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September 17, 2015
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On Tuesday, the committee met again to get public feedback on the inquiry, and many people who spoke opposed any facilitation of abortion by the University of Missouri.

A letter of understanding with Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, which was signed by officials with the university's School of Medicine, gave residents studying obstetrics and gynecology the option of learning how to perform surgical and medical abortions.

The agreement was required to meet requirements from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, which mandated schools to provide training on abortion procedures at a student's request, University of Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said in a letter to Republican state Sen. Kurt Schaefer of Columbia, who's leading the Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life.

The requirements have since changed, and the agreement wasn't renewed after it expired in 2011, according to Loftin.
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U of Missouri Ends Ties to Planned Parenthood
September 17, 2015

University of Missouri campuses have ended all 10 of their formal relationships with Planned Parenthood, The Columbia Missourian reported. While not all of the relationships were active, they allowed medical and nursing school students to have clinical training at Planned Parenthood clinics. University officials stressed that no student was ever required to work at Planned Parenthood, which has become a target of increased scrutiny over videos secretly recorded and distributed by critics of the
organization. In Missouri, the Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life has been investigating state agencies' links to Planned Parenthood.

MU Health System cancels Planned Parenthood contracts


COLUMBIA, Mo. — The University of Missouri Health System and Planned Parenthood have ended their 26-year relationship after state lawmakers started investigating abortions performed at the organization's clinics.

Within the past month, health system officials cancelled 10 contracts with Planned Parenthood clinics in four states where students would complete clinical hours.

"Over the years, MU has had clinical site agreements that allowed nursing students or resident physicians to select a Planned Parenthood site to participate in clinical training in women's health. These agreements were inactive and have been discontinued," said Mary Jenkins, the Public Relations Manager for the healthcare system.

Jenkins said there is currently an active agreement between the College of Human and Environmental Services and Planned Parenthood to allow social work students to do fieldwork with a Planned Parenthood social worker to learn about policy-making. The social work students do not have contact with patients in Planned Parenthood clinics, according to Jenkins.

Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri officials were not available for comment Wednesday night.

In July, former Senate leader Tom Dempsey formed the Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life in response to videos purporting to show Planned Parenthood staff selling aborted tissue.
The committee's goal is to investigate the disposal of aborted tissue, funding of abortions and any illegal activity.

Senator says MU still has ties to Planned Parenthood


COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - **A state committee chairman is disputing reports that the University of Missouri has severed ties with Planned Parenthood.**

Reports surfaced Wednesday morning that MU had ended a 26-year relationship with MU, saying it has cancelled 10 contracts with the organization after pressure from the state Senate Sanctity of Life committee. The panel was formed to investigate the practices of Missouri's Planned Parenthood facilities, namely what the clinics do with fetus parts after abortions. It also questioned the university's connection with the doctor at the agency's Columbia clinic.

The chairman of the committee, Sen. Kurt Schaefer, a Republican from Columbia, said MU still has contracts with Planned Parenthood.

"We did have the chancellor in about two weeks ago and testified under oath that there were a series of expired contracts with Planned Parenthood which the university sent letters to them saying they were canceling what are already expired contracts. But in fact, there are still contracts that continue to go on. Including, the contract with the social work program at the University of Missouri," said Schaefer.

ABC 17 News reached out to MU officials and they referred to a Sept. 2 statement from Chancellor Bowin Loftin, which states no MU facility or any of its personnel has performed an abortion, but did not mention any details about contracts.

Schaefer said the committee will continue to investigate the practices of Planned Parenthood in Missouri.
MU under attack as abortion foes widen effort to disrupt Planned Parenthood

By Rudi Keller

Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 2:00 pm

JEFFERSON CITY — The fury abortion opponents feel toward Planned Parenthood turned against the University of Missouri at a demonstration Tuesday with state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, leading the charge, calling for criminal prosecutions and stronger laws.

Schaefer, a candidate for attorney general in the 2016 Republican primary, told the crowd of about 150 that MU “recruited a doctor to come from St. Louis to Columbia for nothing else, for no other reason than the sole purpose of resuming abortions” at the Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic.

Schaefer is chairman of the Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life. At the rally, he said he intends to subpoena Planned Parenthood officials and operators of a pathology lab in St. Louis that handles fetal tissue for the Planned Parenthood clinic in St. Louis.

“Those who are violating the law must be prosecuted, and any area of the law that needs to be strengthened, needs to be strengthened,” Schaefer said.

MU is a target because it granted limited privileges to the doctor performing abortions in Columbia. It has defended its actions as legal. The Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services granted a license to resume abortions as the first of a series of national videos attacking Planned Parenthood was released, triggering the legislative inquiries and spotlighting the university’s role. If the privileges were withdrawn, as the anti-abortion groups demanded at the “Get MIZZOU out of the abortion business” rally, abortions again would stop in Columbia.

Maria Juarez, treasurer of Missouri Students for Life, told the crowd that students and donors were watching how the university reacted to demands that it cut all ties to Planned Parenthood.

“The university is not comprised of one decision, but it is a decision that I don’t know that I can live with,” Juarez said in an interview after the rally. “It is hard to not be very disappointed in the university right now.”
The rally featured speakers from a number of anti-abortion groups. It was held about three hours after the Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life took public testimony. Previous hearings have featured witnesses testifying under oath, and Tuesday’s hearing was a chance for the lawmakers to hear public reaction to their work.

The committee is dominated by anti-abortion Republicans, and most of the witnesses urged them to continue. But Susan Gibson of the National Organization for Women accused the lawmakers of whipping up a false issue to impress Republican primary voters.

“You cannot convince me that your overwrought emotion is not due to your thirst for campaign donations from the ultra-conservatives,” Gibson said.

The university also came under attack during the hearing. The health care provided by the university is an important asset in Central Missouri, said Mike Hoey, executive director of the Missouri Catholic Conference.

“It was shocking and disappointing to find out the UM was aiding and abetting the abortion industry,” Hoey said. He has written to Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and the Board of Curators asking that they withdraw “refer and follow” privileges they granted Colleen McNicholas, the St. Louis doctor performing abortions at the Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic. The privileges allow McNicholas to refer patients to a “hospitalist” or other physician at MU Health and receive updates about their treatment.

Loftin, in a Sept. 2 response to Hoey’s letter, wrote that the university is not violating state law and cannot deny privileges to McNicholas under federal law. He denied that the school recruited the physician. The discussions that led to those privileges started between McNicholas and Kristin Metcalf-Wilson, a part-time faculty member who also is lead nurse practitioner for Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri.

Metcalf-Wilson is a one-quarter-time employee of the university and conducted the initial discussions in her Planned Parenthood role, Loftin wrote.

“The granting of such privileges to Dr. McNicholas has not required public funds to be used to perform or assist in abortions,” Loftin wrote.

State law prohibits public employees or the use of public funds or facilities for abortions not necessary to save the lives of mothers. The same restrictions apply to “encouraging or counseling a woman to have an abortion not necessary to save her life.”

Federal law prohibits hospitals from denying privileges to doctors on the grounds that they perform abortions or surgical sterilization, Loftin wrote to Hoey.
What the student body president did after he was called the n-word — again

The first time someone shouted a racial slur at him on campus, Payton Head was shocked, a little stunned. He grew up on the south side of Chicago in a black community where he was used to being in the majority. He had never had direct racism thrown in his face before.

The second time it happened to him, Head said, he was walking with a friend to get cookies Friday night when a red pickup truck slowed and young people screamed the n-word at him.

But Head is now the president of the students’ association at the University of Missouri. So he knew what to do: Tell people.

They listened.

His social-media post had been shared well over 1,000 times within a few days, the Columbia Missourian newspaper spread it as well, and the responses were more than he could keep up with.

Many people thanked him for speaking out, with comments like, “Preach, baby, preach!”

Some debated it, too, saying there is reverse racism, excessive attention to perceived sleights and so much policing of language that freedom of speech on campus is threatened. When the St. Louis Post-Dispatch wrote about it, some readers were dismissive, pointing out all the resources directed at black students and other minority groups on campus to support them, and saying things like, “Whiners.”

Head heard from university officials supporting him, he said, from professors who used his words to spark conversations in class, and, to his surprise, from well-known actor and activist Harry Belafonte.

University officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment Wednesday.

A spokesperson for the campus police said that the incident was reported to have happened near campus, not on it. The Columbia Police Department does not have a report of that nature by Head, according to a spokesperson there.
Head thinks his account resonated so widely because “this story is not just something that happens here. It’s not a Mizzou issue. It’s a societal issue. And very few people are privileged to have the voice to speak up that people will listen to.”

People were startled that it happened to him — a well-known and popular student leader — and that he didn’t ignore it this time.

“This happened to me, but it happens all the time, not only here, but everywhere,” Head said.

There was more tension on campus in the past year, he said, since the police shooting at Ferguson, a couple of hours away, incited debate over race nationally. But he didn’t write just about race. He wrote about all sorts of discrimination he sees, diving into some of the most highly charged and controversial topics out there, such as campus sexual assault and gender identity.

There was record high turnout when he was elected president of the Missouri Students Association, he said, on a platform that called on “Mizzou to embrace students who are different. I think it was because the student body recognized that change needs to happen.”

One phrase in particular from his post kept getting echoed.

After he described hearing the racial slur screamed at him, he wrote, “I really just want to know why my simple existence is such a threat to society.”

He wrote that he had experienced moments like that multiple times at Mizzou, and went on to challenge those who had not:

“Many of you are so privileged that you’ll never know what it feels like to be a hijab-wearing Muslim woman and be called a terrorist or a towel head.

“You don’t have to think about being transgender and worrying about finding a restroom…

“You’ll never know what it feels like to see Memorial Union every day and enter the side like a second class citizen because after 90 years, there’s still no accessible way to enter the tower. …

“You’ve never had to experience people throwing drinks on you and yelling [slur deleted] at you from the patio at Big 12 as you walk past on the street holding hands with your partner.…

“You might never had to think twice about what you’re wearing walking around campus at night so that someone won’t think it’s okay to take ownership of your body because your outfit was ‘asking for it.’…

“These are some of my experiences and the experiences of the ones closest to me. This is what I’m fighting against every day in boardrooms, conferences, meetings, classrooms, the Capitol, and in my daily life. This is my reality…”
He called on people to change the culture, suggested student groups and other ways to get involved — and ended with the n-word again. (He threw in another insult that has been thrown at him, too, for being gay.)

“… if this post made you feel uncomfortable, GOOD! That means I’m doing my job.

“It’s time to wake up Mizzou.

“Your [slurs deleted] Missouri Students Association President,

“Payton Head”

Chancellor Loftin addresses campus climate

Loftin condemns bias and intolerance in statement

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin released a statement Sept. 17 denouncing hatred and discrimination on campus and called for the MU student body to do the same.

“I have heard from far too many of you who have experienced incidents of bias and discrimination on and off campus,” he said in the statement. “This is particularly hurtful when our students are the target.”

Loftin’s statement comes in light of Missouri Students Association President Payton Head’s recent experience with bigotry and racial discrimination on campus just a few days ago, which has been covered nationally by media outlets such as The Washington Post and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Head was a victim of intolerance this past weekend while walking through campus. As he was walking, men riding in the back of a pickup truck screamed the n-word at him.

After his experience, Head took to his Facebook page to document what had happened, citing his own experience as well as the experiences of some of his friends. He called on the MU student body to “fight for social change.”

In his statement, Loftin seemed to address the stories Head cited.

“The incidents that I have heard about — both blatant and subtle — are totally unacceptable,” Loftin said. “Our core values of Respect, Responsibility, Discovery and Excellence leave no
room for bias and discrimination. We support free speech in the context of learning, spirited inquiry and intellectual discussion, but acts of bias and discrimination will not be tolerated at Mizzou.”

Loftin informed students that they should contact MU Police Department with any incidents involving bias. Students can also file formal complaints with the Office of Student Conduct.

Loftin ended his statement by calling on the MU student body to take a stand against bias and discrimination on campus.

“Please help us make this campus a safe and productive learning and living environment and to show our community and the world that Mizzou will not tolerate hate,” Loftin said.

the maneater

Editorial: MU cannot continue to ignore the needs of student-parents

In the absence of an on-campus child care center, students with children have limited options.

It’s been 14 months since the Student Parent Center was closed, and in the time since, there has been no meaningful progress made toward creating a replacement facility.

*Although MU administration was quick to develop a demolition plan for the center, which had operated for 40 years, tangible plans to create a replacement have been anything but decisive.* As usual, a task force was assembled dedicated to gathering feedback from around the MU community regarding the future of child care services on campus.

The task force produced a report detailing the struggles faced by student-parents — and it isn’t pretty. The report, using 2013 data, stated that nearly 1,400 students have dependent children, based on FAFSA applications. The task force also surveyed 1,267 MU students and personnel — 29 percent of whom were staff, 24 percent undergraduate students and 17 percent graduate students — and found that over half of those surveyed would need child care in the next two years. So while this issue is one of several being tackled by the Forum for Graduate Student Rights, it is by no means exclusive to them.

As a result of these findings, the task force concluded that an affordable child care service provision would be extremely desirable among graduate and professional students, faculty and staff, and they recommended establishing a plan for providing this service.
But here we are, over a year later, with no definitive plan to make accommodations for these needs. All that has been created so far is a ghost of a plan crafted by Loftin to issue a “request for proposals” from private developers. This plan would require no monetary contribution from the university, aside from the land the center would be built on. Since then, there have not been any developers willing to take on the project.

If MU is disinterested in carving out funding for a replacement child care center, then they should make more of an effort to find an interested developer. Sitting around and twiddling their thumbs, waiting around for the problem to vanish on its own, is not a strategy at all. The convenience granted by the center’s on-campus location, flexible scheduling, and its alignment with the university calendar made it far more suited to student parents needs than other commercial day cares in the area. The affordability aspect is also extraordinarily important to student parents. An average graduate student parent pays a sizeable portion of their income solely on child care fees, according to Maneater reporting.

In the short term, MU should provide meaningful assistance to student-parents, similar to the healthcare stipend. Providing this assistance is only fair, as it would only return conditions to normal for our student parents. In the long term, there needs to be a definitive to build a child care center on campus. Our administration cannot silently phase out essential resources and then act as though students are asking for too much by demanding their return.

Editorial: Column: Is your definition of diversity even feasible?

Being diverse is all based on perception

The other day, in my public speaking class, we were discussing audience and the diversity of each type of audience you might need to present to. My professor moved the conversation from one group to the next, seeing as we all had different sources to analyze. She came to a group discussing the MU Diversity website and asked for them to discuss with the class what they thought about MU's diversity. A white girl raised her hand and said, "Well MU is diverse, but it's mostly white." My professor chuckled, and so did most of the students in the room. At first I thought her comment so odd. If our school is mostly white, then how is it still “diverse”?

Still, her comment had me thinking. From her perspective, the numbers on the screen translated to her that MU was diverse. But to others in the room, it told an entirely different story. In all honesty, she’s probably never seen this many Black, Asian or Hispanic people, etc., in her life. Contrarily, many people attending MU have never seen so few people that look like themselves. For example, various international students on campus have probably never lived somewhere where they were the minority, because in their own countries, most people are of the same
ethnicity. All of this thought was produced by one student's comment — "MU is diverse, but it's mostly white."

This student's one comment brought about a series of questions for me. Firstly, who are we to define what diverse is? Is it different in everyone's eyes? The Oxford Dictionary says that the definition of diverse is "showing a great deal of variety; very different." This definition of diverse isn't even specifically about race, and it doesn't give numbers or quotas. It doesn't tell us what it really means to have a "diverse population" because that just means a "very different population." At which percentage is an organization or institution considered diverse? Is it even possible to have a perfectly diverse population, especially without knowing what a truly diverse population is? Every time someone tries to calculate or look at how diverse an institution or population is, they're looking at numbers, but what do the numbers have to look like in order for an institution or organization to be considered diverse? What are we really looking at?

In my eyes, a diverse population is when whites only take up 50 percent or less of the population and the remaining 50 percent or more consists of other races. What is your definition of a diverse population?

As a nation, white people in the U.S. outweigh everyone at 77.7 percent of the population with hispanics at 17.1 percent, and blacks at 13.2 percent. Surprising? It was surprising to me as well. So is my definition of a diverse population even feasible? Probably not, and if it is, it's probably extremely unlikely. Perhaps MU is closer to being diverse than we think. Or maybe the U.S. just isn't as diverse as they'd like to lead us to believe, but in the end the definition of being diverse doesn't give us much information on what the meaning of diverse really is.

MU Libraries and RHA collaborate on forum to gather support for proposed library fee

"The chancellor can't impose this fee on you," MU Libraries Director of Development Matt Gaunt said. "The library can't impose this fee on you. The students are the only ones who can implement it."

**MU Libraries have one question for MU students: Are you in?**

In April, the Missouri Students Association proposed a student fee aimed at improving the situation of the university’s currently struggling library system. The proposed fee would begin at $5 per credit hour and increase by $2 every year until it reaches $15; it would increase the library system’s budget by 76 percent, funding 40 new employment positions and allowing $20 million to be set aside for renovations.
On Sept. 15, MU Libraries Director for Advancement Matt Gaunt partnered with the Residence Halls Association president Billy Donley to host “I’m In!”, a discussion forum regarding the current state of the libraries and how the proposed fee would help them. The event was held in the Benton-Bingham Ballroom at Memorial Union North.

“The library reflects on this university,” Donley said. “We need to invest in the library now so that the library can invest in our students in the future.”

In November, the undergraduate and graduate student body will vote on the fee. In the meantime, students have to decide where they stand.

“We’re all here for the same reason; because we value our education,” Donley said at the beginning of the presentation.

Gaunt went on to explain how the subpar state of the MU library system takes a toll on the university at large.

“We’re becoming a second-tier institution,” he said. “We still have some academic prestige, but it’s slipping, and it’s slipping with the library.”

Among the statistics Gaunt presented were that US News & World Report ranks MU as 103rd on its list of top colleges and universities and that the MU library system is ranked similarly by the Association of Research Libraries.

Although the fee hasn’t been voted on, MU Libraries are already making an effort to improve the library experience for students. In the past, Ellis Library has closed at 2 a.m. every night. As of Sept. 8, it is open 24 hours Sunday through Thursday and closes at midnight on Friday and Saturday.

Acting Director of Libraries Ann Riley worked with the university provost to bring about this change.

“I just thought it was the right thing to do based on what we knew the students wanted, and the provost was very supportive of that,” Riley said in an interview after the forum.

Gaunt said he hopes to make the libraries more attractive study spaces than the residence halls, which are open 24 hours a day. The libraries could include study desk treadmills to keep students awake during the early morning hours and provide other amenities not available in the residence halls.

After Gaunt’s presentation, one of the questions that arose was whether the Bookmark Café’s hours would be extended on weeknights. Gaunt said the libraries will figure out how to accommodate students’ desire for coffee and snacks in the middle of the night.

The interactive, inviting nature of the forum emphasized the value MU Libraries places on the wants, needs and opinions of students.
“We’ve received so much great student input,” Gaunt said. “We want to be a student-friendly, student-centered library.”

Because the library fee would apply to all students at MU, its adoption is entirely their decision.

“The chancellor can’t impose this fee on you,” Gaunt said. “The library can’t impose this fee on you. The students are the only ones who can implement it.”

After the event, freshman Olivia Fahr expressed her support for the fee.

“I think it’s a good way to ensure that we get the most of the money that we’re already paying, so it’s worth it,” she said.

The forum’s hosts believed the effort was a preliminary success.

“We had several different student leaders from different organizations here tonight,” Donley said. “I think they came mainly to educate themselves so they could educate other students.”

Donley said one of the forum’s biggest goals was to educate the first-year students about the library fee and what it means for them.

MUTV filmed the event, livestreaming it to the residence halls. Gaunt said he hopes the halls will hold “watch parties” of sorts in which they present the forum footage to the students.

“We’ll provide some pizza, hand out information and have some library ambassadors there that are available to answer questions about the proposed fee,” Gaunt said.

The footage will also be available for students to watch on the MU Libraries website, library.missouri.edu.

If the fee is not passed in November, MSA will not likely put it up for a vote again for another five or six years, Gaunt said. As an MU grad himself, the thought of the university’s decline worries him greatly.

“(Our reputation) will continue to fall,” he said. “It will have an impact on your degree, my degree, all the University of Missouri’s alumni’s degrees.”

In response to the question, “Are you in?”, Gaunt says he is, and the student body should be as well.

“Vote yes,” he said. “If you choose to do it, it will transform the university."