Sunday that he hopes will convince the company not to leave Columbia or Kansas City. As of mid-afternoon on Tuesday, he had garnered 262 signatures.

Wallace, 21, said he hopes that if MegaBus won't continue with daily service, that it will at least run on weekends or around holidays.

Other major MegaBus stations will remain open, including those in St. Louis and Chicago.

Submerged racial resentment led to Ferguson's tragedy

Sept. 15, 2015 • By Dawna Williams

Since Michael Brown’s death last year, St. Louis has had to do serious soul-searching. Now the Ferguson Commission, appointed by Gov. Jay Nixon, has offered some thoughtful policy ideas to move forward. While there are dozens of ideas, work in three areas — improving education and job training, especially for African-Americans in St. Louis County; fixing the relationship between law enforcement and black community members; and addressing the legacy of systemic racism and housing discrimination — is absolutely critical to progress.

Clearly, movement toward racial equity is critical. In 2008, some interpreted the election of the first African-American president as a sign that the United States had finally overcome the tragic legacy of racism. This celebration was short-lived. The shooting of young Trayvon Martin in Florida in 2012 reminded us of how much remains to be done — and the eyes of the nation have focused here since the killing of Michael Brown in August 2014.

The first step forward must be improved education. Building better opportunities for minorities to attend colleges, get good jobs and succeed is essential. The absence of these opportunities is a primary cause for much of the unrest in minority communities.

Additionally, there must be an increased focus on improving the relationship between the law enforcement community and the citizens throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area. One of the commission’s “calls to action” is to establish citizen-based oversight committees to review law enforcement actions, provide leadership for the community, and assist in establishing trust between these two groups. The commission also addresses the local court system that has become more of a local revenue collection agency than an impartial arena for justice. These are great ideas that, if implemented, will promote some healing and trust.

Still, none of the calls to action address the root cause of our problems: racism, especially in housing.

Professor Rigel Oliveri of the University of Missouri School of Law has chronicled the history of St. Louis to show how the area has become and stayed racially segregated. Her work explains how racism has long prevented blacks and whites from living together, leaving blacks often trapped in communities mired in concentrated poverty. Not all of these decisions are intended to be racist, but too many believe that if blacks move into a community, the property values will fall and crime will follow. To prevent this, for over a hundred years a variety of formal and informal policies and behaviors have worked to segregate the region.
Redlining has prevented black families from getting mortgages. In addition to redlining, restrictive covenants and local ordinances have barred blacks from living on blocks that were more than 75 percent white. This resulted in a continuing racial divide.

Even when African-Americans have succeeded in moving into middle-class, mixed-race communities, too often white families have turned around and moved out, taking jobs and economic resources with them. The result is lower tax revenues, poorer educational systems and concentrated poverty. When, not surprisingly, crime ensues, some blame it on “less deserving” people.

Until the larger issue of racism is addressed as a problem for the entire region, the Ferguson Commission’s calls to action will not achieve a successful and lasting result.

Dawna Williams is a doctoral candidate in political science at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Firefighters to train at Lambert airport, so don't panic if you see smoke

Sept. 15, 2015 • By Leah Thorsen

You might see smoke and fire coming from the airport this week — don't worry, it's for training.

Firefighters are set to do a live-burn simulation as part of a three-day training exercise that will run Wednesday through Friday at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport.

The training will take place on a parking lot within the airport's secured airfield off Navaid Road between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. each day, the airport said.

The training exercise uses a mobile aircraft trainer, which is a 50-foot fuselage capable of producing simulated fires including a fully engulfed aircraft. The trainer is provided by the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute, which conducts more than a dozen firefighting courses each year across the country, the airport said.

The Federal Aviation Administration requires annual aircraft rescue and firefighting training with live fires for airport emergency response personnel.