Members of Concerned Student 1950 met privately with UM System President Tim Wolfe on Monday, but the student group said the president did not agree to any of the demands the group set forth last week, including a handwritten apology and his removal from office.

During MU's Homecoming Parade on Oct. 10, the group of student activists stopped Wolfe’s car at the intersection of University Avenue and Ninth Street to condemn MU’s history of racism.

The protesters were visibly distressed by the crowd's reaction. A video of the incident shows bystanders heckling the group and Wolfe’s car bumping a member of the group. The student activists said Wolfe did not respond to their concerns while he was in the car.

During Monday’s meeting, which took place 16 days after the parade, Wolfe “did not mention any plan of action to address the demands or help us work together to create a more safe and inclusive campus,” according to a statement by Concerned Student 1950.

At the meeting, “Wolfe verbally acknowledged that he cared for Black students at the University of Missouri, however he also reported he was ‘not completely’ aware of systemic racism, sexism, and patriarchy on campus,” the statement said. “Not understanding these systems of oppression therefore renders him incapable of effectively performing his core duties.”

UM System spokesman John Fougere confirmed that Wolfe met with the student group.
“The meeting was one of many ongoing meetings the president is having to engage multiple, diverse voices in an effort to understand the scope of the issue as it affects all four UM System campuses,” Fougere said in an email.

Racism has recently been a major point of campuswide dialogue at MU. Since the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson more than a year ago, students on campus have rallied around issues of student safety, cultural misunderstanding and what they perceive as denial and lack of administrative leadership. A series of racial insults this fall brought matters to a head.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU students express concern about additional fee to fund libraries

ELLEN CAGLE, 11 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Some MU students who attended a forum Tuesday night at Ellis Auditorium asked why university administration would add an additional student fee to pay for upgrades to campus libraries, while others expressed frustration that the library system has been underfunded for so long.

About 40 people attended the forum hosted by the MU Graduate Professional Council to give feedback about the proposed fee that would fund improvements to Ellis Library and its branches.

If a referendum on the fee passes, students would pay an additional $5 per credit hour beginning in fall 2016. The fee would increase annually and would be capped in 2021 at $15. It would generate about $10.4 million over the first two years, according to the fee's funding proposal. By fiscal year 2022, the fee would have generated $30,671,236 in total.

Students will vote on the referendum during the Missouri Students Association election this November.
Matt Gaunt, the director of advancement for MU Libraries who led the forum, emphasized that MU Libraries' funds have been "squeezed" to capacity. The current $17.6 million operating budget can no longer accommodate students' needs, he said.

According to the proposal, MU's enrollment has increased by more than 55 percent from 1998 to 2013, while library staff has decreased by 25 percent. Gaunt said the library is the only academic unit at the university without a student fee.

During a question-and-answer session, several students expressed their discontent that the future of the library's funding would fall on their shoulders.

"I have a hard time believing that after class instruction, libraries are not the number two priority," said John Kennedy, a doctoral student in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. "If the libraries need more money, it should come from other places."

However, others at the forum spoke out in support of the proposed fee.

"I am for this fee because I feel pushed into a corner because the university administration has kind of stuck their head in the sand and said, 'We don't know how to fund this, so now you have to figure out how to fund this,'" said Kristin Torres, who is pursuing her master's in the Department of German and Russian Studies. "I worry for the reputation of the university."

Gaunt said MU administration saw no other option for library funding than to charge students a fee.

"I can't tell you that a fee is my choice," he said, but he emphasized that some method of funding is better than none.

Revenue from the proposed fee would make MU's libraries "world-class," according to the funding proposal. MU Libraries has proposed improvements to library facilities, services and collections, including:

- Expansions to the Bookmark Cafe and the extension of its hours;
• Improvements to existing study rooms and the addition of new ones;
• Installation of two self-checkout kiosks;
• Establishment of a digital media lab with computers, printers and a green screen;
• The addition of 40 jobs, including security personnel, student employees and staff members specializing in digital content, including a digital curator;
• The purchase of more scholarly journals, books and databases.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

CARL KENNEY: Black community must build a new vision for change

CARL KENNEY, 22 hrs ago

People see the world from a perspective based on their upbringing and experience. That’s a truth that resonates with me whenever I talk to people about living in Columbia. My views about Columbia radically differ from most of the white people to whom I speak.

I’m often told it’s a wonderful place to raise children. They rave about the offerings of art and diversity. They’re shocked when I suggest Columbia lacks diversity. They’re caught off guard when I talk about the disadvantages of being a black person.

I was born and raised in Columbia. I graduated from Hickman High School before attending MU. I graduated from MU with a degree in journalism in 1986. Coming back was a tough decision. I wouldn’t have done so if not for my sick father. There are too many bad memories related to doing more than others and being denied because of my race.

It’s difficult for white people to hear my assessment of Columbia. Many of them have remained in Columbia most of their lives. It’s easy for them to fall in love with the not-too-big, not-too-
small community built to attract students and young professionals willing to cater to the needs of those students.

They have no problems with the Midwest feel that surfaces in music. Columbia is part bluegrass, part country and western and a bunch of sounds begging to find an artistic label. The politics of the city reflect the type of white, progressive ideological mindset that alienates people of color. The people are a mixture of good-natured liberals and old-school hippies incapable of moving beyond the assumptions of their agenda.

Columbia is a community in love with the assumptions of its mission statement. People are quick to claim everyone simply gets along. Nothing is further from the truth. Columbia is a polarized city. It is the best of times for white people; it is the worst of times for black people hopeful to find a place to learn and achieve.

This is a truth cultivated by silence. In last week’s column, I suggested that the presence of silence on the campus of MU is used to nurture a system aimed at advancing white privilege. In my previous work, I’ve argued racism at MU is an extension of a deeply embedded ethos that serves to keep black people living in Columbia entangled in dysfunction.

How does this show up?

Columbia has no black radio station. Black people living in Columbia are detached from the national movements that take place every morning on black radio. They lack the connection with older black people who listen to the “Tom Joyner Morning Show” every day for music, education and uplifting. Millennials lack the powerful assemblage of black youth married to the message and work of “The Russ Parr Morning Show.”

Columbia lacks the type of communal force that has challenged black people to climb beyond the limits of bias and typecasting. Black radio has been used nationally to rekindle the fire of hope after trouble compromises the integrity of collective dreams. Black media have effectively communicated the power of a counter claim. When bonded with faith, the black media have shaped solidarity by offering space for people to tell the stories not told in other places.
The progress of Columbia is hindered by the absence of substantial black business owners. The imaginations of young people are curbed by the dearth of black people who own businesses or hold significant positions of leadership in local government.

It’s the deficiency of black people in education, business, the media and the arts that cultivates the silence that keeps black people from developing authentic voices of change. The politics of change demands the cultivation of talents and voices that encourage black people to stand for their right to be seen and heard.

The politics of change requires a new type of movement. What black people need and deserve has to be fashioned from their collective experiences. The rich history of black people deserves to be told by those who understand the critical connections between then and now. It’s the history of grandmothers and grandfathers who told stories about their grandmothers and grandfathers. That history has been neglected because of a long season of silence.

What have I learned since coming back to Columbia?

It’s up to the black community to tell those stories. It’s time to stop begging others to do what we can do without their consent. At MU, this means forming a strategy that tells the history of black people who endured racism while on campus. It means shaping our way without the permission of campus leaders.

Power means not waiting for permission. It means not having to beg to eat. For me, it means creating a legacy that assumes our right to be present in a way not compromised by people incapable of seeing the significance of the work we do.

I was born in Columbia. I attended MU long ago. I’ve returned to discover the continuation of silence that motivated me to leave. This is my personal perspective based on what I have experienced and seen.

I’m tired of begging for "my change." We are here because we deserve being here. We’ve been waiting for others to do the right thing by giving us a right to share the benefits they claim.
MU student groups partner with online service to increase voter turnout

By Megan Favignano

Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 2:00 pm

An online service coming to the University of Missouri campus might increase students’ involvement in elections.

Several student groups at MU are working together to bring TurboVote to campus and are hoping to launch the service next month. The TurboVote website, www.turbovote.org, helps students register to vote, tracks their local, state and national elections and sends reminders leading up to election day.

Laura Satkowski, director of state affairs for MU’s Graduate Professional Council, said the groups working together on this project hope using the software will encourage students to register and to show up on election day.

“The thing we want to do with TurboVote the most is activate student voters,” Satkowski said.

Boone County Clerk Wendy Noren said her office is working with TurboVote. The software will send students to the county’s website to complete online voter registration with Boone County’s electronic signature option. Students who register in locations that do not have an electronic signature option will be mailed their completed registration form to sign and submit to the appropriate government office.

TurboVote is a new initiative for the Columbia campus and will cost about $3,000 annually. Satkowski said TurboVote agreed to charge MU $4,500 for the rest of this school year through June 2017.

The Graduate Professional Council, Associated Students of the University of Missouri, Missouri Student Association, Residence Halls Association and the offices of the chancellor and vice
chancellor are contributing money to bring TurboVote to campus. A committee composed of student representatives from those groups is meeting weekly to discuss how much each group will pay and how the groups will launch the service.

Kaitlin Steen, executive director of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, described voter registration as a significant priority for the student lobbying group.

“A lot of students, because they’re not from Columbia ... they just don’t think about it enough to register to vote there or to register to vote absentee,” Steen said. “This is a really easy way for us to do that. We can stand out in Speakers Circle” on MU’s campus “with iPads and have people register.”

TurboVote primarily works with colleges, universities and civic organizations. It does not partner with candidates, political campaigns or PAC organizations, according to the service’s website.

Not-for-profit Democracy Works launched TurboVote in September 2010. Seth Flaxman, Democracy Works and TurboVote co-founder, was a graduate student living away from home who wanted to build a voting reminder system to ensure he never missed an election. Kathryn Peters, Democracy Works co-founder and chief operating officer, is a Columbia native.

TurboVote will let the MU student groups involved know how many students turned out to vote in a given election. Satkowski said students who lobby in Jefferson City will be able to tell legislators how many MU students vote.

“We think this is the first step to increase funding in higher ed,” Satkowski said. Increasing funding “is a big effort, and voting is a huge step in that,” she said.

Missouri does not have residency restrictions; voters can register to vote the day they move to Missouri, Noren said. Some of TurboVote’s services — like election day email notices — are services Boone County already offers, she said.
MU Student Health Opens Free Flu Shot Clinic to Students


COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Residents report suspicious solicitors trying to enter homes

ELAINA STEINGARD, 16 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Residents of East Campus and other Columbia neighborhoods have been reporting suspicious solicitors to the Columbia Police Department for the past several days.

Police have received multiple calls regarding men going door to door, Columbia Police Department spokeswoman Latisha Stroer said.

Stroer said the complaints all involve the solicitors trying to gain entry into homes. MU students have taken to social media to discuss the events, share experiences and warn their peers about suspicious activity in East Campus.
One post, in a Facebook group for nursing students, described a group of men who were going door to door. Several people commented that they had been approached at their houses by these solicitors.

Some students said the men had tried to sell them magazines; others reported that men had knocked on their doors and tried to hug them. Some said the solicitors had tried to gain access to their homes by a number of means, such as asking for water or to borrow a pen.

The solicitors reportedly put signs or stickers on or around some residents' front doors after talking to them.

Although no violent incidents were reported, one student said on the Facebook page that she found a man trying to cut through her screen door on Saturday.

Stroer said police are actively investigating the incidents. She recommended that anyone experiencing this type of situation take the following precautions:

• Never let unidentified strangers past your doorway.

• Ask solicitors to show a City of Columbia business license, which is required by city ordinance.

• Immediately remove any stickers or signs that solicitors leave on your house or door.

• Call police right away to report the suspicious activity.