Missouri grad student on hunger strike against Wolfe

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A University of Missouri graduate student has begun a hunger strike to seek the ouster of the university system's president.

The Columbia Missourian reports Jonathan Butler, a master's student in educational leadership and policy analysis, began the hunger strike Monday as a protest against Tim Wolfe, president of the University of Missouri System.

In a letter to the Board of Curators, Butler accuses Wolfe of failing to respond to student concerns, which include the use of racial slurs on campus and the removal of graduate student health insurance subsidies.

Wolfe said in a statement he's concerned for Butler's health and hopes he'll consider a different manner of protest. Wolfe also says he's met with a student group that shares Butler's concerns and has invited Butler to discuss the issues.

Students support hunger striker after talk with UM president

Watch story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=b0ae8018-7910-4f6f-959b-154d529b33b1
COLUMBIA - University of Missouri system president Tim Wolfe spoke Tuesday with students staging protests, including a hunger strike, calling for his ouster, in part, because of racial tensions on campus.

Wolfe talked with a group known as Concerned Student 1950 in an impromptu meeting at University Hall.

Members began camping out on the lawn of Tiger Plaza Monday night, in an effort to show their discontent with Wolfe and support their peer, fellow grad student Jonathan Butler, who is on a hunger strike.

In a letter to the UM Board of Curators, Butler said he will not eat until Wolfe resigns or is fired or his body fails him.

Representatives of Concerned Student 1950 said they were dissatisfied with the conversation and Wolfe’s request to have an open dialogue.

“Change doesn’t come from being reactive, it comes from being proactive,” said organizer Ayanna Poole. “He actually didn’t ask any questions, just took in the information and told us he is working and acting. That is exactly what it is, it is not action, it is acting.”

Five students from Concerned Student 1950 spoke with Wolfe and said they asked for Wolfe’s resignation, explained why Wolfe was a problem to the UM system and attempted to get Wolfe to understand his white privilege.

The protesters said their activism was prompted by the absence of response from Wolfe to a number of campus issues. Those include a lack of graduate student health care, the use of racial slurs on campus against black students, the end of Planned Parenthood contracts and anti-Semitic graffiti within campus residence halls.

The students said they plan to continue to peacefully protest and that support is growing. While Tuesday night's turnout cannot be predicated, Poole said around 40 students gathered Monday night at the campsite to show their alliance, but limited tent space allowed for only seven to sleep there through the night.

Concerned Student 1950 said it hasn’t been asked to move, because it has the right to protest on campus. Major Brian Weimer, of MU campus police, said the department is aware of the activity and monitoring campus.

“Right now, everything is going peaceful and there are no issues being addressed to us about this,” Weimer said.

While the protestor's efforts have not triggered any administrative change as of yet, Poole said they are dedicated to putting in the work and making their case more strongly for Wolfe to leave.
“He has no intention on resigning,” Poole said. “There are two options. He resigns or we work to fire him. He wants to sway Jonathan otherwise, but Jonathan is very adamant.”

Another member of the group, Shelby Parnell, said Butler is the only person participating in the hunger strike. However, students will show support by choosing select days to fast. Parnell said Butler had been preparing for the hunger strike and consulted with a doctor before making his pledge.

“We only found out a few hours before he began. People feel like we support it. We support him,” Parnell said. “I would just hate to see that his life is lost in the middle of all of this.”

UPDATE: The group will begin boycotting all sales on MU’s campus beginning Wednesday. It will continue until Tim Wolfe steps down.

**Hunger Strike to Continue to UM President Resigns**

MU students camp out, call for UM President Wolfe’s resignation

By Megan Favignano

Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 2:00 pm

A group of University of Missouri students concerned about race issues on campus showed up at UM System President Tim Wolfe’s office Tuesday morning, calling for his resignation.

Students also set up tents near Traditions Plaza on Monday night and said they will camp there until Wolfe is removed from his position.

DeShaunya Ware, one of the students who slept on the quad Monday night, said students are calling for Wolfe’s removal because they think he has been negligent about race issues on MU’s campus.

“As long as Tim Wolfe is UM System president, we will be here,” Ware said.

Students also are camping to show support for Jonathan Butler, a graduate student who started a hunger strike Monday.

“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 to the UM Board of Curators.

Butler and the student campers are part of Concerned Student 1950, a group of 11 that protested by blocking the progress of a car Wolfe was riding in during MU’s Homecoming parade last month. Students criticized Wolfe for not doing something when the protesters were removed from the parade route.

Members of the Forum on Graduate Rights, a nonuniversity student group that formed in August to advocate for graduate student issues, on Tuesday read a statement of support for Butler to Wolfe and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin outside University Hall.

In a statement, Wolfe said he respects Butler’s right to protest but hopes he will choose a new approach.
“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,” Wolfe said in the statement.

Wolfe offered to comment on student concerns Tuesday morning, but students with Concerned Student 1950 said they only wanted his resignation.

Wolfe also said creating an ongoing dialogue about the racial climate on all four campuses is important. After receiving an email from Butler about student concerns related to the Homecoming demonstration, Wolfe set up a meeting with Concerned Student 1950.

Abigail Hollis said she and the other student protesters were not satisfied after their meeting with Wolfe and noted he did not address their list of demands.

Ware said protesters did not expect violence during their Homecoming demonstration, which aimed to draw attention to race issues at the university. Parade watchers can be seen on video positioning themselves between the protesters and Wolfe’s car, and police stepped in to remove the students.

“For some of us, we felt like we were on the streets of Ferguson,” Ware said.

Students stopped by Monday night to support the group, with some bringing bottled water and extra blankets.

Graduate student Kristofferson Culmer described Butler as thoughtful, adding that his hunger strike shows “the level the situation has gotten to.”

“This is not a person throwing a tantrum,” Culmer said. “This is a guy saying, ‘I’m not going to eat. I’m going to cause harm to my own body.’”

Students with Concerned Student 1950 will continue to camp out while taking shifts during the day so they can attend classes.

Hollis said anyone is welcome to join the campout.

In a statement, Board of Curators Chairman Donald Cupps said the board will continue to work with all four campuses to share ideas for addressing race issues.

“As board members and parents we are concerned about the health and safety of our students,” Cupps said in a statement. “I hope Mr. Butler will reconsider and will choose other ways to encourage positive change.”

Students Tuesday recommended Wolfe set up a meeting with Butler and the curators.
Missourian video captures MU demonstration in support of hunger striker
SARAH BELL, 17 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — A demonstration Tuesday morning in support of Jonathan Butler, an MU graduate student on his second day of a hunger strike to try to force out University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe, and other issues turned from formal to contentious as students challenged Wolfe when he spoke to the gathering in the parking lot of University Hall.

Watch the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzAIFHG5Mog&feature=youtu.be

Change.org petition to remove Wolfe from office has over 300 signatures

The day-old petition follows Jonathan Butler’s hunger strike, which started Monday.

A petition on change.org to remove UM System President Tim Wolfe from office has gained over 300 signatures in its first day.

According to the website, the petition was started by the group Concerned Student 1950 on Monday.

“Tim Wolfe is an inadequate UM Systems President,” the group wrote. “He does not understand systems of oppression, yet claims to care about Black students. He did not intervene in the violence toward student during the peaceful parade demonstration and has not apologized or recognized his negligence. He needs to be removed.”

The petition is directed toward Wolfe, Gov. Jay Nixon and the UM System Board of Curators. It follows graduate student Jonathan Butler’s hunger strike in response to Wolfe’s lack of action to instances of racism and discrimination on MU’s campus in the last few months.
In a letter to the university posted on Facebook on Monday, Butler said he will end the strike either when his internal organs fail or when Wolfe is no longer in office.

“In order for Jonathan Butler's life to continue, please remove Tim Wolfe from office,” Concerned Student 1950 wrote in the petition. “He has been negligent to issues of race, safety, and protection regarding those who he presides over.”

Students began camping out on Carnahan Quad to support Butler on Monday night.

Wolfe released a statement Tuesday in response to the hunger strike.

“It is very concerning to me when any of our students’ well-being is in jeopardy, and I am especially concerned about the health and safety of MU student Jonathan Butler,” Wolfe said in the statement. “Jonathan is a valued and effective voice in our struggle to combat racial injustice.”

Concerned Student 1950 also plans to boycott purchasing food and apparel at the Student Center starting Wednesday until the group members see change.

**The Maneater**

**Students camp out in support of #MizzouHungerStrike**

*It has been more than 24 hours since graduate student Jonathan Butler announced and began his hunger strike, calling for UM System President Tim Wolfe’s resignation.* Since then, his decision has garnered support from students across campus.

On Monday night, members of Concerned Student 1950 organized a campout on Carnahan Quad to support Butler’s cause. Butler said the hunger strike will end when Wolfe resigns, is removed from office, or when Butler’s organs fail. The campout has a similar goal, said Concerned Student 1950 member Ayanna Poole.

Nine tents are set up in the quad, many of them with signs reading, “#MizzouHungerStrike,” which is the hashtag Butler used in a letter sent to university officials and posted on his Facebook announcing his hunger strike.

“The campout raises awareness,” Poole said. “It lets administration, faculty, everyone, it lets them know that we will not be moved. We will continue to fight.”

The point of the campout is to create awareness and discussion about race relations on campus, according to Poole.
“We want more people to be aware (about the issue),” Poole said. “People aren’t aware of the things that marginalized students go through and injustices on and off campus. This brings that discussion. It makes it happen. For us to be here (in the quad), that makes us accessible to students on campus.”

Butler’s hunger strike has rallied many student supporters, such as senior Storm Ervin, a participant in the campout.

“I stand in solidarity with Mizzou Hunger Strike, Concerned Student 1950, fighting oppression, racism and postsecondary institution,” Ervin said. “I feel that Tim Wolfe adds to that oppression and a lot of the injustices.”

Wolfe released a statement Monday about Butler’s hunger strike through UM System spokesman John Fougere.

“It is very concerning to me when any of our students’ well-being is in jeopardy, and I am especially concerned about the health and safety of MU student Jonathan Butler,” Wolfe said in the statement. “Jonathan is a valued and effective voice in our struggle to combat racial injustice. When I heard that Jonathan was participating in a hunger strike, I contacted him directly that day and expressed my worries for him. I also indicated to him my desire to have additional meetings with him and the ConcernedStudent1950 group, beyond the initial meeting we had on October 26. The only way we can begin to address the systemic and pervasive issue of racism in society and the effects it has on our campuses is to engage in dialogue, to build deeper relationships and have frank conversations. From these conversations, we must make changes in policy that ensures that our campuses promote a culture of respect.” Wolfe said it’s his role as the president of the four-campus system to support the different chancellors. “Not so long ago, we faced another seemingly intractable challenge in improving the way our campuses addressed another societal problem, sexual harassment and assault,” he said in the statement. “That time, we worked together as a campus community to find solutions so that now the University of Missouri System is a national model in how we address sexual misconduct and Title IX compliance. I am confident we can reach that standard again with regards to addressing and combatting racism.”

Some of the campout participants were displeased with Wolfe’s response.

“Once I heard ‘open dialogue,’ I didn’t want to hear it,” Poole said. “Open dialogue has been what we’ve been doing since I got here in 2011. Open dialogue hasn’t made any social change. And if I haven’t seen any change in the four and a half years I’ve been here, then open dialogue is clearly not doing it.”

Though Butler has a large amount of support in his effort to create change on campus, he posted on Facebook earlier today urging people to understand that his hunger strike is about much broader issues than MU’s recent racially charged incidents.

“For all those on social media and other platforms stating, ‘Stand with JB’ or ‘Stand with Jonathan’ I would ask that you please do NOT do so,” Butler said in his Facebook post. “The movement towards justice IS NOT about me. I am only one person fighting against injustice in
the best way I know how … So instead stand with ALL those fighting for what's right at Mizzou.”

Student Coalition for Critical Action founder and Concerned Student 1950 member Reuben Faloughi was not surprised by Butler’s insistence to divert the attention away from his hunger strike towards bigger problems.

“It’s typical JB, he’s one of the most selfless people I know,” Faloughi said.

Butler’s student right advocacy began in August, when graduate student workers temporarily lost their health insurance. He has also participated in the Concerned Student 1950 Homecoming parade protest, MU 4 Planned Parenthood and Racism Lives Here.

According to Columbia Missourian reporting, Butler and the rest of Concerned Student 1950 met privately with Wolfe on Oct. 26, but Wolfe refused to meet any of the group’s demands. Among other demands, they included calling for Wolfe’s resignation, increasing the number of black faculty members by 10 percent, providing additional funding for the social justice centers on campus.

Butler made the decision to carry out a hunger strike on Oct. 10 after the Homecoming parade, according to the Missourian, and the meeting with Wolfe did not affect his decision. According to Poole, he did not announce his decision to the rest of Concerned Student 1950 until this past Sunday at midnight.

“It’s not out of his character. He’s very, very persistent and he will to great lengths to do it to make sure it’s done,” Poole said of Butler’s decision. “He’s very powerful, very strong. He’s willing to put himself in difficult situations for the good of humanity.”

Poole said that the rest of Concerned Student 1950 had no idea that Butler was going to carry out a hunger strike. She did say Butler repeatedly said the word “sacrifice” in the weeks leading up to the announcement, but it’s a term that all members of Concerned Student 1950 say.

“Sacrifice is a big part of this movement,” Poole said. “We’re all sacrificing a lot. We’re sacrificing our homes. We’re sacrificing our health because it gets cold at night, so that’s what we thought when he said ‘sacrifice.’ We didn’t know that this was going to happen, but it was his decision.”

Poole initially did not want Butler to follow through with his decision, but tried to see the positive side of the situation once she saw that this was something she he wanted to do.

“We’re all hungry for justice,” Poole said. “Essentially we’re fighting a system. This system is starving us. This is what the black community is going through: we’re starving for knowledge, we’re starving for justice, we’re starving for resources. And in order to do that we do need to put our lives on the line.”
Both Poole and Faloughi hope that Butler’s hunger strike becomes a turning point for changing race culture on campus.

“I hope this is a catalyst for the transformative cohesion that we talk about in the SCCA, just really transforming what Mizzou’s culture looks like,” Faloughi said.

“This is going to be a turning point,” Poole added. “It’s a life versus a job, and one of them deserves it and that’s Jonathan Butler’s life. He deserves to live it.”

More than 2,000 petitions delivered to MU chancellor Loftin

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — More than 2,000 petitions have been delivered to the leader of the University of Missouri’s Columbia campus demanding the reversal of a decision that threatens a Planned Parenthood clinic’s ability to continue performing medically induced abortions.

Planned Parenthood says students, faculty and a group called MU for PP met with Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin on Tuesday. They’re demanding the full instatement of all Planned Parenthood training contracts and so-called "refer and follow" privileges.

The privileges are significant because they'd been granted to a Planned Parenthood doctor and played a role in its Columbia clinic obtaining a license to begin offering abortions in August. State law requires physicians or centers providing abortions to have certain agreements with local hospitals for patient care.

The university said in a news release that Loftin is committed to continuing discussions with the group.
Planned Parenthood supporters petition MU to renew contracts

COLUMBIA – **MU for Planned Parenthood delivered more than 2,000 petitions to Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin on Tuesday.**

The petitions urge MU to reverse its decision to cancel contracts with Planned Parenthood and eliminate MU Health Care privileges for Planned Parenthood doctors.

MU spokesperson Mary Jo Banken said, "The Chancellor received the petition from a group of concerned students, faculty and community members. He had a productive meeting today with them and is committed to continuing discussions with them about these concerns."

The president of the local group, Laura McQuade, said: “We urge Chancellor Loftin to listen to the thousands of students, faculty, and community members demanding that he stand up for the rights of students, and the lives of all Missourians, by fully reinstating both the physician privileges and all training contracts between MU and Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri.”

MU decided to end the 26-year relationship with Planned Parenthoods on September 16.

The decision followed state lawmakers’ investigation of abortions performed at Planned Parenthood’s clinics.

MU revoked the hospital’s privileges for Dr. Colleen McNicholas, who was providing local abortions.

“The clock is ticking for Chancellor Loftin to restore physician privileges by December 1, a critical step ensuring that the full range of high quality reproductive health care services, including abortion, remain legal, available and accessible in Mid-Missouri,” McQuade said. "The citizens of Missouri will not tolerate going back to being a single provider state.”
Columbia, Mo. — **University of Missouri students, faculty, and a member of Missouri Legislature advocating for Planned Parenthood met with Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin Tuesday afternoon.**

According to the group 'Mizzou for Planned Parenthood', the meeting was meant to discuss the next steps in the university's relationship with Planned Parenthood.

Representative Stephen Webber (D- Columbia) also participated in the meeting.

Planned Parenthood officials confirmed group members delivered more than 2,000 petitions calling him to reverse his decisions to cancel contracts with Planned Parenthood and eliminate privileges at MU Health Care for Planned Parenthood's physician.

Group members said the meeting was in Loftin's office and lasted for a little more than an hour.

University officials confirmed Loftin participated in a meeting but would not say who it was with and what it was about.

Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri CEO Laura McQuade said in a statement Tuesday night:

"We urge Chancellor Loftin to listen to the thousands of students, faculty, and community members demanding that he stand up for the rights of students and the lives of all Missourians by fully reinstating both the physician privileges and all training contracts between MU and Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri."
About two weeks ago, the university signed agreements with two Planned Parenthood clinics to allow nursing students to train at those facilities.

Loftin initially discontinued agreements between the organization and the university in September after the Senate interim committee, the 'Sanctity of Life', launched an investigation into Planned Parenthood facilities in Missouri.

"The clock is ticking for Chancellor Loftin to restore physician privileges by December 1, a critical step ensuring that the full range of high quality reproductive health care services, including abortion, remain legal, available and accessible in Mid-Missouri. The citizens of Missouri will not tolerate going back to being a single provider state," said McQuade.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Student group delivers pro-Planned Parenthood petition to Loftin

RUTH SERVEN, 13 hrs ago

**Correction**

The date that the Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life last met was incorrect in an earlier version of this story.

COLUMBIA — **An MU student group delivered more than 2,500 signed petitions in support of Planned Parenthood to MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin on Tuesday.**

Jordan Hoyt, a member of Mizzou for Planned Parenthood, said she, a legislator, another student and a faculty member met with Loftin Tuesday afternoon to discuss the university's decision to cancel contracts with the health care provider and revoke refer-and-follow privileges for Colleen McNicholas, the only doctor qualified to perform medical abortions at the Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic.
Hoyt said she carried 2,506 individual petitions, signed by MU students, faculty, staff and community members, in boxes to Jesse Hall. The petitions asked that Loftin reverse those decisions, reinstate contracts between the MU medical and nursing schools and Planned Parenthood and call for a halt to the ongoing legislative investigation into Planned Parenthood.

The Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life, led by senator and attorney general hopeful Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, began investigating MU's relationship with Planned Parenthood in July. The committee has held several hearings investigating the health provider's operations in Missouri.

An investigation by Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster determined in September that Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri, the only provider of surgical abortions in the state, hadn't committed any crimes, according to previous Missourian reporting. Schaefer and Rep. Diane Franklin, R-Camdenton, called the investigation incomplete.

Hoyt, who is also a "community ambassador" for Planned Parenthood, said she appreciated that the chancellor met with her and that he seemed interested in the issue.

"He did express that he was in support of educational opportunities for students," she said. "He did say he felt it should be up to individual departments to handle contractual agreements, but he was pretty vague on the particulars."

In the past, the schools of medicine, nursing and social work have created their own independent agreements with Planned Parenthood to allow students to gain clinical experience and knowledge about health policy.

The Sinclair School of Nursing is working on approving new agreements with Planned Parenthood, according to previous Missourian reporting. The new agreements specifically prohibit nursing students from performing abortions or counseling a woman to have an abortion.

Hoyt said Marjorie Sable, director of the School of Social Work, fellow student Dina van der Zalm and Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia, were also present for the meeting.
Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, which operates the Columbia clinic, issued a statement Tuesday in support of Mizzou for Planned Parenthood’s petition and meeting.

“The clock is ticking for Chancellor Loftin to restore physician privileges by December 1, a critical step ensuring that the full range of high quality reproductive health care services, including abortion, remain legal, available and accessible in Mid-Missouri,” said Laura McQuade, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, in the statement. "The citizens of Missouri will not tolerate going back to being a single-provider state.”

Webber could not be reached by phone or email before 6 p.m. Tuesday.

MU fails to fully meet students' demands

Despite granting health insurance to graduate students for a year, MU still has yet to respond to countless other demands by student groups.

Since August, MU has been called upon by various groups including the Forum on Graduate Rights and Concerned Student 1950 to meet their demands.

At the start of fall semester, FGR presented administrators with a list of demands to be met. After administrators failed to meet the demands by the given deadline, graduate students scheduled an all-day walkout on Aug. 26, according to previous Maneater reporting.

According to the release, their demands stipulated that:

- No graduate students employees be paid below the individual poverty line.
- All graduate student employees receive full tuition waivers.
- A health care plan for the full term of all graduate students’ employment.
- “Immediate action” from the university to aid international students affected by the loss of health insurance.
- More graduate student housing that is also affordable.
- A reinstatement of on-campus, university-sponsored childcare facilities the graduate students could use.
- A waiver of “supplemental fees” charged to graduate student employees.
Less than a month later, MU was presented with an additional list of demands from Concerned Student 1950 after 11 demonstrators were met with force and threatened with pepper spray after trying to get UM System President Tim Wolfe’s attention at the Homecoming Parade, according to previous Maneater reporting.

According to Concerned Student 1950’s release, the demands outlined that:

- Wolfe write a handwritten apology to Concerned Student 1950 demonstrators in addition to holding a press conference in the Student Center where the letter would be read. The letter must address: Wolfe’s white male privilege, recognize the existence of systems of oppression, guarantee verbally his commitment to addressing the group’s demands, and admit to “gross negligence” to allow his driver to hit a demonstrator while refusing to intervene when the Columbia Police Department utilized force.
- Removal of Wolfe as UM System president and a new policy put in place that requires that all future UM System presidents as well as chancellors be chosen “by a collective of students, staff and faculty of diverse backgrounds.”
- MU meet the Legion of Black Collegians’ 1969 demands that called for the betterment of the black community.
- MU implement “racial awareness and inclusion curriculum” throughout campus that is reviewed by a board consisting of students, staff, and faculty of color.
- In the 2017-2018 academic year MU increase the percentage of black faculty and staff to 10 percent.
- MU create a strategic 10-year plan by May 1, 2016 that will work toward increasing retention rates for marginalized students, continue diversity training and create a more safe and inclusive campus climate.
- Increase funding and resources for the MU Counseling Center to hire more mental health professionals, especially those of color, in order to increase outreach and awareness and reduce waiting times.
- Increase funding, resources and personnel for social justice centers to hire more professionals of color to advance awareness as well as visibility.

After Wolfe failed to meet any of Concerned Student 1950’s demands, graduate student Jonathan Butler, who participated in the Homecoming parade demonstration and was also bumped by the car Wolfe rode in, has now commenced an indefinite hunger strike calling for the removal of Wolfe.

While MU partially met FGR’s demands by guaranteeing health insurance for graduate students for a year, it remains yet to be seen how MU will respond to Butler and Concerned Students 1950’s demands.
High-School, Community-College, or For-Profit Degree? Employers May Not Have a Preference

By Katherine Mangan NOVEMBER 04, 2015

Graduates of for-profit colleges may have spent up to five times as much for their credentials as those who completed comparable programs in community colleges, but they’re no more likely to get calls back from potential employers, according to a new study published in the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.

In fact, the researchers concluded, the graduates may be waiting around just as long for the phone to ring as do job applicants who completed only high school.

The study was conducted by the National Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research, a group that includes the American Institutes for Research, along with scholars at several leading universities.

The researchers sent out nearly 9,000 fictitious résumés of young job applicants who had recently finished a credential program in a community college or for-profit institution to see which ones employers called back. The jobs were in six categories: administrative assisting, customer service, information technology, medical assisting (other than nursing), medical billing/office, and sales. The openings were advertised online from May 2013 to May 2014 in seven metropolitan areas across the country.

The researchers’ conclusion? Employers weren’t any more likely to bite when the candidate listed a for-profit college than they would have been if the résumé had listed a community college. That finding makes community colleges look pretty good because they cost a lot less than for-profit colleges and offer many similar kinds of job-training programs.

But the research also suggests that someone might want to think twice before turning to even a low-cost community college for a certificate or two-year degree. It turns out that the high-school graduate who everyone said would be sunk without a postsecondary credential was almost as likely to get a call as did someone with sub-
baccalaureate credentials from either type of college. The community-college graduate had a slight but statistically insignificant leg up on the high-school graduate.

So what does this mean at a time when there is so much focus on the importance of college?

Cory Koedel, an associate professor of economics and public policy at the University of Missouri at Columbia and one of the study’s authors, said the findings were surprising, but had been replicated by other education researchers.

"It raises questions about the perceived value of these types of two-year-college credentials by employers," he added.

Steve Gunderson, president of the Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities, which represents for-profit colleges, said postsecondary education is "critical to addressing the skills gap." He added that given the backlash against the sector, the study’s results could have been worse.

"The findings are actually encouraging," Mr. Gunderson wrote in an email, "because after a six-year multilevel assault against the sector, the institutions are viewed on the same level as community colleges."

"The outcomes at our institutions are strong and the results speak for themselves," he said, in a reference to a post on the trade association’s blog. "Graduates who receive an associate’s degree in high-demand fields receive earnings boosts greater than 100 percent."

A Limited Look

The study by Mr. Koedel and his co-authors was mainly intended to compare employer preferences for recent graduates of for-profit and community colleges. The fact that neither seemed to do any better than high-school graduates could be partly explained by a few factors, the researchers noted.

Maybe the for-profit graduate did have stronger skills that would pay off later in higher wages and promotions. That advantage wouldn’t show up in call-back rates, especially if the employer wasn’t aware of the differences between the sectors.

The results might also be different in occupations not represented in the study. Think air-conditioning repair or computer programming — areas in which for-profit colleges might have particularly strong programs.
Advocates for community colleges took issue with the conclusion that their graduates were hardly any better off than high-school graduates.

"A variety of studies have documented the fact that community-college credentials, both degrees and certificates, often result in greatly enhanced earnings for program completers, relative to those who possess only a high-school diploma, or, in many cases, relative to those who hold baccalaureate degrees," David S. Baime, senior vice president for government relations at the American Association of Community Colleges, wrote in an email.

Anthony P. Carnevale, director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, said studies have consistently shown that community-college graduates earn more money and are more likely to be employed than those with only high-school diplomas. What really matters, he said, is the discipline the student studied.

This isn’t the first study associated with the American Institutes for Research to question whether college is worth the investment. Another study, which prompted heated debate, concluded that in some cases high-school graduates brought home bigger paychecks than did people with two-year degrees.

**Community College or For-Profit College? Employers See No Difference, Study Finds**

Christine DiGangi

Nov. 4, 2015

*There are plenty of things people criticize about higher education in the U.S., but for-profit colleges are among the most controversial aspects of the system, and a new report further questions the value of their degrees. A study from the University of Missouri indicates students of for-profit colleges may be better off getting degrees from community colleges, because students from for-profit and community colleges have similar job prospects, despite vast differences in the cost of their educations.*

The researchers put together fake resumes for job applicants with either a for-profit college degree, a community college degree or a high school diploma, and they sent them out for positions in sales, customer service, information technology, medical assistance and administrative assistance. Employers called to ask about candidates from for-profit colleges just as often as they did for candidates who graduated from community colleges.
This matters because for-profit colleges generally cost much more than community colleges, with tuition as much as five times higher at for-profit schools, according to a news release on the research.

“Tuition at for-profit colleges can be as much as five times higher than at two-year community colleges,” said Cory Koedel, according to the news release. Koedel is a professor of economics and public policy at the University of Missouri and authored the study with Rajeev Darolia, another professor. “When people are weighing their higher-education options, tuition cost and the ability to gain employment after school should be considered heavily,” he said.

That’s true of anyone considering going to school, whether it’s for an associate’s degree or a Ph.D. — you should weigh the cost of the program against your projected future earnings and the availability of jobs in your field. Considering the majority of college students need to finance their educations, it’s important to know you'll be able to not only find a job after college, but one that pays well enough to support your student loan payments.

“The University of Missouri study affirms the real value of career colleges because many adult learners don’t have the capacity or need to take general studies classes that most community colleges require,” the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS), which represents for-profits and other trade schools, said in an email when asked for comment on the study. “They are attending a career-oriented school to become skilled in a trade that will quickly improve their economic status.”

Students at for-profit schools take on a lot of debt. These students represent about 13% of people getting higher education degrees, but they represent about 31% of student loan borrowers and about half of student loan defaults, according to the Department of Education. Defaulting on student loans can subject borrowers to debt collection calls and associated fees, as well as wage garnishment and credit score damage. Given the serious consequences of not being able to afford your education, it’s crucial to consider the potential value of a degree before borrowing money to get it. (You can see how any student loan debt is affecting your credit by viewing your credit scores for free each month on Credit.com.)

“This study shows that no significant difference exists with respect to generating employer interest between individuals with community college and for-profit degrees,” Koedel said. “For many people, community college may be the better option financially.”

For-profit grads don’t land more job interviews

Hiring managers show no preference for hiring people with for-profit college credentials compared to those holding comparable credentials from public community colleges, a new study finds.
Although enrollment and graduation numbers have risen in for-profit colleges over the last decade, little is known about how employers perceive potential employees with for-profit college degrees on their resumes.

**Cory Koedel, an associate professor of economics and public policy at the University of Missouri and its Truman School of Public Affairs, says this finding is important for people deciding whether to pursue two-year college degrees.**

“Tuition at for-profit colleges can be as much as five times higher than at two-year community colleges,” Koedel says. “When people are weighing their higher-education options, tuition cost and the ability to gain employment after school should be considered heavily.

“This study shows that no significant difference exists with respect to generating employer interest between individuals with community college and for-profit degrees. For many people, community college may be the better option financially.”

For their study, Koedel, Rajeev Darolia, an assistant professor in the Truman School of Public Affairs, and their coauthors, randomly generated thousands of resumes that included either a for-profit college credential, a two-year community college credential, or only a high school diploma.

The researchers then sent the resumes to a number of job openings for open positions in fields including sales, customer service, information technology, medical assistance, and office and administrative assistance. They found that hiring managers called back to inquire about fake candidates at the same rate, regardless of whether the candidates held community college or for-profit credentials.

“It is clear that employers are not placing any kind of higher value on for-profit credentials relative to community college credentials,” Koedel says. “While for-profit colleges may be a good solution for some people, they are expensive, and our study indicates that there are other, more cost-effective education options that are perceived similarly by employers.”

This study appears in the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management.*
Editorial: MU libraries

A worrisome crisis

By Henry J. Waters III

Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 2:00 pm

If one operation is central to the University of Missouri, it is Ellis Library and its branches throughout the campus.

Library officials report an increasing fiscal shortage and propose a six-year plan for incremental increases in student fees to bring MU’s investment in libraries out of the basement among peer AAU institutions. Students will vote on the proposal Nov. 9-11. Library officials say if the proposal fails, they will have to cut services and personnel.

The proposed fee of $15 per credit hour will provide funds to bring MU in line with peer AAU universities. I have not seen AAU status touted as a reason to increase library funding, but I reckon it could be a factor.

AAU aside, a good university needs a good library. The library is the one service area important to all institutional jurisdictions. As the financial crush has worsened, library salaries and collections have fallen behind. Nobody suggests the libraries are poorly managed. Librarians report staffing has decreased by 25 percent in the past 15 years while enrollment has increased by 50 percent. This is not an exact equation justifying a precisely commensurate increase in funding, but it does forcefully illustrate the general funding problem.

Students don’t want to pay higher fees, but most of the impact of the current proposal will be felt over subsequent years as arriving students pay anticipated shares in support of a growing need. I hope this year’s contingent will approve the plan, realizing their libraries are an asset central to the quality of their university that will be important beyond their years here.
FROM READERS: Empathy, willingness to listen are crucial to our understanding of each other

JASMINE SERRANO, 21 hrs ago

Jasmine Serrano is a MU junior studying strategic communication. She uses she/her pronouns and comes from a blended and mixed race family.

If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?

Most of us are familiar with this question. It’s a philosophical exercise examining the relationship between observation, reality and the unperceived world. Can something exist absent the presence of an observer?

Here's another one: If a white person — who lives in a predominantly white area, attends a predominantly white school, and engages primarily with white friends — says he has never seen or experienced racism, does racism still exist?

If I, a biracial twenty-something at MU, tell you that racism definitely still exists, do you have to believe me? Do you care enough to listen?

One of the biggest things I struggled with as child was knowing when to shut up and just listen. I'm sure my mother was frequently driven to her wit's end by my incessant need to get the last word in.

"You don't listen, anak (which means child in my mother's native language)," she'd scold, eyebrows knitted, lips pursed. And I'd be staring off into space, thinking about what I was going to say when she finally stopped talking.
In all those arguments with my mother, I wasn't interested in having a conversation about what we needed from each other. I cared about being right. It's a selfish and narcissistic impulse, symptomatic of a lack of empathy.

I'm still learning how to weed it from my personality.

But I mention those experiences because they taught me how important it is to listen. I think empathy is the most effective means of change, but empathy is born out of a willingness to hear different narratives. So, we can pass laws and enact policy that change our observable actions and speech, but what can we do about unperceived notions? What can we do about mindsets and prejudices and implicit biases? If we have anti-discriminatory policy in place, is it proof we've eradicated racism from this campus?

I say no.

Only meaningful, open conversation can do that for us, and that will take a willingness from the larger culture to not just hear our stories, but to believe them. It's important that we — and this is everybody — don't trivialize others' opinions and lived experiences just because they aren't our own. Even if we don't understand something, to simply dismiss someone else's pain as unimportant is devastatingly unproductive. To disparage someone because we disagree gets us nowhere.

Racism lives here. And for that matter, sexism, rape culture, homophobia, transphobia and Islamophobia live here, too. There is no shortage of narratives of oppression on campus, and being privileged enough to not have your own is a poor excuse for callousness and willful ignorance. Just because you're not in the forest, it doesn't mean our trees haven't fallen.
MSA candidates tackle student affordability

From dining to living expenses to textbooks, there are a lot more expenses that students face other than tuition. Each Missouri Students Association presidential slate has devised a plan to make MU a place where all students can go, no matter their financial situation.

McFarland/Segers

In their platform Back To Basics, Jordan McFarland and Jonathan Segers said they hope to address student affordability by increasing registered voters, hosting monthly informational forums and creating videos about available resources.

They said they believe lack of voter participation in all forms of elections is the greatest problem on campus concerning student affordability. If more students voted, the greater the influence the students will have, McFarland said.

McFarland said only 13 percent of the student body votes, meaning they only have 13 percent influence on the campus as a whole. Their goal for their year of office is to increase student participation in the polls to about 40 percent.

“We really have to work on increasing political participation with (Tigers Advancing Political Participation),” McFarland said. “I hate to say I’ll leave it for the next guy, but if we can do that in a year, that would be incredibly ambitious.”

They said they would also like to see more students registered as Boone County voters and provide absentee ballots for those who choose not to.

The candidates also said they would like to see more traditional-style rooms in residence halls rather than suite-style rooms, which would provide more affordable housing options for students.

The slate never addresses affordability regarding Campus Dining Services directly, but they do address food insecurity with their program Swipe Me In. This would be a social media campaign that pairs students with extra meal swipes with students who don’t have enough food in an attempt to make sure all students are fed.

The program would also include an educational campaign via social media about food insecurity and increased exposure for Tiger Pantry.

McFarland and Segers said they plan to produce 30-second videos showcasing all the residential life resources available on campus. The videos would be made by the Department of Student Communications in conjunction with MUTV and other auxiliary resources on campus.
“There are a lot of tools, but a lot of people don’t know that they exist unless they go talk to someone,” Segers said.

In addition to producing videos, McFarland and Segers said they would like to hold monthly forums in which students answer questions about on- and off-campus housing.

Another major student expense is the proposed library fee, which they both support.

“I think the library fee will end up working for the students at the end of the day, even though it might be a bitter pill to swallow at the beginning,” McFarland said.

If the library fee is voted down in the upcoming election, the candidates said they hope it will appear again in the future. They said they will take the opportunity to educate students on the benefits of voting yes.

At the Oct. 26 debate, McFarland said he would travel to Jefferson City himself to fight for a better education. McFarland said he will work with the MU campus before he does anything at the city or state level.

“We are there to facilitate what they’re doing, not issue our own directives,” McFarland said. “Nowhere in the job description is heavy lobbyist. That’s not what we’re here to do.”

**Gomez/Hanner**

Missouri Students Association presidential candidate Haden Gomez said he and running mate Chris Hanner made student affordability “one of the biggest things on (their) platform” because finances are a major reason students drop out of college.

Gomez and Hanner have both served on the MSA’s Budget Committee and the MU Budget Office’s Budget Allocation Advisory Committee, and Hanner was the chairman of the MSA Budget Committee last year. One of the major ways the two plan to help students is to increase the transparency of what fees students will have to pay.

“I hear every single day in Speakers Circle that students don’t know what fees are associated with what class,” Gomez said.

Gomez said they want to partner with MyZou and the Office for Financial Success so students will see what fees are associated with classes they’re considering registering for before they enroll.

“That way, there would not be any surprises,” Gomez said. “They would not feel like they were being slighted. They would know every single penny and dime they would be paying for that class.”

They also want to improve Campus Dining Services’ swipe system. Their platform says they plan to work with CDS to try to enable the use of meal swipes at the three Mizzou Market
locations and in the Student Center. Gomez said the reduction of the cost of swipes to $7 per meal was an encouraging step, but they still wanted to work to reduce that cost.

“It’s really just talking to (CDS) and making sure students are aware of (what they’re paying for), but also making sure they’re becoming increasingly transparent,” he said.

Their platform says they plan to work with Student Legal Services to “crack down on predatory leasing.” Gomez said this would involve educating students so they know what they’re getting into when they sign a lease with an off-campus rentor.

“There are too many luxury apartment complexes being built and not enough affordable options for students,” Hanner said in an email. “This ends up being bad not just for students, who are entering into predatory leases, according to former Student Legal Services lawyer Steve Concannon, but also for the economic health of the city of Columbia.”

Gomez and Hanner also hope to work with the Associated Students of the University of Missouri to advocate for student affordability at the state level. He said student lobbying could have a profound impact on politics and that it had in the past, citing the 2013 “Kill the Bill” rallies as an example.

“You can tell when there is a student voice in the capital, they do start listening,” Gomez said. “A lot of the time, (state politicians) get caught up in the politics of it and they don’t see many of their constituents, but whenever they have a student there asking for more funding, it becomes more realistic.”

Gomez and Hanner said they support the proposed library fee, but called it a “huge burden” on students and expressed disappointment with MU for not prioritizing library funding.

“We know that a library is a staple when it comes to education on a campus, so you would think a university would be more proactive in funding things like that,” Gomez said.

Gomez said if he and Hanner were voted into office and the fee passed, they would look into other ways to fund the library, such as private donations, a capital campaign or funding from the university.

“There has to be other ways,” he said. “Students are a last resort when it comes to funding.”

_Ejaz/Parrie_

Through Mizzou Together, Syed Ejaz and Heather Parrie want to address student affordability by advocating for more affordable housing, creating a profit-share for textbook sales and challenging tuition changes.

“MSA has a little bit more power than the average student to fight these things and that is our responsibility,” Parrie said.
From speaking with other individuals at the SEC exchange, Ejaz has found that student affordability is not a problem unique to MU.

When working with City Council to promote affordable housing and ensuring that the student voice is heard, Ejaz said there are many roles that MSA would play.

One role is to work with developers and City Council to verify that the student housing in Columbia is conducive to proper student living and to ensure “abusive marketing practices” aren’t occurring, Ejaz said. Another role is educating students on how to make a good housing decision, which would be done by MSA and off campus student services.

Ejaz said rent is one of the largest costs students have to pay and student housing is “something MSA often overlooks.”

The candidates also would like to evaluate how to make Campus Dining prices more affordable, Parrie said.

“Campus dining is a monopoly here on campus,” Parrie said. “It is one of the only ways to get food here on this campus unless you are going downtown. They have the ability to set their prices and we have the ability to challenge those prices.”

The University of Alabama Student Government Association brokered a deal with Amazon which allowed a portion of their revenue from textbook sales to return to the university and their SGA.

Ejaz said that would be a model for MU to look into. As of right now, students purchase their textbooks from the Mizzou Store or from a different source. The revenue made from those sales does not come to MSA. It instead goes back to university administration.

According to Mizzou Store website, the money generated from textbook sales supports Stankowski Field, the Student Success Center, the Student Center and Memorial Union in the form of donations.

“We spend so much on textbooks and for it to be vague as to where that money is actually going from the Mizzou Store is not fair to the students when we could be doing something to maximize the benefits of buying textbooks on campus,” Parrie said.

Although they are generally in favor of the library fee, Ejaz said he would have rather seen the library fee broken into smaller parts, so it would have been easier for students to accept.

“As a fundamental basis, nobody wants to pay fees, but if the design of the fee is smart and it appears manageable, then the student body would definitely entertain it,” Ejaz said.

A lot of the negativity from the proposed fee comes from students questioning what the fee does for them, Parrie said. It is hard for students “to swallow” if they do not use research, software or the books in Ellis.
“I know the money we pay, we are not necessarily going to see it immediately affecting our education, especially for those of us who are later in our academic careers,” Parrie said. When tuition changes, the student body is told there is no choice. It is a sign that MSA has not been doing a good job on student affordability, Ejaz said.

“Student affordability is one of the major roles that MSA should always be stepping into because it controls so many dynamics on campus, campus life and the composition of the student body,” Ejaz said. “The list just goes on and on.”

Illinois man guilty in Missouri college student's death

Nov. 3, 2015

EDWARDSVILLE, Ill. (AP) — An East St. Louis man has pleaded guilty to killing a University of Missouri student after what prosecutors call a botched 2013 marijuana deal.

Twenty-six-year-old Deneshion M. Swope pleaded guilty Tuesday to first-degree murder in Madison County Circuit Court in the shooting death of 21-year-old Jarrett Mosby of Collinsville.

Police say Mosby and Swope got into a fight in the college student's car in the village of Madison after Swope had arranged to purchase pot from Mosby.

Mosby was a senior majoring in business at the University of Missouri in Columbia. He had returned to the Illinois suburbs of St. Louis to visit his young son during the school's winter break.

Prosecutors plan to seek a 40-year prison sentence. Swope remains in the county jail pending his sentencing.
Man admits killing Mizzou student during apparent drug deal in Madison

Nov. 3, 2015 • From staff reports

MADISON • Deneshion M. Swope, 26, pleaded guilty Tuesday of first-degree murder in the killing of a Mizzou college student in an apparent drug deal here almost two years ago.

The body of Jarrett D. Mosby, 21, was found Dec. 23, 2013, in a car at West Second and Bissell streets.

Police said Mosby, 21, of Collinsville, had picked up Swope, of East St. Louis, who tried to buy marijuana from him. They got into an argument that escalated into Swope shooting Mosby several times near 10th and State streets, officials said. They believe Swope moved the car before fleeing.

Mosby was majoring in business at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Officials said he was home over the winter break to visit his young son. Swope was already on probation for federal gun charges.

Madison County State's Attorney Thomas Gibbons' office said it plans to ask Associate Judge Neil Schroeder to impose a 40-year prison sentence. The penalty range goes to 60 years, with a requirement to serve all of it.

MU says Hanaway can't use tiger logo

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 21 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — MU wants Republican gubernatorial candidate Catherine Hanaway to remove a large image of its logo from her campaign vehicle.
Hanaway is preparing to start a two-week state tour in her bid to be the state's next governor. She's one of five Republicans seeking the party's 2016 nomination for governor.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports Hanaway tweeted a photo of the vehicle Monday showing the large, trademarked Missouri tiger logo on the vehicle. Hanaway also referred to the RV as "Tiger One" in a news release.

University spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken says the university doesn't approve of political candidates using the logo and will ask Hanaway to stop using the logo.

Nick Maddux, Hanaway's campaign manager, says the RV will be rewrapped to conceal the image.

MU asks Hanaway to remove logo from campaign RV


COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri on Monday asked gubernatorial candidate Catherine Hanaway to remove a large MU logo from her campaign RV, said Nick Maddux, Hanaway's campaign manager.

A supporter loaned Hanaway the vehicle which previously had the tiger logo on it, according to Maddux. Hanaway's campaign originally decided to leave the large logo on the RV because she is a "huge Mizzou fan," Maddux said.
MU asked Hanaway's campaign to remove the logo from the RV due to a trademark issue and because the university does not want its logo affiliated with politics, Maddux said.

The campaign has complied with the university's request by covering up the tiger logo.

Hanaway tweeted a photo of the RV Monday, which she referred to as "Tiger One."

**Stephens, MU update city council on progress, plans**

By Megan Favignano

Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 2:00 pm

The Columbia City Council heard presentations from Stephens College and the University of Missouri during a meeting Monday that focused on the higher education institutions’ recent building projects, stability and future goals.

The conversation stemmed from Mayor Bob McDavid’s effort to improve communication and make the city more aware of growing student enrollment and the goals of local higher education institutions.

Stephens College President Dianne Lynch’s presentation focused on the programs the college offers and the growing number of women graduating from college nationwide. Lynch discussed the college’s recent addition of a health sciences degree and a physician assistant program Stephens is set to launch next fall.

Lynch also mentioned the college is considering adding a computer science degree. These additional programs, she said, could attract more students. She said the health sciences program is new but is already one of the largest programs on campus.

“Stephens is growing,” Lynch told the city council. “And we understand the market.”

Gary Ward, MU’s vice chancellor for operations and chief operating officer, shared a list of projects the university has recently completed and building projects that are underway. Ward also explained the university’s master planning process. MU works with consultants who specialize in master planning for specific areas, he said, including athletics and student housing.
MU’s master planner then works with those consultants on the recommendations they have for the campus.

Ward said the university hopes to increase enrollment to 38,000. He said MU is making renovations to accommodate that number of students in the classroom and working to increase campus housing to 7,500 beds.

“If we have 38,000 students and 7,500 beds on campus, where do the other 30,000 sleep?” Ward said, pointing out that students will be living in the community.

Ward said MU plans to recruit a research master planner to focus on how the campus accommodates researchers’ needs. MU also is working to refine the links between its campus master plan and its strategic plan, he said.

Another Commission Will Take On the Future of Higher Education

By Goldie Blumenstyk NOVEMBER 04, 2015

NO MU MENTION

The "future of higher education" landscape — already ringing with cacophonous predictions from all manner of task forces, books, conferences, and self-styled disruptors — is about to get another. This week the American Academy of Arts and Sciences will announce its own Commission on the Future of Undergraduate Education.

The commission, which will include more than two dozen leaders from academe, business, and politics, has given itself an ambitious goal: to examine "the vast — and expanding — array of learning options" now available to students and to identify the challenges and opportunities higher education will confront in the next 20 to 25 years.

The commission faces a double challenge: producing a report that not only doesn’t die on a shelf but also distinguishes itself in an environment already rich with ideas and visions from so many others.
"There’s a lot of stuff out there, no question about it," says Michael S. McPherson, who will be co-chair of the commission with Roger W. Ferguson Jr., president of TIAA-CREF.

But Mr. McPherson, who plans to retire next summer as president of the education-focused Spencer Foundation, says he hopes the commission’s work will cut through the noise with findings that are comprehensive in their scope and "really well-grounded in evidence."

Right now, "a lot of misinformation" is part of the discourse on higher education, he says, and it’s "used in misleading ways." For example, Mr. McPherson says, the popular news media often focus on the minority of people with $100,000-plus in student-loan debt while ignoring the larger number who failed to graduate but who are struggling to repay their smaller levels of debt.

**Looking Beyond Traditional Colleges**

The commission plans to be broad in its outlook, examining not only traditional two- and four-year colleges but also for-profit institutions, providers of MOOCs and other alternative offerings, and the apprenticeship movement. The panelists include representatives of those constituencies as well, including Daphne Koller, a co-founder of the MOOC company Coursera, and J. Michael Locke, a former chief executive of Rasmussen, a for-profit-college company.

The academy said the commission would also focus on the needs of older adult students, who now make up about a third of the undergraduate population.

The commission’s work will be financed with a $2.2-million grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Carnegie’s president, Vartan Gregorian, *publicly floated* the idea of a White House commission on the future of higher education three years ago, hoping that the U.S. president’s imprimatur would advance the effort. But that idea never took hold. Instead, the commission will be sponsored by the 235-year-old academy, one of the country's oldest learned societies and one that is known for projects like its "Heart of the Matter" report on the value of the humanities and social sciences.

Mr. McPherson says he expects the first year of the commission’s three-year effort to be focused on developing a primer — with the help of well-known higher-education economists and others — on topics like college costs, enrollment and completion trends, demographic trends, and expectations about labor markets. (The academics to be enlisted for that effort are Thomas Bailey and Judith Scott-Clayton of Columbia
University’s Teachers College, Sandy Baum of the Urban Institute, Ronald G. Ehrenberg of Cornell University, and Bridget Terry Long of Harvard University.)

After that, Mr. McPherson says, the commission will turn to "what are the really big and important things we have to worry about." The panel will have periodic meetings and invite public comment, he says.

Myriad Forces Shaping Higher Ed

The fate of higher education is increasingly being shaped not only by state and federal policy but also by technological advances and trends like the "unbundling" of the role of the professor with the rise of online education and interactive courseware. Although some of those innovations are beyond the control of policy makers and colleges, Mr. McPherson says, the commission absolutely will "not want to ignore the forces that are coming at traditional higher ed."

The commission will nonetheless be mindful that the predictions that outside organizations or trends "are going to devastate and lay waste to traditional higher ed" have not come to pass.

Mr. McPherson says he hopes the commission will issue its report by 2017. That timing would put its release after the presidential election and possibly after the next reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. He says he’s not concerned about "external clocks" and would rather the commission take its time and get things right.

"The element of deliberation is really important," Mr. McPherson says.

The commission is expected to operate for three years. Its last year will involve outreach and dissemination. For the report to have an impact, the academy, based in Cambridge, Mass., and the commission will have "to be heard in D.C. and to be heard nationally," Mr. McPherson says.

That, he says, will be a challenge. The higher-education sector is "a noisier landscape because it’s more important than it’s ever been," both to individuals and to the nation. But amid all that chatter, Mr. McPherson adds, some "genuinely thoughtful" ideas should still matter.

The Panelists

Other commission members, named so far, are:

Joseph E. Aoun, president of Northeastern University
Deborah Loewenberg Ball, dean of the University of Michigan School of Education
Sandy Baum, senior fellow at the Urban Institute
Rebecca M. Blank, chancellor of the University of Wisconsin at Madison
John Seely Brown, former director of Xerox PARC research
Carl A. Cohn, clinical professor of education at Claremont Graduate University
Mitch E. Daniels Jr., president of Purdue University
John J. DeGioia, president of Georgetown University
Jonathan F. Fanton, president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
Robert Hormats, vice chairman of Kissinger Associates and former under secretary of state for economic growth, energy, and the environment
Freeman A. Hrabowski III, president of the University of Maryland-Baltimore County
Jennifer L. Jennings, assistant professor of sociology at New York University
Jeremy Johnson, co-founder and chief executive of Andela
Sherry Lansing, chief executive of the Sherry Lansing Foundation
Nicholas Lemann, former dean of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism
Gail O. Mellow, president of LaGuardia Community College of the City University of New York
Diana Natalicio, president of the University of Texas at El Paso
Hilary Pennington, vice president of the Ford Foundation
Beverly Daniel Tatum, former president of Spelman College
Shirley M. Tilghman, former president of Princeton University
P. Roy Vagelos, former president of Merck & Co.
Michelle Weise, executive director of Southern New Hampshire University’s Sandbox Collaborative