UPDATE: MU student embarks on hunger strike, demands Wolfe's removal from office

KASIA KOVACS, 11 hrs ago

Updated Information:

This story has been updated to include statements from UM System President Tim Wolfe and MU spokesman Christian Basi.

COLUMBIA — Jonathan Butler, an MU graduate student and campus activist, began a hunger strike at 9 a.m. Monday as a protest against Tim Wolfe remaining president of the University of Missouri System.

"During this hunger strike, I will not consume any food or nutritional sustenance at the expense of my health until either Tim Wolfe is removed from office or my internal organs fail and my life is lost," Butler wrote in a letter sent to the UM System Board of Curators.

Butler, a master's student in educational leadership and policy analysis, is protesting "a slew of racist, sexist, homophobic, etc., incidents that have dynamically disrupted the learning experience" at MU. His letter referenced incidents of black students being called racist slurs, the sudden removal of graduate student health insurance subsidies in August, MU's cancellation of Planned Parenthood contracts and the swastika drawn with human feces found in an MU residence hall on Oct. 24.

"(S)tudents are not able to achieve their full academic potential because of the inequalities and obstacles they face," Butler wrote. "In each of these scenarios, Mr. Wolfe had ample opportunity to create policies and reform that could shift the culture of Mizzou in a positive direction but in each scenario he failed to do so."
The letter was sent to curators at 8:29 a.m. Monday. The curators, who are the governing body of the four-campus system, have the power to fire Wolfe. Butler also published the letter on Twitter shortly after 10 a.m.

Curators Phillip Snowden and David Steelman had no comment. The other six curators did not respond to phone calls requesting comment as of 7:30 p.m. Monday.

Wolfe issued a statement by email through UM System spokesman John Fougere shortly after 5 p.m. It read:

“It is extremely concerning when any of our students puts their health and safety in harm’s way. I sincerely hope that Mr. Butler will consider a different method of advocating for this cause. I respect his right to protest and admire the courage it takes to speak up.

“I believe that the best course of action is an ongoing dialogue about the racial climate on our four UM System campuses. Immediately after my initial meeting with the ConcernedStudent1950 group on October 26th, I invited Jonathan to meet again so we can build a deeper relationship and open a frank conversation about the group’s frustrations and experiences. I remain hopeful that they will accept my invitation.

“This meeting with the ConcernedStudent1950 group is one example of our engagement at the UM System level on this complex, societal issue. I have met with our chancellors, campus diversity officers, students and faculty about the scope of the problem, so that collectively we may address these issues that are pervasive and systemic in our society. We must always continue our efforts to affect change at our UM System campuses.”

Butler is part of Concerned Student 1950, the student group that stopped Wolfe's car during the Homecoming Parade on Oct. 10. After Wolfe did not respond to students' concerns while he was in the car, the group published a list of demands, including asking for a handwritten apology from Wolfe and his removal from office.
Wolfe met privately with members of Concerned Student 1950 on Oct. 26, but he did not agree to any of the group's demands. Butler confirmed that he did receive an email from Wolfe the next day, but because he asked Wolfe that all correspondence go through the Concerned Student 1950 group email address, he was waiting for Wolfe to email the group before he would respond.

Butler said he is demanding Wolfe's removal from office because he's failed to respond to marginalized students' concerns with sincerity or concrete action.

“I’m critical of Chancellor Loftin because he does play a crucial role in what happens on campus, but in the meetings I’ve seen with him, he’s actually more willing to understand how systems of oppression, how racism and all these things work,” Butler said in an interview. “Being in a meeting with Tim Wolfe … he doesn't acknowledge our humanity, he doesn't acknowledge that we exist; we're nothing to him.”

In his letter, Butler wrote that he has “no ill will or thoughts of harm towards Mr. Wolfe.” Instead, he thinks it's urgent to make MU “a more safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for all identities and backgrounds.”

MU also released a statement through MU spokesman Christian Basi:

“Chancellor Loftin continues to be willing to meet with representatives from student groups, including ConcernedStudent1950. Additionally, Chancellor Loftin and his staff will continue to meet with student leaders, faculty and staff, as we take steps to acknowledge our past, create a more inclusive campus and build a better future at Mizzou.

“Chancellor Loftin and his administrative staff are concerned about the health and well-being of Mr. Butler, as we are with all of our students. We respect Mr. Butler’s right to protest in this manner, but sincerely hope he will not suffer from his actions. We offer many resources to support students’ health and wellbeing, all of which are available to Mr. Butler.”
“Chancellor Loftin and all of his staff sincerely want to work with Mr. Butler toward a better understanding of our differences and hope he will reconsider his actions, which could have damaging repercussions to his health. We stand ready to continue an open dialogue.”

During his hunger strike, Butler will continue to attend class and work at his job as a co-facilitator for a Peace Corps prep program. He will also host study halls about systems of oppression such as racism and sexism on MU’s central campus beginning Tuesday, but the final details of those study halls have not yet been announced.

Butler has been a vocal student protester, condemning racism at MU since last year’s post-Ferguson demonstrations. Butler is also a member of the MU Faculty Council’s race relations committee, which has the “purpose of addressing widespread unawareness of racial insensitivity on campus,” according to a Faculty Council report from March.

Butler made the decision to go on a hunger strike a couple of days after the Homecoming Parade.

"A hunger strike specifically speaks to the nature of the beast that we're dealing with when we talk about systemic issues, because it deals with humanity," Butler said. "I think what I want people to come away with, if nothing else, (is) to understand that I'm so committed to making things better here at the university ... that I'm literally willing to give up my humanity to see some injustices stop."

Over the past few weeks, he’s been preparing for the strike: Butler updated his will and spoke to his physician.

After researching how the human body reacts to hunger strike, Butler gradually lessened his food intake in the past two weeks. He will still drink water during his strike.

Butler said he has also prepared himself spiritually. Before making the decision, he spoke to his pastor and prayed.
“[A]s the collective body of UM curators considers my request and decides on what your next steps will be do not consider that my life is in your hands because my life is in God’s hands,” Butler wrote in his letter.

Hunger strikes are a form of non-violent protest used by activists such as labor movement leader Cesar Chavez, who did not eat for 24 days in 1972. More recently, a few students at Tufts University in Boston participated in a five-day hunger strike to protest the university’s decision to lay off 20 janitors.

When a human body doesn’t receive calories from food, after a few days it begins breaking down fat to produce energy, according to an article published in the scholarly journal Nutrition and Clinical Practice.

During prolonged periods of time without food, the human body breaks down muscles and vital organs for energy and protein, consuming itself in order to survive. People of normal weight can last two to three months without food, according to the journal article.

At about 7:30 a.m. Monday, Butler met with a group of friends — he calls them his movement family — at Waffle House. He ordered two waffles with maple syrup and eggs. He only ate half a waffle before his strike began. After breakfast, he and his friends prayed.

"There is a more than 90 percent chance that I won’t survive this, and that’s why I’ve taken such precautions that I have," Butler said. "If I do lose my life through this process, I think it only promotes the message stronger ... that this is worth fighting for."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Student activists camp out to protest Wolfe and support hunger strike

KASIA KOVACS, 9 hrs ago
COLUMBIA — Members of Concerned Student 1950 began a campout by Traditions Plaza around 6 p.m. Monday, and said they will continue to camp until UM System President Tim Wolfe is removed from his position.

Wolfe has recently come under fire from members of Concerned Student 1950, and especially MU graduate Jonathan Butler, for failing to adequately address student activists' concerns about racism at MU. Butler began a hunger strike Monday morning, pledging not to eat until Wolfe is no longer president.

"We're camping out, first of all, to push for the removal of Tim Wolfe as UM System's president, and also in support of Jonathan Butler and his endeavors to generate change," MU senior Abigail Hollis said.

Concerned Student 1950 will continue the campout in shifts, attending class as normal. If the student activists need to stay until the semester ends in December, so be it, said MU senior DeShaunya Ware.

Both Ware and Hollis are members of Concerned Student 1950, the student group that blocked the car carrying Wolfe during the MU Homecoming Parade last month. The group calls itself Concerned Student 1950 after the year MU admitted its first black graduate student, Gus T. Ridgel.

Members of the group met with Wolfe Oct. 26, which was 16 days after the Homecoming Parade. Wolfe has not met any of the student demands, including a handwritten apology and his removal from office.

Allies from graduate student groups also were present Monday night to show their support for Concerned Student 1950, though they don't plan on camping out indefinitely until Wolfe is removed.

"It's really important for all of our students to be standing in solidarity with each other," said Rachel Bauer, vice president of the Graduate Professional Council. "There's a lot that's been
going on on this campus this fall, and if we don't stand together to support each other, none of us will be able to create change on campus and for the UM System."

About 10 students were camped out at 8:30 p.m. Monday, including members of Concerned Student 1950 and a few allies, sharing Domino's pizza in their tents. More students were on their way, the organizers said.

"If this is what he (Butler) is going to do, honestly, I cried," Ware said. "But I wanted to be there to let him know that he doesn't have to go through this alone. So while my body may not be able to go on a hunger strike, I'm committed and dedicated to change just as he is."

UM System president reacts to MU Homecoming demonstration

Watch story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=31273&zone=2,5&categories=2,5

COLUMBIA - UM Systems President Tim Wolfe talked to KOMU 8 News about the MU Homecoming parade incident and the racial tensions surrounding it.

During MU's Homecoming parade students wearing shirts that stated "1839 was built on my b(l)ack" locked arms and stood in front of Wolfe's car while each told their personal experiences of injustice and racism. Wolfe has received criticism from MU students and faculty for not getting out of his car or later making any public statement.

“When they came out of the crowd with the bullhorn, they had something to say. I wanted to listen. My wife and I sat there and listened to what the protesters had to say,” Wolfe said.

Wolfe said, though he couldn't hear everything, he did learn something.
“That frustration obviously opened my mind that we need to do a better job of listening and learning, and those were the comments that I took away from that experience,” Wolfe said.

But he said his decision not to make a statement was intentional.

“Making a public statement assumes that you understand the problem. And until you understand the problem, I wouldn’t make a public statement about this or any other issue. So I’m in the fact-gathering, understanding mode," Wolfe said.

Jonathan Butler, who was one of those ten students in the demonstration, said, "All we wanted was to get our voices heard. We’re here, we’re facing racism, we’re facing all types of discrimination and what’s going on across campus. Hear our stories and be a part of the change."

While each demonstrator took his or her turn telling their story, the surrounding crowd grew impatient. A few community members even jumped up to block the students from Wolfe’s car. Some got physical with the students, as seen in a YouTube video of the demonstration.

“I was shocked, I was hurt, I was upset. Because it was like, how dare you,” Butler said. “You’re telling me, right now, I’m no longer a part of that Mizzou family."

However, there were also community members who came forward and stood with the demonstrators, like MU Assistant Communications Professor Colleen Colaner.

“It was important for me to let them know that they had an ally in the crowd. And I wanted to stand in solidarity with them so that they understood that there were people in the crowd that were listening that support them,” Colaner said. “Even if we aren’t part of the black community, it’s our duty to understand how our privilege allows us to be silent when we see things happening that is wrong.”

The Columbia Police Department arrived as the demonstration ended, threatening the students with pepper spray and arrest.

As a bystander, Colaner said she was concerned by CPD’s actions.

“We have been having a conversation as a nation and as a state about the use of force by the police. And it came to Columbia," Colaner said.

Butler said Wolfe should have stepped in.

“He had all power in that space to do something, and that negligence just speaks volumes to where he is with students. Because he clearly doesn’t care about students if he’s going to allow those types of things to happen," Butler said.

Activist Traci Wilson-Kleekamp said, "He should really be out in front for equity. And he shouldn’t stand for anybody being in there trying to get a higher education and being in a climate where they don’t feel welcome. It looks very cowardly to hang back."
Wolfe said he has reached out to the demonstrators, and would like to speak with them.

“The first thing I’ll say ‘teach me.’ Tell me what’s on your mind, tell me your concerns, tell me about your frustration. Where’d it come from? Tell me. Teach me. I’m here to listen. That’s what I want to say to them,” Wolfe said.

He said he is taking steps toward making MU’s campus more inclusive. However, one community activist said his inaction meant more than he may realize.

Wilson-Kleekamp said demonstrations provide the community a unique opportunity to address some social issues that are often swept under the rug.

“You want them to get passed the reactive state of ‘you shouldn’t have done that’ and ask themselves ‘well why did they do that? What is going on? What did I miss,’” Wilson-Kleekamp said.

MU graduate student and demonstrator Jonathan Butler said, “This is my everyday lived experience. I don’t get to take off my skin at night. I don’t get to scrub it off, I don’t get to walk away from this, walk away from difficult situations. I have to live through this everyday."

Butler said that the demonstrations will continue in order to hold MU administration accountable.

Wolfe said, "The four campuses of the University of Missouri System are known as a place that you can go and study, and get passionate about a particular topic, go on to a great career, or professional program or whatever. And it’s known because you have the best opportunity to succeed on this campus regardless of where you came from, regardless of your economic status, regardless of your color, religion, race," Wolfe said. "This is the place to come because it’s an inclusive environment that accepts different positions, backgrounds and different ideas. That’s the ultimate goal.”

The Columbia Police Department declined KOMU's request for comment.

Since KOMU 8's interview with Wolfe, he has met with the demonstrators that go by the name #ConcernedStudent1950. One of the demonstrators wrote a letter to the UM Board of Curators stating that he will go on a hunger strike until Wolfe is fired or his organs fail. Wolfe gave KOMU the following statement on the hunger strike:

"It is extremely concerning when any of our students puts their health and safety in harm’s way. I sincerely hope that Mr. Butler will consider a different method of advocating for this cause. I respect his right to protest and admire the courage it takes to speak up.

I believe that the best course of action is an ongoing dialogue about the racial climate on our four UM System campuses. Immediately after my initial meeting with the ConcernedStudent1950 group on October 26th, I invited Jonathan to meet again so we can build a deeper relationship and
open a frank conversation about the group’s frustrations and experiences. I remain hopeful that they will accept my invitation.

This meeting with the ConcernedStudent1950 group is one example of our engagement at the UM System level on this complex, societal issue. I have met with our chancellors, campus diversity officers, students and faculty about the scope of the problem, so that collectively we may address these issues that are pervasive and systemic in our society. We must always continue our efforts to affect change at our UM System campuses."

Wolfe has reached out to this student to speak with him individually.

Wolfe Responds to Hunger Strike


Graduate student Jonathan Butler declares hunger strike

Graduate student Jonathan Butler has led protests in Speakers Circle and through the Student Center. He has used social media to draw attention to campus racism. When those efforts failed to elicit a reaction for university administrators, he stopped the car carrying UM System President Tim Wolfe during the Homecoming parade.

Now, he’s going on an indefinite hunger strike, according to a letter to the university posted Monday on Facebook.

Butler is holding his strike as a response to the lack of action from Wolfe to several instances of racism and discrimination in the past months. He will end the strike when Wolfe is no longer But in the letter, Butler stressed that he has nothing against Wolfe personally.
“Let it be known I have no ill will or thoughts of harm toward Mr. Wolfe,” Butler wrote. “But I do have an urgency to make the campus I call home a more safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for all identities and backgrounds.”

In his letter, Butler prefaced his decision to announce his hunger strike by noting several instances of racism and discrimination on campus. He cited MSA President Payton Head being called a racial slur on campus, the removal of Planned Parenthood services, the #ConcernedStudent1950 protest and the recent instance of a person drawing a swastika with their own feces in a bathroom in Gateway Hall.

“Although these incidents individually are not (Wolfe’s) fault as a collection of incidents at the university, they are his responsibility to address,” Butler said.

Butler also said these incidents prevent MU from being a safe learning environment for all students.

“Students are not able to achieve their full academic potential because of the inequalities and obstacles they face,” Butler wrote. “In each of these scenarios, Mr. Wolfe had ample opportunity to create policies and reform that could shift the culture of Mizzou.”

Butler said he will not consume any “food or nutritional sustenance” and will continue to do so until Wolfe is removed from office or his “internal organs fail.”

“Being sound of mind and heart, I have committed myself fully to this endeavor because I believe that the University of Missouri System and all of its constituents deserve a leader who is competent enough to perform at all levels of the position including administrative, political, financial and emotional,” Butler said.

Black Culture Awareness Week at MU works to promote diversity
COLUMBIA- Despite recent setbacks, MU is pushing to promote diversity by recognizing Nov. 1 - Nov. 7 as Black Culture Awareness Week.

The week kicked off with an MU sociology professor speaking about relationships within the black culture during a luncheon at the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center.

One of the event's coordinators said this week could help to explain a minority perspective.

"You do get to hear about issues from a minority stand point. So I think it's good just to bring the attention so that people can simply see what's going on," BCC event coordinator Branden Tatum said.

He said the purpose of the Black Culture Awareness Week is to shine light on controversial issues in the community right now. Tatum said he feels bringing attention to issues "can help decrease racism in the community."

The BCC will host a variety events all week. Every event is opened to the community.

Alexus Griffith, another event coordinator, said inviting everyone to come to the events helps display what the center actually stands for.

"We're not just a center who puts on events. We're a center who appreciates black culture, but not even just black culture. Any type of culture is welcomed in the BCC," Griffith said.

On Friday, the BCC will host a mentoring event to allow local high school students to ask advice about college.

"We're going to basically talk about how it is to be at Mizzou. Not just black at Mizzou, but simply how it is to transition from high school to college," Griffith said.

She said the events this week will not only focus on concerns involving other cultures. Some events will focus on controversial subjects within the African-American culture as well.

"It's not just the outside world that's going on with issues. It's us too. So, we're just opening up the talk for that," Griffith said.

For more information about the BCC's events for Black Culture Awareness Week, visit the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center website.
Hanaway to remove tiger logo from campaign RV after objections from MU

By Rudi Keller

Monday, November 2, 2015 at 6:01 pm

As Republican gubernatorial candidate Catherine Hanaway prepares to embark on a two-week RV tour of the state, the University of Missouri is asking her to remove a giant image of its trademarked tiger logo from the side of her vehicle.

Nick Maddux, Hanaway's campaign manager, said a supporter donated the RV to the campaign with the logo already in place, and Hanaway decided to keep the tiger to show her support for MU. The RV will be rewrapped, he said.

Hanaway tweeted a picture of the RV at 1:34 p.m. Monday showing the distinctive image covering the rear third of the vehicle she dubbed “Tiger One” in a news release. A few hours later, in response to an inquiry from the Tribune, MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken wrote in an email that the university does not approve the logo's use by political candidates.

“Our licensing office will reach out to the Hanaway campaign and ask them to cease and desist using the trademarked logo,” Banken said.

Hanaway is one of five Republicans seeking the party’s 2016 nomination for governor. Her “Restore Conservative Values to Missouri” tour was set to begin Wednesday and includes a stop at 2 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia to discuss her proposal for legislation outlawing abortions after 20 weeks.

Hanaway, a native of Nebraska, attended MU for a portion of her undergraduate work before transferring to Creighton University. She received her law degree from Catholic University of America.

“We left the tiger head on the RV because Catherine is a huge Mizzou fan,” Maddux wrote in an email. “It is clear that Mizzou does not want us to show our support for the Tigers, and we are happily rewrapping it at their request.”

Maddux declined to name the donor. The value of the van's use for two weeks is less than $5,000 and will be reported on the next regular campaign finance filing on Jan. 15, he said.

Brunner had his own misstep with a logo during a 2012 campaign for U.S. Senate when he removed a sticker with the U.S. Marine Corps logo from his campaign bus.

All five candidates are scheduled to take part in a forum Tuesday evening in Jefferson City hosted by the Cole County Republican Central Committee.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

NOVEMBER 2, 2015

Confrontation at bar precipitated Mizzou QB Maty Mauk’s latest suspension

Missouri junior quarterback Maty Mauk was suspended for the season Sunday. He was involved in a drunken confrontation Wednesday, hours after apologizing to teammates.

Mauk was suspended for four games then reinstated Oct. 25, three days before most recent incident.

BY TOD PALMER
tpalmer@kestar.com

Missouri junior quarterback Maty Mauk was involved in an incident outside a Columbia bar late Wednesday night mere hours after apologizing to his teammates for a four-game suspension for an undisclosed violation of team rules.

An employee at the Field House, 1107 E. Broadway in Columbia, confirmed Monday that Mauk was involved in a drunken confrontation with another patron that night and was kicked out of the bar.
“There was an altercation, whether it be physical or verbal, and Maty Mauk was asked to leave,” the employee told The Star.

There is no police record of the incident, but it prompted Tigers coach Gary Pinkel to reverse course less than a week after reinstating Mauk, announcing Sunday that Mauk would be suspended for the season.

Pinkel consulted athletic director Mack Rhoades in the process of making the decision, a source with knowledge of the situation said.

During his weekly press conference Sunday, Pinkel declined to address specifics about the reason for Mauk’s second suspension.

“I’ve been doing this for a long time,” he said. “I’ve been a head football coach for 25 years. I’ve handled discipline problems the exact same way I’ve been doing for 25 years; it’s very consistent. What we did here (with Mauk) is exactly like I’ve always done it. That’s what we do. That’s what we believe.

“We don’t overlook things. We don’t cover things up. We do what’s right. A lot of other places would find ways to get the problem solved without doing what we do, but we don’t do that at Missouri. I’ve never done that. I never will.”

Mauk initially was suspended Sept. 29 along with reserve offensive lineman Malik Cuellar, a junior who transferred from City College of San Francisco.

Cuellar missed the South Carolina game on Oct. 3, but was reinstated the next week.

Mauk missed four games before he was reinstated Oct. 25 by Pinkel and returned to the field Oct. 27 for Missouri’s only bye-week practice.

Pinkel said Wednesday during the weekly SEC football coaches’ teleconference that Mauk had asked to speak with the team, saying “it was great of him to do that.”

Sophomore wide receiver J’Mon Moore said Mauk vowed to get his act together and be the leader he’s supposed to be for the Tigers when he addressed the team.

Several teammates remarked about Mauk’s sincerity.

“It was sincere and you know that he meant everything about it,” senior center and captain Evan Boehm said. “You believed him and you trust the kid. And I still believe him and trust the kid, but we have to have his best interests in mind and keep him healthy and keep him OK.”
Sincere or not, Mauk’s actions only a few hours after addressing the team led Pinkel to suspend him for the remainder of the season.

It’s been a turbulent season personally for Mauk, who no longer appears on the team’s official roster in the weekly game notes for Thursday’s showdown with Mississippi State.

Mauk’s father, Mike, was diagnosed with colorectal cancer during the summer. He underwent a procedure in Springfield, Mo., where he coaches the Glendale High football team, on Sept. 28, the day before the first suspension was announced.

Missouri was 3-1 at the time of Mauk’s suspension, but the offense had struggled in a win against Connecticut and a loss at Kentucky in the final two games he played.

Mauk split reps with his replacement, freshman Drew Lock, during last week’s practice, but it’s unclear if or how much Mauk would have played moving forward.

The answer now, of course, is that he won’t.

“It was coach Pinkel and the coaching staff’s decision, and when they make a decision it’s for the kid and to make sure that his life and everything with him is OK,” Boehm said.

Gordo: Mauk did Pinkel no favors

Nov. 3, 2015  •  By Jeff Gordon

Missouri quarterback Maty Mauk made his coach look ridiculous.

That is the one clear takeaway from an otherwise murky situation in Boone County. After Gary Pinkel reinstated the trouble-prone Mauk, to the surprise of many, the young man immediately betrayed that trust with more off-the-field shenanigans.

So Mauk exited the team, again. A disappointing Mizzou football season somehow got even worse.

Pinkel spoke at some length on this topic Sunday without saying much. He did not share the rationale he used to reinstate Mauk.

Nor he did offer specifics on why he turned around and suspended him again, this time for the rest of the season. That lack of detail left folks to make their own assumptions and draw their own conclusions.
How did competitive considerations factor into Mauk’s reinstatement? You can’t ignore the pragmatic side of Pinkel’s decision and its potential business implications.

Mizzou is 4-4 overall and just 1-4 in the SEC. The Tigers are in dire straits. Difficult games against Mississippi State, Brigham Young, Tennessee and Arkansas remain.

Hapless Delaware State doesn’t come around until next year. There are no soft spots left on the schedule.

Bowl eligibility remains within reach, but it looks like a stretch for a team that no longer scores touchdowns.

Freshman quarterback Drew Lock has predictably struggled under duress. Team breakdowns have kept him in tough down-and-distance situations game after game.

The Tigers don’t pass block well. They don’t run block well. Their receivers struggle to get open. When they do pop free, they often drop the football.

Mizzou has suffered an offensive collapse of historic proportions. A program that sent waves of players to the NFL is suddenly bereft of playmakers.

Mauk could have relieved pressure on Lock, shielding him from further physical and emotional abuse. His return could have protected Lock’s long-range development.

He could have improved Mizzou’s chances of winning a couple of more games, too. Mauk’s ability to advance the ball with impromptu scrambles and designed option runs made him this team’s top weapon.

He split repetitions with Lock during his brief return to practice, foreshadowing some playing time during the remaining games.

Was Pinkel willing to compromise team discipline while trying to salvage the season? Would he undermine the athletic department’s integrity while protecting a promising player?

It could look that way to those who are sensitive about the school’s image. The Mizzou athletic department has suffered its share of well-publicized player transgressions, including some that had very serious consequences.

New athletics director Mack Rhoades knows this history. For the record, he embraces his mission to promote citizenship. He discussed this matter with Pinkel before Mauk was banished again.

“We don’t overlook things, we don’t cover things up,” Pinkel insisted Sunday during his weekly news conference in Columbia. “We do what’s right. A lot of other places would find ways to get problems solved without doing what we do, but we don’t do that at Missouri and I’ve never done that and never will.”

There are mitigating circumstances in this case. Mauk is dealing with some issues, including his father’s severe illness. There is no reason to doubt the sincerity of Pinkel’s concern for him as a person.
Perhaps he simply acted out of empathy when he reinstated Mauk. Maybe Pinkel really believed that getting him back within the team structure would help him refocus.

But the reinstatement seemed to do him more harm than good. Post-Dispatch reporter Dave Matter confirmed that Mauk broke team rules the same day he apologized to the team for breaking team rules.

The fact Mauk went off the rails so quickly — and so flamboyantly, if the scuttlebutt is correct — made Pinkel look like an enabler. Talk about miscalculations ...

(Maybe Mauk’s night on the town was a cry for help. He would have drawn less attention to himself by scaling The Columns at high noon in full football gear.)

Now that he is off the team, presumably for good, Mauk is no longer the big man on campus. Perhaps this harsh realization will jolt him back onto a more positive life path.

And what about the remaining Tigers? Will they sympathize with the troubled Mauk and appreciate Pinkel’s willingness to give him one more chance?

Or will they see a troubling double standard that undermines the program’s principles? Mizzou players are saying all the right things now, but we will see how all of this plays out.

At least Pinkel isn’t a new coach trying to find his way, like poor Kim Anderson during the previous basketball season. Anderson suspended player after player after player after player while trying to establish new standards.

The result: a disjointed and dispirited team that finished 9-23 and lost its top two returning players to transfers. Anderson must start over with a fresh nucleus of players.

Pinkel is firmly entrenched. His authority is well-established. He has handled scores of significant disciplinary issues at Mizzou over the years and most went better than this one.

He should be able to put this Mauktober mess behind him and move the program forward.

But Pinkel should think twice before going soft on a repeat offender again, no matter how badly he feels for the player or how badly he needs him back on the field.
MU, Stephens College meet with city to discuss growth

Watch story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=31277&zone=2,5&categories=2,5

COLUMBIA - **MU and Stephens College have grown exponentially in the past few years. And while there have been plenty of benefits to this growth, some Columbia officials are concerned about what the universities' growth is doing to the city.**

During a presentation from MU and Stephens at Monday's city council meeting, Mayor Bob McDavid said there have been "a lot of changes in higher education, some of which were foreseen and some that were not."

But Ward 3 council member Karl Skala said the growth of both institutions should not have surprised the city.

"We did notice a tipping point," he explained. "We definitely could've anticipated some of it."

MU Vice Chancellor for Operations Gary Ward presented the university's master plan at the meeting, showing recently completed projects along with the university’s ongoing and future projects.

"We are continuously trying to improve our master planning process by hiring firms and consultants to help design specific aspects of campus," Ward explained.

Stephens College president Dr. Dianne Lynch explained that despite a recent financial downturn, the college is thriving.

"Stephens exceeded financial and enrollment goals by over 15%," said Lynch. "In the last six years, when other small institutions were struggling, we have continued to improve (financially) every single year."
Lynch noted that the area surrounding Stephens is important to her, and that she has no plans of changing it.

"I believe deeply in the history of the community, of the campus and the surrounding neighborhood," she noted.

Councilman Skala noted the importance of communication between the city and the universities.

"Some of the interests that we have are very similar," he said. "If we join together and try and solve these problems, it probably could work to the benefit of not only the community, but certainly for the benefit of the university community and the city government as well."

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UM student lobbyists gear up for legislative session

By Megan Favignano

Monday, November 2, 2015 at 2:00 pm

The Associated Students of the University of Missouri, a UM System student lobbying group, chose its four lobbying priorities for the upcoming legislative session and is preparing its interns.

The student group plans to focus its efforts on state appropriation, investments in science, technology, engineering and math education, landlord-tenant relationships, and a voting student curator on the UM System’s Board of Curators.

Kaitlin Steen, ASUM executive director, said students — especially at MU — have been more vocal. Across the country, she said, there is a microscope on the system’s flagship campus.

“People are paying even more attention now to what students are saying and what the students want,” Steen said.

The student group forms teams of interns, and each team focuses on one of the priorities. Students from each of the UM System’s four campuses can participate.

The lobbying group has 12 interns this legislative session, more than the eight interns it had last year.
Caleb Wilson, an MU sophomore, is one of four interns on the group’s budget team. Wilson decided to become involved with ASUM this year to focus on local issues.

“She focuses on the national level and what’s bigger than ourselves, but there’s a lot of local things we can do,” Wilson said.

The budget team will focus on the university’s $447.3-million operating fund request and capital improvement, which funds building projects on all four campuses.

ASUM collaborates with the UM System’s University Relations office and lobbies for the same budget request.

Marty Oetting, UM System director of government relations, said collaboration is imperative for both groups.

“It is important for the students to understand our budget and capital priorities and how they impact the campuses,” Oetting said.

The budget team also will lobby for a 5 percent higher education funding increase and a 2 percent investment in STEM. Steen said ASUM also would support Gov. Jay Nixon’s proposal that calls for a 6 percent increase for higher education across the board and a 1 percent STEM investment.

Steen said a member of ASUM’s budget team also will follow legislation related to students granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, status. MU and the University of Missouri St. Louis told DACA students they would be charged higher tuition rates this school year because of recent legislation.

ASUM also wants to improve the relationship between landlords and tenants because of the large amount of students who rent while in college. When a landlord goes bankrupt, security deposits are seized in their assets, and renters don’t recoup the deposit.

“It has a big impact outside of the student population, but it’s also very important issue for students,” Steen said.

ASUM has worked since 2012 on the STEM initiative, which would create a funding mechanism that would allow money to go into a STEM fund.

ASUM has lobbied for a voting student curator since the group was founded in 1975. A student representative to the UM Board of Curators was created in the 1980s, and 2008 legislation granting the student representative a vote went to the governor’s desk but was vetoed.
This aneurysm surgery goes better with statins

Patients taking cholesterol-lowering drugs called statins before endovascular aortic aneurysm surgery are more likely to survive.

Rupture of an abdominal aortic aneurysm is one of the most dramatic medical emergencies a person can face. It usually strikes without warning, killing approximately 50 percent of those who experience it before they reach a hospital. Of those who do get to a health facility alive, only about 50 percent survive.

When diagnosed through screening, aortic aneurysms are carefully monitored for signs of enlargement, and surgical intervention often is needed to prevent rupture of the vessel.

New research finds that patients who took cholesterol-lowering medications before endovascular surgery experienced fewer complications and better outcomes.

“Although this condition usually occurs in men older than 50 with a family history of the disease, anyone can have an abdominal aortic aneurysm,” says Todd Vogel, associate professor and chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery at the University of Missouri School of Medicine, and lead author of the study.

“Most patients with this disease are older and tend to have other health conditions such as high cholesterol. In an effort to prevent cardiovascular disease they take statin medications. These cholesterol-lowering medications protect blood vessels from plaque formation and stress, and in some cases can even slow the progression of aortic aneurysms. We wanted to understand the impact statin use has on surgical outcomes when repairing this type of aneurysm.”

Vogel’s research team reviewed nearly 20,000 cases where patients either had open surgery or an endovascular repair—a minimally invasive procedure that uses a catheter to access the aneurysm. The team then identified patients who took cholesterol-lowering medication before surgery.

“Our research showed that patients who took statins before either open or minimally invasive interventions had better outcomes compared to those who did not take statin medications,” Vogel says.
“The patients who took statins and had endovascular repairs had a 26 percent decrease in mortality up to one year after surgery. Patients who took statins and had traditional open procedures also did better, but the difference was not nearly as significant as with endovascular repair. The bottom line is that patients who used statins were more likely to survive during and after an elective endovascular procedure.”

Additionally, the study showed that statin use also reduced post-surgical complications for patients with other health issues such as peripheral artery disease, a condition that causes arterial blockages of blood vessels in the limbs.

“This information could be beneficial to patients who are about to have elective endovascular abdominal aortic aneurysm repair,” Vogel says. “However, further research is needed to assess the benefits of using statins before surgical repair of other types of aneurysms.”

The study appears in the journal *Vascular*.

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**COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN**

**MU researchers develop new model to aid policymakers with demographic data**

YUAN YUAN, 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — *MU statistics researchers released a new methodology earlier this fall that could aid city governments when they make policy decisions based on data from the American Community Survey.*

The ongoing survey from the U.S. Census Bureau provides information on several key demographic variables, "such as income, population and housing characteristics," said Jonathan Bradley, a postdoctoral fellow in the MU Department of Statistics in the College of Arts and Science.

Bradley, Christopher Wikle and Scott Holan, MU professors of statistics, created a new model for those using the survey data to be able to better estimate demographic variables at any time period and for any geographical location. Before their methodology it wasn't possible to estimate demographic variables on customized geographies and time periods while accounting for sampling errors.
Their model produces useful estimates for those needing information on more rural and isolated areas, Bradley said.

"With the methodology we can produce estimates of income on Native American Reservations based on the survey," Bradley said. "We were motivated by the section 203 of the Voting Rights Act on language assistance to determine if regions that require language assistance, including American Indian areas, also need other types of assistance based on their income status."

Currently, the survey only provides annual data for areas with populations greater than 65,000 and only provides data over five-year, three-year and one-year time periods. The three-year data will be discontinued in 2016.

"The advantage of our 'spatio-temporal' methodology is that it can provide estimates on any time period and on any geography that you want," Bradley said. "Because observations close to each other in space and time tend to be more similar in value, the resulting spatio and temporal correlations can be used to estimate values at locations that don't have observations."

The research is part of the MU node of the NSF-Census Research Network, Bradley said, which aims to promote the use of the spatio-temporal model in the federal settings. He added that while developing the methodology, they were in communication with the New York City Department of City Planning, which uses the survey to make estimates on community districts.

Though the researchers didn't work directly with Columbia government officials, the city has used the American Community Survey for more than five years, and the new findings might prove helpful, said Matthew Gerike, manager of the city of Columbia Geospatial Information Services Office.

"The ACS provides a reliable and timely data source for data that Columbia does not collect, such as income," Gerike said in an email. "For data that Columbia has through its business processes that the ACS also reports, the different approaches compliment each other."
Information from the survey provides demographics for the analysis of neighborhoods, informs statistics in budget documents and gives data input for land use and transportation modeling. It can also help city planners to visualize distributions of people and housing units and to understand areas of equity and need, Gerike said.

Comparing different years of survey data also help the city understand changes in and across the community through time, Gerike said. He added that the city is interested in the model and how it improves the survey to see if it can further their understanding of Columbia.

Israeli-Palestinian group to perform at MU

By Megan Favignano

Monday, November 2, 2015 at 2:00 pm

YT Theater Project Jerusalem will perform “Take Away: A Joint Israeli-Palestinian Performance” at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Missouri Theatre. The event is free and open to the public.

The play centers on a garbage dump where a group of Jews and Muslims live. They search through the dump to find usable objects and food. The onstage garbage is meant to represent how people treat each other each day, according to a news release.

YT Theater, formed in 2009, is a community-based theater project that includes Israeli and Palestinian actors. The project aims to allow Israelis and Palestinians to share their creativity.

Mizzou Hillel and the Jewish Student Organization are sponsoring the event.

Sunshine Sushi owner will hold competition for possible logo change

SEAN NA, 18 hrs ago
COLUMBIA — The Sunshine Sushi restaurant at the MU Student Center may change the 13-year-old design of its sign and logo after receiving complaints that it resembles with the Imperial Japanese flag.

Members of MU’s Korean and Chinese student associations complained about the logo because it looks like the flag Japan used during World War II, when Japan took control of the Korean Peninsula and parts of China. Their complaints were heard at a closed meeting with the restaurant owners and two school officials on Oct. 19.

About a week after the meeting, Kim Joon-woo, president of the Korean Student Association, met with Oo Min Aung, co-owner of the restaurant, to discuss the logo and came up with an agreement to hold a contest in which people can submit a new logo design.

Kim said the two student associations and Aung will receive submissions through Dec. 1. They will then select the top three submissions that day and announce the final winner at the end of the week, provided Aung sees a design he likes. The contest is open to MU students and Columbia residents.

Aung said the current logo means a lot to him.

When he opened up the restaurant in 2003, he intended the logo to signify shining rays. The word "shining," for him, means freedom, he said.

Originally from Myanmar, which remains under a dictatorial regime, Aung participated in Myanmar’s pro-democracy protest in 1988. He later sought freedom by immigrating to the United States, he said.

Aung said he understands how Korean and Chinese students feel when they see the logo, but he also wants them to understand what he intended with its design. He said he will only change his logo if a new design maintains his original intent.
"We want to shine," Aung said. "If students could not come up with anything that carries a meaning of sunshine, we will wait until we receive a satisfactory design."

MU Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Jeffrey Zeilenga, who attended the Oct. 19 meeting, said the owners of restaurant are sincere in their appreciation of students' concerns.

"The owners are under no obligation to change their logo," Zeilenga said, "but they have been willing to listen to our students and are receptive (to our students') suggestions."

If Aung accepts the new design, the first place winner will receive a $150 gift card to the MU Bookstore. Second place will get a $50 gift card and the next five will $10 gift cards to Seoul Taco, Kim said.

Kim said he hopes to see a new logo by spring semester 2016.

"I am positive that all the Asian community and the school will work hard with the Sunshine Sushi to change the logo," Kim said.