Chancellor Loftin to transition to new role at MU

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

Monday, November 9, 2015 at 4:55 pm

About six hours after University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe resigned because of racial tensions on campus, MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said he will transition to a new role.

Loftin spoke at the conclusion of a lengthy UM Board of Curators meeting and said he would transition Jan. 1 to a new role as director for research facility development.

“Over the last several years … we’ve made great progress and aligned this university to become the very best it can be in terms of research,” Loftin said. “I will be able to assist the campus community in developing the kind of research facilities it needs.”

Hank Foley, MU senior vice chancellor for research and graduate studies, has been appointed interim chancellor at MU. Foley also serves as executive vice president for academic affairs, research and economic development for the UM System.

Donald Cupps, chairman of the Board of Curators, thanked Wolfe and Loftin before he announced a series of initiatives to address the racial climate of the UM System campuses. The initiatives will be implemented in the next 90 days, Cupps said. The efforts include:

- The UM System will appoint its first-ever chief diversity, inclusion and equity officer. Each UM campus also will recruit a chief diversity, inclusion and equity officer.
- A full review of all UM System policies related to staff and student conduct.
- Additional support for students, faculty and staff who have experienced discrimination.
- Additional support for hiring and retaining diverse faculty and staff.
- Establishing a diversity, inclusion and equity task force for the UM System to audit existing programs and develop short- and long-term strategies. Each campus will have a similar task force.

At MU, the Curators said consultants will be enlisted to conduct an assessment of diversity and inclusion efforts. The flagship campus will begin mandatory diversity, inclusion and equity
training for faculty, staff and incoming students. Officials also will continue a comprehensive review of student mental health services at MU.

Cupps said it has been a difficult time for the entire UM System and that everyone involved had to put the interests of the university ahead of their own personal interest.

"The problems that we've experienced cannot be blamed on President Wolfe; it can't be blamed on Chancellor Loftin," Cupps said. "It's got to be blamed on all of us."

Cupps said the Curators will name an interim president as soon as possible.

"We want to do the best thing for the university," Cupps said. "We want what’s best for the student. We have a national image to protect and to enhance."

Students attend UM universities expecting to have an exceptional learning experience, Cupps said, adding that parents send their children to UM campuses with that same expectations.

“It saddens me to learn that some have experienced discrimination and acts of hate directed towards them,” Cupps said. “We must provide a safe environment for all of our students, our faculty and our staff members.”

Loftin, the former president of Texas A&M University, has been chancellor at MU since February 2014. His announced resignation came the same day the deans of nine different MU colleges requested his dismissal.

In a letter sent Monday to Wolfe and the Board of Curators, the deans said they wanted to express "our deep concern about the multitude of crises on our flagship campus" and call for Loftin's dismissal.

During the past month, a group of students called Concerned Student 1950 — a reference to the first year MU admitted a black student — held demonstrations that called for Wolfe’s resignation and attempted to bring attention to race issues on campus.

In September, Missouri Students Association President Payton Head said a group of white men shouted racial slurs at him while he was walking on campus. Head described the experience in a Facebook post, which was widely shared.

On Oct. 5, a group of students with the Legion of Black Collegians reported that a white man, who appeared to be intoxicated, disrupted their play rehearsal and used a racial slur when students asked him to leave. On Oct. 24, someone used feces to draw a swastika on the wall of a restroom in Gateway Hall at MU.
Loftin leaving chancellor role, Curators announce diversity initiatives


COLUMBIA, Mo. - The MU Board of Curators Monday announced sweeping changes to the university in the coming months following allegations of racism and a recent hunger strike by a student.

A student group called "Concerned Student 1950" has a list of eight demands for university administrators, and one of them was that the president resign.

MU System President Tim Wolfe resigned Monday, saying, "Please use this resignation to heal, not to hate." I ask everybody to use my resignation to heal and start talking again to make the changes necessary."

At around 4:30 p.m. Monday, the MU Board of Curators held a news conference where Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced that he will transition from his role as Chancellor to director of research facility development effective January 1.

The Board of Curators addressed the media, saying Wolfe resigned on his own terms, and was not asked to leave by the board.

MU Board of Curators President Donald Cupps said, "The four campuses of this system are the greatest assets this state has. We want to do the best thing for the university."

"We want to give everyone a chance to receive and education no matter their walk of life, minority, or race," said Cupps.

Cupps said the Board of Curators will make sweeping changes in the coming year, including appointing a chief diversity officer.

A full review of all MU system policies relating to student conduct will be initiated, and support will be provided for the hiring and retention of diverse faculty and staff.
Hank Foley, MU senior vice chancellor for research and vice president for academic affairs has been named as interim chancellor.

Chancellor Loftin will resign January 1st, interim chancellor named

COLUMBIA, Mo. — University of Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin says he will resign, effective January 1, 2016.

On the same day that University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe announced his resignation, Chancellor Loftin has made the same announcement less than six hours later.

"I have decided today that I will transition from the role of Chancellor at the University of Missouri, effective at the end of this year and will move into a new role, where I will work with many people across the university and with the system to advance our research mission at the University of Missouri," Loftin said.

Loftin, the former president of Texas A&M University, has been chancellor at MU since February 2014.

He says will remain with MU to help develop research programs.

"It has been my pleasure to serve as chancellor of this great institution. I hope that every member of our campus community will embrace each person's right to express their opinions in a respectful manner and to make progress toward our common goal of an inclusive campus that values the contributions of all individuals," Loftin said. "I am excited for my new challenge to lead the university's research facility development"Said Loftin, "It has been my pleasure to serve as chancellor of this great institution. I hope that every member of our campus community will embrace each person's right to express their opinions in a respectful manner and to make progress toward our common goal of an inclusive campus that values the contributions of all individuals. I am excited for my new challenge to lead the university's research facility development."
"The university would like to thank Dr. Loftin for his services as chancellor and looks forward to his work in his new role," Donald Cupps, chair of the University of Missouri Board of Curators, said.

An interim system president will be announced as soon as possible.

"As a board, we have taken an oath to maintain the standard of excellence and source of pride that the University of Missouri is for all Missourians. We are committed to keeping the institution and our state moving forward," Cupps said."It saddens me that some who have attended our university have ever felt fear, being unwelcome, or have experienced racism."

"To those who have suffered, I apologize on behalf of the university for being slow to respond to experiences that are unacceptable and offensive in our campus communities and in our society," Cupps added. "Significant changes are required to move us forward. The board is committed to making those changes."

Nine deans from the University submitted a letter to the Board of Curators on Wednesday, calling for his dismissal.

Several student groups have been critical of Loftin and his handling of racially-charged incidents on the University of Missouri campus.

In the meantime, Henry "Hank" Foley will serve as the interim chancellor.

Foley is the University of Missouri senior vice chancellor for research and graduate studies.

Foley also serves as the University of Missouri system's executive vice president for academic affairs, research and economic development.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

NOVEMBER 9, 2015

MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin to step down at end of this year

He will move to a role coordinating research on the campus

A letter sent by nine deans calls for Loftin's dismissal

Board of Curators announced a series of diversity measures on all four campuses
R. Bowen Loftin announced late Monday that he will step down at the end of this year as chancellor of the University of Missouri’s Columbia campus.

Loftin will move to a role coordinating research on the campus.

The announcement came hours after University of Missouri System president Tim Wolfe resigned.

Loftin’s departure followed a report in the Columbia Tribune that the deans of nine different MU departments have requested his dismissal.

The Tribune reported Monday afternoon that the deans sent a letter to the Board of Curators saying they wanted to express “our deep concern about the multitude of crises on our flagship campus.” The letter called for Loftin’s dismissal.

The nine deans met on Oct. 9 and on Oct. 13 met with Wolfe, Loftin and Provost Garnett Stokes to express their concerns, according to the letter.

“The issues we raised in those meetings have continued to deteriorate into a campus crisis that demands immediate and decisive action,” they wrote. “It is the Chancellor’s responsibility as the Chief Executive Officer of the campus to effectively address these campus issues.”

Loftin, the former president of Texas A&M University, has been chancellor at MU since February 2014.

The letter is signed by Daniel Clay, dean of the College of Education; Kristofer Hagglund, dean of the School of Health Professions; David Kurpius, dean of the School of Journalism; Judith Miller, dean of the Sinclair School of Nursing; Gary Myers, dean of the School of Law; Neil Olson, dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine; Michael O’Brien, dean of the College of Arts and Science; Thomas Payne, dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; and Barton Wechsler, dean of the Truman School of Public Affairs.

The deans said Loftin has shown failed leadership through a number of instances, including the elimination and eventual reinstatement of graduate assistant health insurance and the elimination of the vice chancellor for health sciences position. The deans claim Loftin created a “toxic environment through threat, fear and intimidation.”

The letters come less than a week after Department of English faculty members set a letter to Wolfe and the Curators with a similar vote of no confidence in Loftin. The English faculty
cast 26 votes of no confidence, zero votes of confidence and two abstentions. The English Department was the first to publicly call for Loftin’s dismissal.

Sam Cohen, an associate professor with the English Department, said the faculty members hoped their letter would encourage other departments to voice their opinions.

**DIVERSITY INITIATIVES**

The Board of Curators announced a series of measures to be implemented over the next 90 days to address the racial climate on all four campuses. Among the steps:

- The appointment of a Chief Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Officer.
- A full review of policies relating to staff and student conduct.
- Additional support for students, faculty and staff who have experienced “discrimination and disparate treatment.”
- Additional support will be provided for the hiring and retention of a diverse faculty and staff.

**Deans, faculty members call for Loftin's dismissal**

By THE TRIBUNE’S STAFF

Monday, November 9, 2015 at 2:40 pm

The same day University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe announced his resignation, the deans of nine different MU colleges requested the dismissal of Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

In a letter sent Monday to Wolfe and the UM Board of Curators, the deans said they wanted to express "our deep concern about the multitude of crises on our flagship campus" and call for Loftin’s dismissal.
The nine deans met with Wolfe on Oct. 9 and on Oct. 13 met with Wolfe, Loftin and Provost Garnett Stokes to express their concerns, according to the letter.

"The issues we raised in those meetings have continued to deteriorate into a campus crisis that demands immediate and decisive action," they wrote. "It is the Chancellor’s responsibility as the Chief Executive Officer of the campus to effectively address these campus issues."

Loftin, the former president of Texas A&M University, has been chancellor at MU since February 2014.

The letter is signed by Daniel Clay, dean of the College of Education; Kristofer Hagglund, dean of the School of Health Professions; David Kurpius, dean of the School of Journalism; Judith Miller, dean of the Sinclair School of Nursing; Gary Myers, dean of the School of Law; Neil Olson, dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine; Michael O’Brien, dean of the College of Arts and Science; Thomas Payne, dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; and Barton Wechsler, dean of the Truman School of Public Affairs.

The deans said Loftin has shown failed leadership through a number of instances, including the elimination and eventual reinstatement of graduate assistant health insurance and the elimination of the vice chancellor for health sciences position. The deans claim Loftin created a "toxic environment through threat, fear and intimidation."

"It is imperative to take immediate action to begin the process of resolving the issues and improving the environment," they wrote.

On Sunday, faculty members of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures sent a letter to the Curators saying they had no confidence in Loftin's leadership. The letter said 28 faculty members in the department expressed no confidence in Loftin; two abstained from the vote.

The faculty members said Loftin's leadership has created a "climate of mistrust, miscommunication, chaos, despair, and anger."

"The demoralizing campus climate under his lack of leadership is no longer conducive to our fundamental duties of teaching, research and service," the letter said. "We believe that the only way out of this impasse is to find a new Chancellor who … will find the resources needed to increase rather than dismantle the excellence of our institution."

The letters come less than a week after faculty members of the Department of English sent a letter to Wolfe and the Curators with a similar vote of no confidence in Loftin. The English faculty cast 26 votes of no confidence, zero votes of confidence and two abstentions. The English Department was the first to publicly call for Loftin's dismissal.

Sam Cohen, an associate professor with the English Department, said the faculty members hoped their letter would encourage other departments to voice their opinions.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Loftin resigns as MU chancellor, effective at the end of the year

RUTH SERVEN, EMMA VANDELINDER

COLUMBIA — MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said Monday afternoon that he will leave his job at the end of the year and move to a role coordinating research at MU.

The announcement came just 6 1/2 hours after UM System President Tim Wolfe resigned his position.

Twenty months into his time as the leader of the university's flagship campus in Columbia, Loftin faced criticism for how he handled racism on campus, severed relations with Planned Parenthood, the loss of benefits for graduate students and the sudden resignation of the dean of the School of Medicine.

Last week the English Department made a vote of no confidence in Loftin's leadership. On Monday, nine deans signed a letter to the UM Board of Curators and to Wolfe saying Loftin had created a "toxic environment through threat, fear and intimidation." The faculty of the Department of Romance Languages and Literature also took a vote of no-confidence in Loftin.

Loftin will become director for research facility development and will lead MU’s efforts to construct and renovate facilities to meet the university’s research needs.

UM System News said in a release during a curators' press conference that Hank Foley, MU senior vice chancellor for research and graduate studies, would become interim chancellor for the MU campus.

An interim system president will be announced as soon as possible, the release said.

Curator Donald Cupps said he was disheartened by events leading to Wolfe's resignation and to Loftin's removal as chancellor.
"As a board, we have taken an oath to maintain the standard of excellence and source of pride that the University of Missouri is for all Missourians. We are committed to keeping the institution and our state moving forward," Cupps said. "It saddens me that some who have attended our university have ever felt fear, being unwelcome or have experienced racism."

At the news conference, Cupps said "some of our students, and some of our employees, we may have failed, and for that we apologize. And we have resolved that we will attempt to do better, but it will take a lot of work."

The curators outlined several steps the UM System and MU campus will take to address complaints about the racial climate on its campuses over the next three months. They said in the news release they will:

- Appoint for the first time a chief diversity, inclusion and equity officer for the four-campus system.
- Conduct a full review of all UM System policies related to staff and student conduct.
- Provide additional support for students, faculty and staff who have experienced discrimination and for the hiring and retention of diverse faculty and staff.
- Create a diversity, inclusion and equity task force to develop both a short- and long-term strategies for diversity and inclusion.
- Ensure that each campus has a chief diversity, inclusion and equity officer reporting to its chancellor.
- Launch a leadership training and development education program that will include the curators, the president and other administrators, followed by faculty and staff.

Specifically at MU, the curators called for:

- A search for consultants to conduct a comprehensive assessment of diversity and inclusion efforts.
- Mandatory diversity, inclusion and equity training for all faculty, staff and future students.
- Continue a comprehensive review of student mental health services to ensure students get appropriate help.
Charles Presberg, chair of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, explained why 28 of its 30 faculty members voted no confidence in Loftin, saying they were "probably more interested in the resignation of the chancellor, than of the president. ... The general consensus is he is the one that is even more responsible for a lot of the chaos and disorder that has occurred on campus."

Presberg said the department's complaints don't come solely from the recent racism issues on campus. Faculty is upset about Loftin’s lack of communication and failure to explain his decisions, Presberg said.

**Foley's credentials and comments**

Foley was appointed to position of MU senior vice chancellor of research and graduate studies in March 2014. He was formerly the executive vice president for academic affairs, research and economic development with the UM System. He is also a professor of chemical engineering at MU.

Foley oversees compliance operations, internal grants and programs, technology management, industry relations as well as the MU Research Reactor, the Christopher S. Bond Life Sciences Center and other campus centers, according to the UM System website.

Foley was in and out of the Old Alumni Center throughout Monday as the curators met behind closed doors for six hours in the Fireplace Room. He also attended the curators' news conference.

He said he was happy that Concerned Student 1950 leader Jonathan Butler had ended his hunger strike, that he was pleased the curators entrusted him to become interim chancellor and that he believes Monday's events will lead to significant change.

"You've heard some things today that were outlined and were substantive and that make sense, that we can start to move forward on very quickly, that are concrete, and not just talk, and to get beyond the listening stage to actually implementing change."

Foley said he is looking forward to working solely on the MU campus.
"It's a difficult time and a turbulent time, there's no doubt about that," he said. "I don't want to minimize or in any way dismiss the challenges we have ahead of us, but I love the campus, I love the school, the students are wonderful."

Foley said he believes in "institutional autonomy, academic freedom and in shared governance. I think it is important to reach out to leaders" such as "the provost, the deans and vice chancellors, the Faculty Council and both the undergraduate and graduate student leaders."

Faculty reaction

Ben Trachtenberg, associate professor of law and chair of the MU Faculty Council, said he had a good working relationship with Loftin.

"If he decided that it made sense for him to transition to a different job, then he made the right decision," Trachtenberg said, adding that it will be important to get buy-in from faculty, students and other groups when selecting successors to Loftin and Wolfe.

Nicole Monnier, director of undergraduate studies for the German and Russian Studies, said faculty understood that Loftin's "days were numbered."

"None of us expected to lose a system president and a chancellor in one day," she said.

Monnier said she talked to students Monday who were confused or angry. She said she found solace from Jim Spain, vice provost for undergraduate studies, who reminded her that MU has been standing since 1839.

"So many things have happened so quickly," Monnier said. "From the graduate insurance, to Planned Parenthood to the recent protests on campus: Too many people were upset about too many things for" Loftin "to be effective in his role."

Monnier said it will be important for new leaders to articulate a clear mission and to involve faculty, students and staff in defining it.
"I had a student say to me today that he was ashamed of Mizzou," Monnier said. "I don’t want our students to be ashamed of us as an institution. I hope we have someone who can bring back a sense of pride in who we are."

Loftin announces resignation effective Jan. 1

Loftin’s announcement comes hours after former UM System President Tim Wolfe’s resignation.

**Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced his resignation, effective Jan. 1, at a meeting with the UM System Board of Curators on Monday, Nov. 9.**

Loftin will be the director for research facility development. He said he will work with different areas of the university to advance research and “assist the campus community.”

“It has been my pleasure to serve as chancellor of this great institution,” Loftin said in a statement. “I hope that every member of our campus community will embrace each person’s right to express their opinions in a respectful manner and to make progress toward our common goal of an inclusive campus that values the contributions of all individuals.”

Earlier Monday, nine deans called for Loftin's resignation in an open letter to the curators, according to Columbia Tribune reporting.

UM System President Tim Wolfe resigned Monday morning after mounting pressure from students, faculty members and campus organizations.

Graduate student Jonathan Butler, one of the founding members of the social justice group Concerned Student 1950, began a week-long hunger strike Nov. 2 seeking Wolfe’s resignation.

Social justice groups such as Racism Lives Here and the Student Coalition for Critical Action have staged several protests directed toward administration since the beginning of the semester. On-campus activism touched officials from UM System on Oct. 11. Concerned Student 1950, a student advocacy movement, when the group held a protest during the homecoming parade, blocking Tim Wolfe’s car.

Loftin became MU’s chancellor Feb. 1, 2014, after Brady Deaton stepped down from the position in November 2013. His tenure began with a series of controversies from which he never truly recovered.

At the time, Loftin said he expected to enjoy a lengthy tenure.

“I wouldn’t have even dreamed of coming here without a long-term commitment,” he said.

Loftin’s time as chancellor
Just three weeks into Loftin’s time as chancellor, an upper balcony collapsed at the MU-owned University Village apartments, causing the building to be evacuated. One Columbia firefighter, Lt. Bruce Britt, died responding to the incident. The complex was demolished in July 2014.

After a report in April 2014 found that MU failed to properly handle former swimmer Sasha Menu Courey’s sexual assault case, Loftin pledged to improve MU’s sexual assault procedures. Menu Courey committed suicide in June 2011, 15 months after the assault was reported. Loftin later created a full-time Title IX coordinator position, which was filled by Ellen Eardley in April 2015.

Racial tensions on campus have escalated since the killing of Michael Brown by police officer Darren Wilson in August 2014. Several protests from student group MU4MikeBrown and others focused on racism on campus. At race relations forums held on campus, Loftin and other administrators were called out for their lack of action.

Graduate students protested in August 2015 after MU announced that they would lose their university-sponsored healthcare. In a Faculty Council meeting the following week, Associate Vice Chancellor for Graduate Studies Leona Rubin revealed that administrators hadn’t reviewed graduate satisfaction data in 12 years.

Loftin was criticized for his slow response to Missouri Students Association President Payton Head’s Facebook post Sept. 11 detailing an instance of racism on campus. He released a statement Sept. 17 condemning discrimination on campus.

A few weeks later, members of the Legion of Black Collegians’ Homecoming royalty court were harassed on Traditions Plaza while rehearsing a skit Oct. 5. Loftin responded the next day with a statement and video. On Oct. 8, he announced the development of a mandatory campus-wide diversity and inclusion training for incoming students.

University of Missouri Protests Spur a Day of Change

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Months of student and faculty protests over racial tensions and other issues that all but paralyzed the University of Missouri campus culminated Monday in an extraordinary coup for the demonstrators, as the president of the university system resigned and the chancellor of the flagship campus here said he would step down to a less prominent role at the end of the year.

The threat of a boycott by the Missouri football team dealt the highest-profile blow to the president, Timothy M. Wolfe, and the chancellor, R. Bowen Loftin, but anger at the
administration had been growing since August, when the university said it would stop paying for health insurance for graduate teaching and research assistants.

It reversed course, but not before the graduate assistants held demonstrations, threatened a walkout, took the first steps toward forming a union and joined forces with students demonstrating against racism.

Then the university came under fire from Republicans for ties its medical schools and medical center had to Planned Parenthood. The university severed those ties, drawing criticism from Democrats that it had caved in to political pressure.

But it was charges of persistent racism, particularly complaints of racial epithets hurled at the student body president, who is black, that sparked the strongest reactions, along with complaints that the administration did not take the problem seriously enough.

Gov. Jay Nixon, a Democrat, said, “Tim Wolfe’s resignation was a necessary step toward healing and reconciliation on the University of Missouri campus, and I appreciate his decision to do so.”

Many of the students and faculty members who took part in demonstrations had also been inspired by the protest movement sparked last year in Ferguson, a suburb of St. Louis, after a white police officer there killed Michael Brown, an unarmed black man, and they were experienced at using social media in organizing. They saw themselves as part of a continuum of activism linking Ferguson, other deaths at the hands of police, protests on campuses around the country and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Mr. Wolfe, 57, was hired in 2012 from the corporate world, an outsider brought in to cut costs in the four-campus system. That was no recipe for popularity, but the last three months left him particularly isolated. He announced his resignation just before a meeting of the university’s governing body, the Board of Curators, amid speculation that it might try to oust him.

Mr. Wolfe said he took responsibility for the anger and frustration on campus, asserting that conversations with community leaders, students, faculty, donors and others led him to his decision, more than just the football players’ threatened boycott.

“What was starting to become clear was the frustration and anger was evident, and it was something that needed to be done that was immediate and substantial for us to heal,” Mr. Wolfe said at a news conference.

As the two resignations were announced, the Board of Curators unveiled a slate of new initiatives to address racial tensions on campus, including hiring a diversity, inclusion and equity officer for the entire University of Missouri system. The university will also provide additional support to students, faculty and staff members who experience discrimination; create a task force to create plans for improving diversity and inclusion; and require diversity and inclusion training for all faculty, staff members and incoming students.
Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary, praised the protests as showing “that a few people speaking up and speaking out can have a profound impact.”

Officials said Mr. Loftin would remain at the university in a research role.

Opposition to the administration reached a peak in the last week. A graduate student, Jonathan Butler, who was a veteran of the Ferguson protests, held a highly publicized hunger strike, saying he would not eat again until Mr. Wolfe was gone. Protesters formed an encampment on campus. A coalition of Jewish groups told Mr. Loftin that they were “dismayed” by his lack of action after a swastika was drawn on a dormitory wall. Deans of nine of its schools called for Mr. Loftin’s removal.

On Monday morning, the student government demanded Mr. Wolfe’s ouster, and much of the faculty sent word to students that classes were canceled for two days, in favor of a teach-in focused on race relations.

But it was the football team that may have dealt the fatal blow to the university’s leaders, when players announced on Saturday that they would refuse to play as long as the president remained in office, and their head coach, Gary Pinkel, said he supported them. The prospect of a strike by a team in the country’s most dominant college football league, the Southeastern Conference, drew national attention, and officials said that just forfeiting the team’s game Saturday against Brigham Young University in Kansas City, Mo., would cost the university $1 million.

“That got the attention of the alumni and the board, along with a substantial penalty they would have been facing,” said Representative William Lacy Clay, a Democrat who represents part of the St. Louis area. “That would have been a disaster for their recruiting of black athletes and of black students to the university.”

Mr. Pinkel said the main concern of the players was Mr. Butler. “My players deeply cared about this guy, and he was dying,” he said.

Though most players declined to speak Monday, a team captain, Ian Simon, said in a statement that the players “just wanted to use our platform to take a stance for a fellow concerned student on an issue.” He added, “We love the game, but in end of the day, it is just that; a game.”

Thousands of students and faculty members gathered Monday morning at the heart of the campus. At word of Mr. Wolfe’s resignation, some cheered, others hugged and cried, a few danced, and Mr. Butler said he would eat for the first time in a week.

The Board of Curators has the power to hire and fire top administrators, and the curators are appointed by the governor. But Donald L. Cupps, a member of the board, said Mr. Wolfe was not asked to leave, and resigned out of concern for the university. “We have a national image to protect and enhance,” he said.

Not everyone was pleased with the resignations. W. Dudley McCarter, a former president of the university’s alumni group, said alumni, in calls and emails on Monday, had expressed
disappointment in Mr. Wolfe’s decision. “They feel like he was backed into a corner and was made a scapegoat for things he didn’t do,” Mr. McCarter said.

A series of racist incidents in the last few months spurred calls for change. Protesters said that the president at first did not take their complaints seriously, and that his later responses were not strong enough or swift enough.

The president of the Missouri Students Association, Payton Head, who is black, touched off the intense discussion of race in September when he posted on Facebook that a group of men had yelled racial slurs at him, and said it was not the first time he had suffered that kind of abuse at the university. His post was shared thousands of times, and drew widespread coverage.

In early October, the Legion of Black Collegians, a student group, was rehearsing a homecoming event when a white man walked onto its stage and used racial epithets. When activists tried to confront Mr. Wolfe days later at the homecoming parade, he avoided them.

Later that month, the swastika was found, scrawled on a wall in feces. An activist group, Concerned Student 1950 — a reference to the year the university enrolled its first black student — was formed to demand that the administration address what it said was pervasive racism.

Representative Clay, who is black, said he spoke with Mr. Wolfe on Saturday about black students’ concerns and the health of Mr. Butler. Even at that late date, the president was “kind of oblivious to the fact that he was at the center of this,” Mr. Clay said.

Mr. Wolfe said on Sunday that “a systemwide diversity and inclusion strategy” that addressed student concerns would be unveiled in April. But that drew angry reactions from protesters as being too little, too late.

The controversies drew the attention of major donors; some feared damage to the university’s standing and fund-raising.

“I think Tim Wolfe is a very competent leader, but there are three things in crisis management that you have to do: Be abundantly honest, you have to work quickly, and you have to control the message,” said Don Walsworth, whose family has given the university millions of dollars.

“Unfortunately, I don’t think the university did that.”

After the announcement of Mr. Wolfe’s resignation, Mr. Butler told a cheering crowd that the graduate students’ protests and the push against racism were part of a larger cause, and cited the months of protests, email campaigns and other actions calling for change on campus.

“It should not have taken this much, and it is disgusting and vile that we find ourselves in the place that we do,” he said.

State officials said that behind the scenes, there had been growing dissension among university leaders, and that Mr. Wolfe had wanted the Board of Curators to fire Mr. Loftin, who became chancellor last year.
Michael A. Middleton, a deputy chancellor emeritus who was the university’s first black law professor, had been involved in talks between the administration and protesters over policy changes. Some on campus said Mr. Wolfe was seen as stiff and aloof, and Mr. Middleton said a confrontation between the president and students on Friday outside a fund-raising event in Kansas City dealt a blow to those talks. Still, as recently as Sunday night, Mr. Middleton said, Mr. Wolfe seemed determined to stay on.

Mr. Wolfe moved to Columbia as a fourth-grade student, attended high school here — he was the quarterback of its state championship football team — and earned an undergraduate degree from Missouri, where his father was a communications professor. He spent decades working at IBM, and later was a senior executive at Novell.

He stepped into controversy almost as soon as he returned to the university three years ago, withdrawing financial support from the University of Missouri Press, then reversing course under fire. But last year, when the Board of Curators voted to extend his contract to 2018, the move was not controversial, said Don M. Downing, who was then the board chairman.

“President Wolfe has thoughtfully transformed our strategic planning process in a way that focuses our limited resources on priorities while reducing or eliminating waste and redundancies,” said Mr. Downing, a former chief deputy attorney general of Missouri, who no longer sits on the board. But given recent events, he said, Mr. Wolfe’s position was probably untenable, adding, “It’s a sad day.”

But many students were jubilant. “It was surreal — I don’t even know if I’ve had enough time to fully process it,” Reuben Faloughi said. “I’m happy my friend Jonathan survived, and I’m happy Tim Wolfe is no longer in charge of the U.M. System.”

---

Thrust Into a National Debate on Race, 2 Missouri Chiefs Resign

By Jack Stripling

NOVEMBER 10, 2015

Outrage over racial inequity at the University of Missouri came to a head on Monday, as the two most powerful men at the institution resigned under pressure from students, professors, deans, and football players threatening to boycott games.

Timothy M. Wolfe’s surrender from the system presidency marked a turning point in a long-simmering student-led protest movement, which has linked the shooting of an unarmed black man in Ferguson,
Mo., in 2014 with broader racial tensions at the university. Hours after Mr. Wolfe resigned, R. Bowen Loftin announced that he, too, would step down at year’s end as chancellor of the flagship campus, in Columbia.

The exodus in Missouri’s administration constituted a rare capitulation to student activism, often respected in higher education but seldom the catalyst for turnover at the top. But the two men, who are both white, were pulled into a broader national narrative, accused of complacency in the face of mounting concerns about numerous racially charged incidents at the flagship.

The groundwork for student activism there was laid during the unrest in Ferguson, a St. Louis suburb about 100 miles away, after a white police officer shot and killed Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager. (The officer was not indicted.) For students, the incident brought to the fore longstanding concerns about racism on the campus, which they described as hostile to minorities.

"Our students, very bright, very thoughtful, started bringing our attention to that here," said Stephanie Shonekan, an associate professor and chair of the department of black studies. "Many of them are from St. Louis, and they felt no one was listening still."

Tensions escalated this fall. In September, Payton Head, president of the Missouri Students Association, said that passengers in a pickup truck had shouted racial epithets at him. Last month a swastika drawn in feces was found on a dormitory bathroom wall.

Troubling as the incidents were, students said they were especially disappointed with what they saw as Mr. Wolfe’s lack of interest in their grievances.

In a fateful encounter with protesters at a homecoming parade in October, members of Concerned Student 1950, a group named for the year the university admitted its first black student, surrounded Mr. Wolfe’s car. The police dispersed the students, and Mr. Wolfe did not come out of his car to address them, which he later acknowledged fed perceptions that he did not care about their issues.

**Strike and Boycott**

At the center of the protest movement was a hunger strike by Jonathan Butler, a graduate student who said he was prepared to die if the president did not step down. Mr. Butler’s commitment to the cause inspired a boycott by members of the Tigers football team, instantly making Missouri’s crisis the subject of national news and shedding light on longstanding frustrations with the paucity of minority students, faculty members, and top administrators at many colleges and universities.

With a threat to boycott Saturday’s game against Brigham Young University, the Missouri football players applied a level of financial leverage to the protest movement unavailable to their fellow students. Forfeiting the game reportedly would have cost Missouri $1 million.

"The economic threat attached to the possibility of a boycotted football season was, for me, the only thing that brought about this resignation," said Frank Leon Roberts, a lecturer at New York University who offers a course this semester titled "Black Lives Matter: Race, Resistance, and Populist Protest."

"We could say it was the result of other pressures, but it was an economic threat," he said.
The football team’s action amounted to a work stoppage, thereby linking Missouri’s ensuing drama with the continuing legal arguments about whether such athletes should be entitled to unionize or receive compensation.

To some observers, the resignations demonstrated that athletes have outsize collective power, even absent formal bargaining rights. John Paul (Sonny) Vaccaro, a retired Adidas and Nike executive, described the events at Missouri as watershed. "This is what I’ve believed could happen for 30 years and what I think is the deepest fear for the NCAA — athletes control what happens on campus," Mr. Vaccaro told Yahoo Sports. "This is an unbelievable step forward for athletes."

The events at Missouri are evidence that the heightened national dialogue about race will increasingly pull in higher education, said Chad L. Williams, an associate professor of African and African-American studies at Brandeis University.

"College campuses see themselves as existing within a bubble, worlds unto themselves," said Mr. Williams, who has incorporated recent racially charged events into his teaching. "But you cannot divorce the issues that take place on college and university campuses from the broader context."

For too long, he said, college leaders have used "diversity" as a "buzzword" rather than acknowledging that a lack of minority representation makes students and employees of color feel marginalized or threatened. It remains to be seen whether Missouri will use this difficult moment to examine those issues seriously, Mr. Williams said.

"If this was the case of the president falling on the sword, trying to mitigate the crisis in the short term, that’s ultimately going to be insufficient," he said. "They need to address this as a systemic issue with a long history."

**Complaints About the Chancellor**

Concerns about Mr. Loftin’s leadership expanded beyond his handling of race-related issues. Citing changes in federal health-care laws, the Columbia campus announced in August that it would cut health-care subsidies for graduate students. Amid protest, that move was delayed. Throughout the chancellor’s tenure, he was criticized as slow to act and for insufficiently consulting students and faculty members.

"There were definitely some complaints that the administration sometimes shot from the hip, and therefore they occasionally had to backtrack," said Ben Trachtenberg, chairman of the Missouri Faculty Council on University Policy.

Even as students turned their attention to Mr. Wolfe, who had become the designated lightning rod for racial unrest, administrators on the Columbia campus were working to have Mr. Loftin removed. On Monday the campus’s nine sitting deans wrote to the system’s Board of Curators, the governing board, calling for the "immediate dismissal" of the chancellor.

They cited "failed leadership" regarding graduate student health insurance, along with the "dismissal" of the dean of the medical school, whose resignation was announced in September after less than a year on the job. The deans accused Mr. Loftin of "creating a toxic environment through threat, fear, and intimidation."
Mr. Trachtenberg, an associate professor of law, said that high-profile calls for Mr. Wolfe's ouster — from students, including the football players, as well as state lawmakers — may have obscured the fact, for a few days at least, that a lot of people on the campus were just as unhappy with Mr. Loftin.

"Many of the people who had been seeking the ouster of the chancellor never wavered," he said.

Mr. Loftin, who will move to a new role as director for research-facility development, will be replaced as chancellor temporarily by Henry (Hank) C. Foley, senior vice chancellor for research and graduate studies. An interim system president will be announced as soon as possible, the board said on Monday.

Kristofferson R. Culmer, chairman of the Forum on Graduate Rights' steering committee and president of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students, said he hoped the new administration would be "more proactive, instead of reactive" on race issues. He noted that Mr. Wolfe, in stepping down, had pleaded with the campus to "use this resignation to heal, not to hate."

"What needs to happen is the willingness to have open dialogue," Mr. Culmer said. "That's something that can happen quickly. Students are intelligent enough to know that no one is going to snap their fingers and get rid of racism."

Jack Stripling covers college leadership, particularly presidents and governing boards. Follow him on Twitter @jackstripling, or email him at jack.stripling@chronicle.com.

Activists Oust Two Leaders
Amid escalating tensions, students protesting what they see as a culture of racism at the University of Missouri successfully oust the system's president and the flagship's chancellor.

November 10, 2015

By
Kellie Woodhouse

Tim Wolfe's undoing may have been the moment he refused to step out of his car during the University of Missouri homecoming parade last month.

Wolfe resigned Monday, after student and faculty activists had been asking his administration for weeks to combat racism on the flagship Columbia campus. Protesters
say they were ignored and that, when they finally did meet with the system leader, he minimized their concerns.

The system's governing board on Monday also **announced** that R. Bowen Loftin, chancellor of the Columbia flagship campus, would step down in January. In addition, the board promised a number of initiatives aimed at promoting diversity and inclusion. Perhaps the most visible moment of disconnect between the students and their leaders came at the Oct. 10 homecoming parade, when a group of black students, members of the organization Concerned Student 1950, confronted Wolfe while the president sat in the backseat of a convertible during the procession. Wolfe refused to get out of the car and engage students, and some students claim the car struck them, although the university disputes those claims.

Unrest has continued to snowball since the incident, and critics say his response was too delayed. Wolfe met with student activists two weeks later, but the two sides apparently **did not** find much common ground. And when he did apologize, it was nearly a month after the parade.

Meanwhile, after the parade and other allegations of racist incidents at the flagship campus in Columbia, a graduate student went on a hunger strike and a group of black players on the football team -- with their coach expressing support on Twitter -- vowed to boycott games until the president resigned.

Over the weekend students camped out on campus and said they would remain there until Wolfe resigned. Several others, from two Republican lawmakers to the state's governor to graduate student groups, also called for Wolfe's resignation. On Monday, the university's student government **formally called** for Wolfe's resignation, and faculty members encouraged students to walk out of classes in protest of Wolfe's leadership. So on Monday morning, at the start of a last-minute governing board meeting, Wolfe acquiesced to the calls to resign.

"The frustration and anger that I see is clear, real, and I don't doubt it for a second," Wolfe said Monday in an at times emotional address to the university. "We stopped listening to each other, we didn't respond and react, we got frustrated with each other."

'L**anguage Matters**'

Calls for dismissal are not isolated to just Wolfe. On Monday, in a **letter** sent to the UM Board of Curators, nine Missouri deans said they wanted to express "our deep concern about the multitude of crises on our flagship campus." They called for Loftin's dismissal. “This thing just exploded,” said E. Gordon Gee, president of West Virginia University and former president of Ohio State University. Gee and several leaders in higher education interviewed for this article said it is extremely rare for a president of a large university system to be forced to resign amid a fervor of student activism.

“The university leadership didn’t respond quickly and forcefully to the issues ... they tended to be perhaps too passive,” Gee continued. “Any of these kinds of issues, people look to the leadership of the university to address them.”
Indeed, Wolfe and system administrators have been faulted with failing to react in a timely manner to student concerns.

“He has not only enabled a culture of racism since the start of his tenure in 2012, but blatantly ignored and disrespected the concerns of students. The University of Missouri System has heard student pleas behind closed doors with no effective response,” the student government wrote in a letter to Missouri’s governing board. “While we recognize the burden of systematic oppression does not fall entirely on his shoulders, as the leader of this system it his sole prerogative to listen and respond to students. He has failed in this completely.”

When the student government president, who is black, tweeted about how someone called him a racial slur while walking on campus, there was an outpouring of support on Twitter. Yet there was also an outpouring of frustration with the Missouri administration for not responding or reacting to the student’s experience.

Then a student group, the Legion of Black Collegians, posted about how some of its members were also called racial slurs while rehearsing for a campus event. Loftin posted a video acknowledging and condemning racism on campus, but Wolfe and fellow system administrators remained silent.

For many frustrated students, the silence was reminiscent of a lack of timely and clear responses to student demands for more minority enrollment, and of the perceived silence following student frustrations after the shooting of unarmed black teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., made headlines and placed Missouri at the center of a national conversation about race.

“If you’re in a leadership position, a presidential position, language matters. How you respond matters. The message you send matters. Students in this community wanted to feel that they were heard and the concerns they had were legitimate, and unfortunately they didn’t get that,” said Kevin Kruger, president of NASPA: Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education.

“Campuses have to respond proactively to incidents related to racial intolerance,” he said. “In today's world you can't assume that small acts of protests are isolated.” On Monday, the system governing board's chairman, Donald Cupps, issued a forthright apology for the university’s perceived inattention to the concerns expressed by students and others about the racism they perceive at the institution. “Significant changes are required to move us forward. The board is committed to making those changes,” he said.

The board promised to appoint a diversity officer for the system and review student and staff conduct policies, as well as provide additional support for hiring and retaining minorities and assisting students who have experienced discrimination. The board did not make any promises to increase the number of black students enrolled in the system, as has been requested by some protesters.

In many ways, the events at Missouri show how social media has changed the nature of student activism. Graduate student Jonathan Butler's hunger strike had a larger impact than it would have several years earlier, because Butler had a platform like Twitter to
share his protest with thousands of supporters. Social media has also shortened the
time span in which a university is expected to respond, Kruger said.

And the fact that much of the football team joined the protests, boycotting practices
and games until Wolfe resigned, further escalated activism on campus and in part
precipitated Wolfe’s resignation.

Minority students have been rallying at campuses around the country in recent years,
often seeking to increase minority enrollment and to combat racism. Black student
organizations at the University of Michigan and Harvard University, for example,
launched yearslong social media campaigns, on-campus rallies and sit-ins in an effort to
encourage more progressive enrollment policies. Yet in those cases, administrators and
students eventually worked together and found common ground.

Until this week at Missouri, no campus had seen unrest intensify to the point where the
university’s major athletic team joined the protests. In Missouri constituencies that are
often disconnected -- everyone from faculty to graduate groups to lawmakers to
student athletes -- have been united in seeking what they say is a better response to
racism on campus. John Lombardi, former president of the Louisiana State University
system and the University of Florida, said the football team’s participation in the
protests elevated the visibility of tensions at Missouri.

“The unique feature of this particular case is the mobilization of students who command
a high-visibility platform within and without the university,” he wrote in an email.
“These are not the only students mobilized in this case, but they provided a visibility
that greatly enhanced the issues raised by other student constituencies, and so this
protest gained momentum and political power.”

Benjamin D. Reese Jr., president of the National Association of Diversity Officers in
Higher Education, said tensions had escalated to such a crescendo at Missouri it was
untenable for Wolfe to remain the system’s leader.

“What might that imply about the very culture of a university?” he asked. “We don’t
have two or three students in protest. We have a wide cross section of students. We
have faculty.”

Added Kruger: “It’s probably the best thing for the institution moving forward to have a
fresh approach with students on the campus. To try to recalibrate their approach.”
University of Missouri president and chancellor step down amid race row


Just hours after the president of the University of Missouri system resigned on Monday, the chancellor of the university announced he also was stepping down amid a controversy over race.

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin told reporters that he would transition to a new role advancing research, starting January 1.

Loftin praised the efforts of graduate student Jonathan Butler, who ended his hunger strike earlier in the day. Butler had stopped eating last week, demanding the removal of university system President Tim Wolfe.

"I want to acknowledge his extraordinary courage and leadership," Loftin said about Butler. "A very tough, tough young man, a very focused young man, a very intelligent and forward-looking young man, so we owe him a lot."

African-American students at Missouri have complained of inaction on the part of school leaders in dealing with racism on the overwhelmingly white Columbia campus. Black student leaders have conveyed their displeasure over students openly using racial slurs and other incidents.

Several University of Missouri organizations, including the football team and the student association, had called for Wolfe to step down.

Until Monday, he had presided over the university system, which includes the main University of Missouri campus in Columbia, along with the University of Missouri-St. Louis, University of Missouri-Kansas City and Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Saying he takes "full responsibility for the inaction that has occurred," Wolfe asked that the university community listen to each other's problems and "stop intimidating each other."
"This is not -- I repeat, not -- the way change should come about. Change comes from listening, learning, caring and conversation," he said. "Use my resignation to heal and start talking again."

His decision, he said, "came out of love, not hate," and he urged the university to "focus on what we can change" in the future, not what's happened in the past.

Students, faculty and staff converged on the Carnahan Quad following Wolfe's announcement. There, they linked arms and swayed side to side, singing, "We Shall Overcome."

Wolfe's resignation came after football players, both black and white, threatened -- with their coach's support -- not to practice or play again until Butler ended his strike.

The student activist tweeted that he had ended his hunger strike and said, "More change is to come!! #TheStruggleContinues."

He told CNN his reaction to Wolfe's resignation was "just wow," and he was crying because the moment meant so much to him. His fight was not solely against racism, but against sexism and homophobia as well. He fought, he said, because so many others fought for equality before him.

"I was just so overwhelmed about what this truly means ... that students who want to go to college and get an education can now have a fighting chance at having a fair education on a campus that is safe and inclusive," he said. "I wish you guys could be on campus to see the love that is permeating among the students, staff and faculty."

Game on

A statement from Missouri athletic director Mack Rhoades and head football coach Gary Pinkel released after Wolfe's announcement said football activities would resume Tuesday. The two men addressed the media Monday afternoon.

"There's no playbook. There's no script for what all of us have been dealing with. And I think, certainly, it's been also a great learning experience for everyone involved," said Rhoades.

"As we move forward, it's paramount as a campus and a community that this not divide us, but rather bring us together to listen, to grow, to understand and to create positive change," the athletic director said.

If the Tigers had failed to take the field Saturday against the Brigham Young University Cougars at Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium, the home of the NFL's Chiefs, the team would have been forced to pay a cancellation fee of $1 million, according to a copy of the contract published in The Kansas City Star earlier this year.

"Our team's excited about getting going again and playing, and we're looking forward to our game against BYU this weekend," Pinkel told reporters, saying he got involved because he supports his players and because Butler's life was "on the line."
"My support of my players had nothing to do with anyone losing their job. With something like this, football became secondary," Pinkel said.

About 30 players made their thoughts known Saturday night in a tweet posted by Missouri’s Legion of Black Collegians.

"The athletes of color on the University of Missouri football team truly believe 'Injustice Anywhere is a threat to Justice Everywhere,' " read the tweet. "We will no longer participate in any football related activities until President Tim Wolfe resigns or is removed due to his negligence toward marginalized students' experience."

Though the protests garnered support from former Mizzou football players -- including former defensive tackle Lucas Vincent and Michael Sam, the first openly gay player to be drafted in the NFL -- at least one former player slammed the players for what he called "a pure lack of responsibility and ungratefulness."

"Playing football at the University of Missouri is a privilege, a privilege a lot (of) individuals would take from you, if you are willing to give it up," Luke Lambert, who played linebacker from 2007 to 2011, wrote on Facebook. "Are you truly following through with the message sent to the public or will you still collect the monthly scholarship check to enjoy that night out, eat in the free dining hall, earn the free degree and enjoy the free gear handed to you during your tenure at the University of Missouri?"

Complaints follow incidents

The protests drew support off the gridiron as well, with two graduate student groups calling for walkouts at the university on Monday and Tuesday in solidarity with protesters. A group of concerned faculty also offered its support, saying it would stand in solidarity with the students.

"Faculty will meet at the Carnahan Quadrangle starting at 10am and will be present throughout the day to respond to student questions in the form of a teach in. Students are encouraged to check email for information from their professors," said a statement distributed via social media.

The University of Missouri Faculty Council on University Policy issued a statement expressing "deep concern with regard to the lack of communication and the growing uncertainty about the leadership of the University of Missouri system and MU campus. This unresolved situation erodes our ability to perform faculty duties of teaching, research, and outreach."

In October, a person used feces to draw a swastika on a wall in one of the residence halls, and in the spring, there was a "similar use of anti-Semitic language and symbolism" at another residence hall, according to Residence Halls Association President Billy Donley, who said in a letter he was upset that most students were unaware of the incident.

In another recent incident, a group of African-American students complained that a school safety officer didn't aggressively pursue an apparently drunken white student who disrupted their gathering using a racial slur.
Payton Head, president of the Missouri Students Association, wrote an explicit Facebook post describing his own experiences on campus. White men in a passing pickup truck had hurled a racial epithet at him as he walked across campus in September, he said.

"I really just want to know why my simple existence is such a threat to society. For those of you who wonder why I'm always talking about the importance of inclusion and respect, it's because I've experienced moments like this multiple times at THIS university, making me not feel included here," he wrote.

He also relayed stories from friends, including a Muslim woman who had been called a terrorist and women who had been harassed on campus because their outfits were "asking for it."

"And if this post made you feel uncomfortable, GOOD! That means I'm doing my job. It's time to wake up Mizzou," he wrote, signing it, "Your Ni****/Fa**** Missouri Students Association President, Payton Head."

'Out students are being ignored'

Wolfe said Sunday that he was "dedicated to ongoing dialogue to address these very complex, societal issues," but the group organizing many of the protests, Concerned Student 1950, which derives its name from the year blacks were first admitted to Mizzou, had already made it clear that it felt the time for talk had passed.

"We are tired of dialogue! We want action," the group tweeted Friday.

At the school's homecoming parade last month, African-American students blocked Wolfe's car in a protest calling for greater action on the part of administrators.

Chancellor Loftin ordered mandatory sensitivity training for faculty and students, but black students said the gestures were insufficient and called for school officials to implement broader cultural sensitivity training, increase minority staffing and take other steps.

Monday, the Missouri Students Association tweeted a letter it had sent to the university system's Board of Curators demanding the resignation of Wolfe, who they said had "undeniably failed us and the students we represent."

"The academic careers of our students are suffering. The mental health of our campus is under constant attack. Our students are being ignored," the letter said. "Every student's ability to learn is now affected and threatened by the campus climate."

The letter came after several students confronted Wolfe on Friday, asking him if he could define systemic oppression. One person off camera mocked Wolfe, asking if he needed to Google it.

"I will give you an answer and I'm sure it will be a wrong answer," Wolfe replied before defining it as: "You don't believe you have equal opportunity for success --"
He was cut off as his answer drew howls of condemnation from the students, who seized on his use of "believe."

"Did you just blame us?" a woman asks him as he walks away. "Did you just blame black students?"

Following Wolfe's resignation, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon thanked the former businessman for stepping down, saying that his departure was "a necessary step toward healing and reconciliation."

"There is more work to do, and now the University of Missouri must move forward -- united by a commitment to excellence, and respect and tolerance for all," Nixon's statement said.

The University of Missouri's Columbia campus has a population of 35,000 students. The undergraduate student body is about 79% white, while African-Americans make up roughly 8% of undergraduates. The school's faculty is also more 70% white with black representation of just over 3%, according to the university.

CNN's Michael Pearson, Mariano Castillo, Joe Sutton and Polo Sandoval contributed to this report.

University of Missouri President Tim Wolfe Resigns and Chancellor Steps Aside Amid Protests


The University of Missouri's president, Tim Wolfe, and chancellor have stepped aside amid protests over alleged racial injustice on campus, capping a round of protests, including a hunger strike, aimed at shedding light on the school's inaction.

The moves came as the school's Board of Curators announced a series of changes, including a Chief Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Officer; a full review of university policies as they relate to staff and student conduct; a campus-based task force to develop diversity, inclusion and equity strategies; and mandatory diversity, inclusion and equity training for all faculty, staff and future incoming students.
They also came after members of the school's football team got involved in the cause, saying that members of color wouldn't play until Wolfe was removed.

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said this afternoon he will be transitioning to another position in the university to assist in the school’s research facility. Hank Foley, MU senior vice chancellor for research and graduate studies was named interim chancellor for the MU campus. An interim system president was not yet announced.

This change in leadership and policy was sparked after the ConcernedStudent1950 protest organization released a list of demands last month, that included Wolfe's removal, over the way the university handles racial harassment.

Wolfe resigned this morning at a Board of Curators meeting at the Columbia, Missouri, campus, saying he takes "full responsibility for inaction that has occurred."

"My motivation in making this decision comes from love," he said. "I love M.U. Columbia, where I grew up, and state of Missouri. I have thought and prayed about this decision. It's the right thing to do."

"Why did we get to this very difficult situation?" Wolfe asked this morning. "It is my belief we stopped listening to each other. We didn't respond or react.

"I take full responsibility for this frustration and I take full responsibility for inaction that has occurred," Wolfe said.

As president of the University of Missouri system, Wolfe oversaw four campuses: Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla and St. Louis.

Gov. Jay Nixon said he appreciated Wolfe’s decision to resign, calling it a “necessary step toward healing and reconciliation on the University of Missouri campus.”

“There is more work to do, and now the University of Missouri must move forward – united by a commitment to excellence, and respect and tolerance for all,” Nixon said.

Wolfe's resignation brought an end to black graduate student Jonathan Butler's week-long hunger strike.

Besides Wolfe's removal, the ConcernedStudent1950 group's list of demands asked for several other changes, including a comprehensive racial awareness and inclusion curriculum and an increase in black faculty and staff.

Missouri running back Russell Hansbrough tweeted Saturday night that the athletes of color on the football team would "no longer participate in any football related activities until President Tim Wolfe resigns or is removed due to his negligence toward marginalized students' experiences." The team's head coach, Gary Pinkel, then tweeted a photo Sunday of the entire team showing support.
In the wake of Wolfe's resignation, Mizzou Athletics said today that football activities will resume Tuesday. "The primary concern of our student-athletes, coaches and staff has been centered on the health of Jonathan Butler and working with campus leaders to find a resolution that would save a life," Mizzou Athletics said. "We are hopeful we can begin a process of healing and understanding on our campus."

Pinkel said this afternoon that he "got involved because I support my players and a young man’s life was on the line."

"And basically that’s what it came down to," Pinkel said. "My support of my players had nothing to do with anyone losing their job."

Athletic director Mack Rhoades said, while there would have been financial ramifications if the football team didn’t play their upcoming came, the financial aspect was not his focus. Rhoades did not share the specific amount.

University of Missouri president resigns amid protests


COLUMBIA, Mo. - The president of the University of Missouri system and the head of its flagship campus resigned Monday with the football team and others on campus in open revolt over what they saw as indifference to racial tensions at the school.

President Tim Wolfe, a former business executive with no previous experience in academic leadership, took "full responsibility for the frustration" students expressed and said their complaints were "clear" and "real."

For months, black student groups had complained that Wolfe was unresponsive to racial slurs and other slights on the overwhelmingly white main campus of the state's four-college system. The complaints came to a head two days ago, when at least 30 black football players announced that they would not play until the president left. A graduate student went on a weeklong hunger strike.

Wolfe's announcement came at the start of what had been expected to be a lengthy closed-door meeting of the school's governing board.
"This is not the way change comes about," he said, alluding to recent protests, in a halting statement that was simultaneously apologetic, clumsy and defiant. "We stopped listening to each other."

He urged students, faculty and staff to use the resignation "to heal and start talking again to make the changes necessary."

Hours later, the top administrator of the Columbia campus, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, announced that he would step down at the end of the year and shift to leading research efforts.

The school's undergraduate population is 79 percent white and 8 percent black. The state is about 83 percent white and nearly 12 percent black. The Columbia campus is about 120 miles west of Ferguson, Missouri, where Michael Brown was killed last year in a fatal shooting that helped spawn the national "Black Lives Matter" movement rebuking police treatment of minorities.

In response to the race complaints, Wolfe had taken little public action and made few statements. As students leveled more grievances this fall, he was increasingly seen as aloof, out of touch and insensitive to their concerns. He soon became the protesters' main target.

In a statement issued Sunday, Wolfe acknowledged that "change is needed" and said the university was working to draw up a plan by April to promote diversity and tolerance. But by the end of that day, a campus sit-in had grown in size, graduate student groups planned walkouts and politicians began to weigh in.

After the resignation announcement, students and teachers in Columbia hugged and chanted.

Sophomore Katelyn Brown said she wasn't necessarily aware of chronic racism at the school, but she applauded the efforts of black student groups.

"I personally don't see it a lot, but I'm a middle-class white girl," she said. "I stand with the people experiencing this." She credited social media with propelling the protests, saying it offered "a platform to unite."

At a news conference Monday, head football coach Gary Pinkel said his players were concerned with the health of Jonathan Butler, who had not eaten for a week as part of protests against Wolfe. The coach said that's why supported the athletes' decision to boycott team activities until the president resigned.

After Wolfe's announcement, Butler ended his strike. He appeared weak and unsteady as two people helped him into a sea of celebrants on campus. Many broke into dance at seeing him.

Asked how he felt about Wolfe stepping down, Butler said he's "empowered, and ready to eat."

Football practice was to resume Tuesday ahead of Saturday's game against Brigham Young University at Arrowhead Stadium, the home of the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs. Canceling the game could have cost the school more than $1 million.
Shaun Harper, executive director for the Study of Race and Equity in Education at the University of Pennsylvania, said the black football players "understood that they have the power."

"That is so rare," said Harper, who authored a 2013 study on black male student-athletes and racial inequities in NCAA Division I sports. "Not in our modern history have we seen black students collectively flex their muscle in this way."

The protests began after the student government president, who is black, said in September that people in a passing pickup truck shouted racial slurs at him. In early October, members of a black student organization said slurs were hurled at them by an apparently drunken white student.

Frustrations flared again during a homecoming parade, when black protesters blocked Wolfe's car, and he did not get out and talk to them. They were removed by police.

Also, a swastika drawn in feces was found recently in a dormitory bathroom.

The university did take some steps to ease tensions. At Loftin's request, the school announced plans to offer diversity training to all new students starting in January, as well as faculty and staff. On Friday, the chancellor issued an open letter decrying racism after the swastika was found.

Many of the protests have been led by an organization called Concerned Student 1950, which gets its name from the year the university accepted its first black student. Group members besieged Wolfe's car at the parade, and they conducted a weeklong sit-in on a campus plaza.

The group demanded that Wolfe resign and "acknowledge his white male privilege." It also sought a 10-year plan to retain more marginalized students and the hiring of more minorities at the university's counseling center.

Also joining in the protest effort were two graduate student groups and the student government at the Columbia campus, the Missouri Students Association.

On Sunday, the association said in a letter to the system's governing body that there had been "an increase in tension and inequality with no systemic support" since Brown's death.

Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old, was shot and killed by a white police officer during a struggle. The Justice Department later cleared officer Darren Wilson, concluding evidence backed his claim that he shot Brown in self-defense after Brown tried to grab the officer's gun.

Wolfe, 57, is a former software executive and Missouri business school graduate whose father taught at the university. He was hired as president in 2011, succeeding another former executive with no experience in academia.

The governing board said an interim system president would be named soon.
University of Missouri chancellor, president resign amid race backlash


The chancellor of the University of Missouri’s flagship campus in Columbia became the latest school official Monday to announce that he will be stepping down at the end of the year.

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin’s announcement came hours after the university system’s president, Tim Wolfe, said he was resigning, effective immediately, in the face of growing protests -- including the threat of a faculty and student walkout -- over his handling of a spate of racially charged incidents.

Wolfe's fate appeared to have been sealed when the University’s football team drew national attention to the campus protests by announcing during the weekend that they would not participate in team activities until Wolfe was removed. Head coach Gary Pinkel and athletic director Mack Rhoades expressed solidarity with the players and showed support for Jonathan Butler, a Missouri student staging a hunger strike.

In the end, Wolfe said he hoped his resignation could lead to healing.

“It is my belief that we stopped listening to each other,” Wolfe said during his statement. “We didn’t respond or react. We got frustrated with each other and we forced individuals like Jonathan Butler to take immediate action, unusual steps to affect change. This is not – I repeat, not – the way change should come about. Change comes from listening, learning, caring and conversation and we have top respect each other enough to stop yelling at each other and quit intimidating each other.”

“Unfortunately this has not happened,” Wolfe said.

The University of Missouri System said late Monday it plans to enact several initiatives in the next 90 days to address racial turmoil that led to the resignations of Wolfe and Loftin.

The university system said in a news release that it will appoint its first chief officer for diversity, inclusion and equity. It also plans a review of all university policies related to staff and student
conduct and to provide more support to those who experience discrimination. It also pledges to work toward a more diverse faculty and staff.

Task forces addressing inclusion will be required on all four of its campuses.

Butler said Monday he would end the hunger strike he began on Nov. 2. Pinkel and Rhoades said the football team would resume its regular activities.

The protests began after the student government president, who is black, said in September that people in a passing pickup truck shouted racial slurs at him. In early October, members of a black student organization said slurs were hurled at them by an apparently drunken white student. Recently, a swastika drawn in human feces was found in a dormitory bathroom.

More recently, two trucks flying Confederate flags drove past a site where 150 students had gathered to protest on Sunday, a move some saw as an attempt at intimidation. One of the participants, Abigail Hollis, a black undergraduate, said the campus is "unhealthy and unsafe for us."

"The way white students are treated is in stark contrast to the way black students and other marginalized students are treated, and it's time to stop that," Hollis said. "It's 2015."

Wolfe, who has been president since 2012, said he took full responsibility “for the reaction that has occurred.”

“I ask everybody from students, faculty, staff, my friends to use my resignation to heal and to start talking again,” he said. “To make the changes necessary. And let’s focus on changing what we can change today and in the future, not on what we can’t change about what happened in the past.”

Gov. Jay Nixon said Wolfe's resignation was a necessary step toward "healing and reconciliation" at the school.

Wolfe's announcement was a stark departure from his tone Sunday, when he said that a “change is needed” but did not indicate that he would step down.

The Concerned Student 1950 group, which draws its name from the year the university accepted its first black student, had demanded, among other things, that Wolfe "acknowledge his white male privilege," that he be removed immediately, and that the school adopt a mandatory racial-awareness program and hire more black faculty and staff.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reported that Wolfe was confronted outside a fundraising event in Kansas City Friday night by protesters who asked him to define systemic oppression. According to video of the encounter posted on Twitter, Wolfe responded that the students may not like his answer before saying, "Systematic oppression is because you don’t believe that you have the equal opportunity for success —"
That statement provoked anger from the protesters, one of whom asked "Did you just blame us for systematic oppression, Tim Wolfe?" as the president walked away.

Reuben Faloughi, a doctoral student at MU and member of Concerned Student 1950, said the “MU for Mike Brown” protests last year helped build momentum for Concerned Student 1950.

“This is only a start, we still don’t have shared governance," Faloughi said. "We could get Tim Wolfe 2.0 if we don’t get shared governance. So we need to make sure that MU state quarters have a voice in these appointments.”

Missouri president, chancellor quit after football team walks out

COLUMBIA, Mo. — The University of Missouri system's president, Tim Wolfe, and the chancellor of the flagship campus, R. Bowen Loftin, announced on Monday that they were resigning their posts in the face of growing protests by African-American students, the threat of a walkout by faculty and a strike by football players who said the administrators had done too little to combat racism on campus.

Wolfe made the stunning announcement at the start of a special Board of Curators meeting Monday morning that had been scheduled to address the growing crisis at the Show Me state's flagship university. The board voted in favor of accepting his resignation. Several hours later, Loftin, chancellor of the university's Columbia campus, announced he will step down from his post by the end of the year as well.

“I am resigning as president of the University Missouri system,” said Wolfe, who choked up as he announced he was stepping down. “My motivation in making this decision comes from a love of Columbia where I grew up and the state of Missouri. I thought and prayed over this decision. It is the right thing to do ... The frustration and anger I see is real, and I don’t doubt it for a second.”
Loftin said he would transition into a new role on the Columbia campus "where I will work with many people across the university and with the system to advance our research mission."

Earlier in the day, deans of nine departments at the Columbia campus had called for the dismissal of the chancellor, according to a letter obtained by the Columbia Daily Tribune. In addition to expressing their displeasure about Loftin's leadership in dealing with the concerns raised by the black students, the deans also complained about Loftin's recent decision to eliminate and then later reinstate graduate assistant health insurance. That decision had also drawn protest from the graduate student community at Mizzou.

The situation had become so emotional on campus that many members of the football team had even announced they would boycott team activities.

After Wolfe's announcement, the university's athletic department said in a statement that the football team would return to the practice field Tuesday to prepare for its game on Saturday against BYU. Canceling the game would have cost the university in excess of $1 million.

The situation at Missouri, the oldest public university west of the Mississippi River, unfolded as other campuses, including Yale University and Ithaca College, have faced protests in recent weeks over racially tinged episodes on those campuses.

At Ithaca, students are circulating a petition asking for a vote of "confidence" or "no confidence" of President Tom Rochon, who critics say has given inadequate response to several allegedly racist incidents at the Upstate New York college.

At Yale, protests erupted after the university sent an email to students urging them not to wear racially insensitive Halloween costumes. The email prompted a professor to complain that Yale and other universities were becoming "places of censure and prohibition."

At Missouri, students pointed to several recent events on campus that underscore a hostile environment for black students.

Student government president Payton Head, who is black, said in September that people in a passing pickup shouted racial slurs at him. In early October, members of a black student organization said slurs were hurled at them by an apparently drunken white student.
In addition, a swastika drawn in feces was found recently in a dormitory bathroom. Protesters at Missouri galvanized around a group called Concerned Student 1950, which gets its name from the year the university accepted its first black student.

Before Wolfe's resignation, a faculty group issued a statement announcing plans for a walkout to show solidarity with the student protesters. The undergraduate student government also formally called on Wolfe to step down.

Students complaining about a racially fraught campus environment began protests at the university on Sept. 24, but the tense situation on campus had only recently begun to gain national attention.

More than 30 members of Missouri's football team announced Saturday that they would no longer take part in football-related activities while Wolfe was in power.

The football players joined the protest after graduate student Jonathan Butler began a hunger strike one week ago. Butler said the strike would either end with Wolfe leaving his post or Butler dying.

"The primary concerns of our student-athletes, coaches and staff has been centered on the health of Jonathan Butler and working with student leaders to find a resolution that would save a life," Missouri football coach Gary Pinkel and athletic director Mack Rhoades said in a statement. "We are hopeful we can begin a process of healing and understanding on our campus."

After Wolfe's announcement, Butler took to Twitter to announce that his hunger strike was over.

Hundreds of protesters gathered on the university's quad after Wolfe announced his resignation to celebrate. They sang We Shall Overcome, a song that had become an anthem of the Civil Rights Movement, and said the episode was just one moment in what will be a larger push for change on campus.

“Our demands must be met in totality to create systems of healing within the UM System," said Marshall Allen, one of the original members of Concerned Student 1950. "In addition to this, students, staff and faculty of color must be involved in the process of (deciding) who will be our next UM System president."
Majiyeb Yacim, a junior at the university who watched from the sidelines of the protest, said Wolfe's resignation was long overdue.

"I feel pretty isolated," said Yacim, who is black. "It is a predominantly white institution. And as a black student, there are times when I feel out of place. Seeing that minority students on campus can stick together and make things happen has been a really great experience."

Donald Cupps, the chairman of the Board of Curators, said the body was prepared to meet with the student protesters. The board also announced it would take several steps to address some of the protesters' concerns, including the creation of a diversity and inclusion officer for the entire University of Missouri system, a review of student and faculty code of conduct, and that the system will create a new task force to address issues of race and equity on campus.

"We aren't going to solve this problem overnight. But what we're going to do is move forward and solve some of these problems if not all of these problems in the future," Cupps said. "We cannot change the hearts of individuals but hopefully we can educate those individuals so they can change their own hearts."

The movement comes more than a year after a white police officer in Ferguson, Mo., shot and killed Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, spurring a national protest. The St. Louis suburb is about 120 miles from the Columbia campus.

In their letter on Monday, student government leaders pointed to the university officials' "silence" in the aftermath of Ferguson as exacerbating tensions on campus. Butler, the student who went on the hunger strike, echoed the sentiment.

"In a post-Ferguson world, there was so much struggle on campus but administration refused to step in on our behalf and do the things they needed to do to make sure black students, brown students and all marginalized students are feeling safe and included on this campus," Butler said.

Wolfe, who earned his bachelors degree from the university's flagship campus and spent most of his childhood in Columbia, said he was crestfallen by what had transpired. He pinned the blame squarely on himself for letting the
situation on campus get out of hand, while acknowledging a break-down in communication with students on campus.

"Why did we get to this very difficult situation? " Wolfe said. "It is my belief we stopped listening to each other."

Contributing: Tom O'Toole in McLean, Va. and Rose Schmidt in Columbia, Mo.

University of Missouri president and chancellor resign amid race protests

Two top officials of the University of Missouri resigned Monday under pressure about a lack of responsiveness by university administrators to racist incidents on the Columbia campus and intense pressure from the student body.

The president, Tim Wolfe, announced his resignation at a news conference Monday morning. He was followed several hours later by the university’s chancellor and effective chief executive, R Bowen Loftin.

“I am resigning as president of the University of Missouri system today,” Wolfe said. “I have thought and prayed about this decision. It’s the right thing to do. The response to this announcement I’m sure ranges from joy to some to anger for others.

“The frustration and anger that I see is clear, it’s real, and I don’t doubt it for a second.”

Loftin announced on Monday that he would be stepping down from his position at the end of the year. He will remain at the school in a new role involving research.
Faculty and deans of nine different departments had called for Loftin – a former president of Texas A&M university who has held the position since February 2014 – to resign in a letter sent to the board of curators, according to the Columbia Daily Tribune.

The pressure on Wolfe to resign increased at the weekend as the school’s football team, with the support of its coaches, said it would not play until he stepped down. Hundreds of students joined a protest Sunday night over what they said was neglect – and even tolerance – by the school of flagrantly racist behavior.

The protests began after the student government president, Payton Head, who is black, said in September that people in a passing pickup truck shouted racial slurs at him. In early October, members of a black student organization said slurs were hurled at them by an apparently drunken white student. And a swastika drawn in feces was found in a dormitory bathroom.

The protests were organized by a student group, Concerned Students 1950, named for the year the university first admitted African American students. One graduate student, Jonathan Butler, staged a weeklong hunger strike.

Wolfe admitted that the university had erred and asked that his resignation provide a moment for healing.

“The question really is, why did we get to this very difficult situation? It is my belief that we stopped listening to each other. We didn’t respond or react ... and we forced individuals like Jonathan Butler to take unusual actions, and immediate steps, to affect change.

“This is not, I repeat not, the way change should come about.”

Wolfe, who spoke in a shaky voice and ended his statement in a struggle against tears, said: “I take full responsibility for this frustration, and I take full responsibility for the inaction that has occurred.”

“I ask everybody ... use my resignation to heal, and start talking again, to make the changes necessary, and let’s focus on changing what we can today, and in the future.

“My decision to resign comes out of love, not hate.”
Wolfe offered an implicit criticism of the tone of the protests and their reception on the university side.

“We have to respect each other enough to stop yelling at each other, and start listening,” he said. “We need to quit intimidating each other.” Students celebrated the news of Wolfe’s resignation with cheers. Within moments, student organizers were heard asking “What do we do now?” And “our work is just beginning.”

Butler, who ended a weeklong hunger strike on Monday, told CNN that the university still has a long way to go to make minority students feel welcome.

He said the university system’s governing board needs to listen to more minority faculty and student voices. Members of Concerned Students 1950 said Monday they want a say in choosing Wolfe’s replacement and wanted to meet with the university’s governing board and the state’s governor.

Missouri governor Jay Nixon called Wolfe’s resignation “a necessary step toward healing and reconciliation” on the campus.

Football coach Gary Pinkel said on Monday that the team’s decision over the weekend arose out of concern for Butler.

“I got a call about Jonathan and the players were very very concerned with his life. I did the right thing and I would do it again,” Pinkel said.

“I didn’t look at consequences. I supported my players when they needed me.”

The school’s athletic director, Mack Rhoades, also reiterated his department’s support of the protests. He had “mixed emotions” to the resignation of Wolfe, whom he called “a caring man”.

“Our student athletes decided to get involved and quite frankly we supported them. We do everything as an athletic department to make sure these athletes are leaders. And they were leaders.”

The University of Missouri system has about 35,000 students enrolled with an annual budget of about $2bn. The Division 1 Missouri Tigers football team plays before sold-out home stadium crowds of 76,000.
The Associated Press contributed to this report.

President, chancellor resign amid racial strife at University of Missouri

Tim Wolfe and R. Bowen Loftin agree to leave their posts
Graduate student Jonathan Butler ends hunger strike; football team cancels boycott
University’s Board of Curators creates diversity post, vow other changes

Both the president and chancellor of the University of Missouri resigned Monday in a wave of upheaval sparked by minority students’ anger over racial tensions on the Columbia campus and their dissatisfaction with the administration’s response.

President Tim Wolfe, who had been the main target of student protests, including a hunger strike by a graduate student and a threatened strike by members of the football squad, resigned effective immediately Monday morning with a speech marked by contrition.

“It is my belief we stopped listening to each other,” said Wolfe, who had led the four-campus system since 2012. “We have to respect each other enough to stop yelling at each other and start listening, and quit intimidating each other.”
On Monday afternoon, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced he also would resign after the deans of nine MU departments called for his dismissal. After Jan. 1, Loftin will move to a role on the Columbia campus coordinating research for the university system.

The university Board of Curators named an interim chancellor and said an interim president would be announced soon. The board also announced a series of initiatives to deal with diversity issues, including creating a diversity officer and task force.

Students celebrated after Wolfe’s resignation was announced, singing and dancing on the lawn near Traditions Plaza, where for the last week many had camped out in protest.

The cascading developments left the campus boiling, but the athletic department announced that the football team will resume practice Tuesday and will play Brigham Young University on Saturday at Arrowhead Stadium as scheduled.

A throng of students poured onto Traditions Plaza and cheered when Butler, who appeared weak and was helped by two people bracing his elbow, joined the celebrating demonstrators. Hundreds of students — black, white and international students — hooked arms and formed a human wall around him.

Butler, who ended his strike by eating some yogurt, briefly discussed his health.

“I do appreciate the prayers I received, the positive thoughts, the messages,” Butler said. “Thank you.”

He later asked people not to focus on the hunger strike. Instead, he said, “look at why did we have to get here in the first place … and why we had to fight the way that we did.

“After all the letters we’ve sent, all the in-person interactions, after all the forums we’ve attended, after all the tweets we’ve sent, telling the administration about our pain, it should not have taken this much,” Butler said. “It is disgusting and vile that we find ourselves in the place that we do.”

LEWIS DIUGUID: MU HAS LONG TROUBLED HISTORY OF RACE RELATIONS, WHICH MUST BE OVERCOME

Trevor Casey, a journalism student from St. Louis, watched the celebratory scene from a campus walkway. “I’m super-impressed about how together students can be,” Casey said. “I have never seen so many people come together for a cause. I can’t explain the feeling I got
inside when I saw them just join together and form that human circle. It proves that while racism is prevalent at the university, it is also being handled.”

Other students said they were happy to see Wolfe step down, and they felt it showed the administration was now paying attention to them.

“I think this is a step forward toward change,” said Keenya Frazier, a senior from Chicago. “It might not come at the pace that everyone wants, but it is coming.”

Pressure had mounted for Wolfe to step down over concerns about his handling of recent racial issues directed at black students on the Columbia campus.

The students say there has been an increase in “tension and inequality with no systemic support” since last year’s fatal shooting of an unarmed black 18-year-old by a white police officer in Ferguson, Mo.

AFTER STUDENT PROTESTS TOPPLED MU LEADERSHIP, COOL HEADS AND WISE CHOICES REQUIRED

The campus protests began after Payton Head, the African-American president of the Missouri Students Association, said in September that people in a passing pickup truck shouted racial slurs at him. Days before the university’s homecoming parade, members of a black student organization said slurs were hurled at them by an apparently drunken white student.

Students said Wolfe had not responded to a series of complaints of racial incidents including a swastika in feces smeared on a dormitory wall.

The protests reached a higher level Saturday night when black members of the Missouri football team announced they would not practice or play until Wolfe stepped down or was removed.

The Missouri Students Association, which represents undergraduates at the Columbia campus, called for Wolfe to step down in a letter sent Sunday night to the Board of Curators.

Wolfe, in his remarks Monday, made a point to address students, particularly members of the group Concerned Student 1950, graduate students and football players.

“What started to become clear was that frustration and anger were evident,” Wolfe said, referring to how he came to the decision to resign, adding that he took “full responsibility for inaction that has occurred.”
MU UPHEAVAL MEANS MORE CHAOS AHEAD

“It was a progression that I went through” Sunday, he said. Wolfe said he concluded that “something was systematically wrong on this campus, and I was identified as the problem. I believe that the best leaders do what is right.”

Wolfe added: “We got frustrated with each other and forced people like Jonathan Butler to take immediate action.”

But Wolfe also said that the events of recent days were not the correct way to inspire change on campus.

Wolfe came to Missouri with a background in business, including 20 years with IBM. Before becoming the university system’s 23rd president, Wolfe was a senior manager with the software firm Novell.

Donald Cupps, the chairman of the Board of Curators, thanked Wolfe and Loftin for their service.

“President Wolfe has instituted meaningful strategic planning and efficiencies to the university system and, by his action today, he is putting the interest of the University of Missouri ahead of himself,” Cupps said in a statement.

Cupps also apologized on behalf of the university for being “slow to respond to experiences that are unacceptable and offensive in our campus communities and in our society. Significant changes are required to move us forward. The board is committed to making those changes.”

Loftin, who previously was president of Texas A&M University, had been chancellor at MU since February 2014.

ONE GOAL OF MISSOURI FOOTBALL PLAYERS WAS TO SAVE PROTESTER’S LIFE

The deans’ letter calling for Loftin’s removal was signed by Daniel Clay, dean of the College of Education; Kristofer Hagglund, dean of the School of Health Professions; David Kurpius, dean of the School of Journalism; Judith Miller, dean of the Sinclair School of Nursing; Gary Myers, dean of the School of Law; Neil Olson, dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine; Michael O’Brien, dean of the College of Arts and Science; Thomas Payne, dean of
the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; and Barton Wechsler, dean of the Truman School of Public Affairs.

The deans said Loftin had failed as a leader in several instances, including the elimination and eventual reinstatement of health insurance for graduate assistants and the elimination of the position of vice chancellor for health sciences. The deans said Loftin created a “toxic environment through threat, fear and intimidation.”

HUNGER STRIKES LIKE JONATHAN BUTLER’S AT MU HAVE A LONG HISTORY AND MIXED RESULTS

The letters came less than a week after Department of English faculty members set a letter to Wolfe and the curators with a similar vote of no confidence in Loftin.

Loftin, in announcing his resignation, said, “I am joyful today because Jonathan Butler ended his hunger strike. I want to acknowledge his extraordinary courage and leadership in doing what he did.”

Hank Foley was appointed interim chancellor of the Columbia campus. He had been a senior vice chancellor for research and graduate studies and an executive vice president for academic affairs, research and economic development.

Foley said in a statement that his new role will be to “focus on inclusion and diversity.”

The football players’ threatened strike drew the support of head coach Gary Pinkel. If Missouri had been forced to cancel Saturday’s game, it would have had to pay BYU $1 million, according to the universities’ contract.

YAEL T. ABOUHALKAH: THE THREE TWEETS THAT HELPED OUST MU SYSTEM PRESIDENT TIM WOLFE

Pinkel and athletic director Mack Rhoades issued a statement Monday:

“The primary concern of our student-athletes, coaches and staff has been centered on the health of Jonathan Butler and working with campus leaders to find a resolution that would save a life,” the statement said. “We are hopeful we can begin a process of healing and understanding on our campus.”
Ian Simon, a senior safety and team captain, said the threatened strike was not about the football team.

“We just wanted to use our platform to take a stance for a fellow concerned student on an issue, especially being as though a fellow black man’s life was on the line,” Simon said.

LEWIS DIUGUID: MU HAS LONG TROUBLED HISTORY OF RACE RELATIONS, WHICH MUST BE OVERCOME

There were reports early Monday that some undergraduates stayed home from classes after two student groups called for walkouts in solidarity with the protesters.

Brendan Merz, a senior heading to an economics class Monday, said the protests hadn’t affected him. Merz said the protests were “a little excessive.”

At “tent city,” where protesters camped out for seven days, members of Concerned Student 1950, the group of black students that organized the protest, tried to keep the media from photographing Butler as he ended his hunger strike.

JOURNALISTS, PROTESTERS CLASH OVER ACCESS AFTER MU OFFICIALS STEP DOWN AMID RACIAL STRIFE

Later the group refused to talk with media and told other students surrounding tent city not to comment to the media. Signs were posted around the protest site that said, “No media allowed.”

In a statement Monday, U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, a Missouri Democrat and MU alumnus, said she supported Wolfe’s decision to resign.

“This was the right decision to help the university turn the page and for its leaders to recommit to ending racism on campus,” McCaskill said.

Leo E. Morton, the chancellor of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, also issued a statement about Wolfe’s resignation.

“I respect Tim’s decision, and I hope that people throughout the university, and the community, take to heart his comments about the need for listening and healing,” Morton said.
Mizzou president, chancellor announce resignation amid racial strife


The president of the University of Missouri system, Tim Wolfe, resigned Monday amid protests against his handling of racist incidents on campus, among other issues. Later in the day, the university’s chancellor, R. Bowen Loftin, announced he would step down from his role at the end of the year and assume a new position at the university.

The announcements follow a series of racial incidents on campus that led to student protests and boycotts. When a significant number of black players on the school’s football team announced this weekend that they were planning to strike, the stakes were raised even more. Had the team forfeited its upcoming game on Saturday against BYU, it would have cost the athletic program $1 million, according to a contract between the schools. Even though that may be a paltry sum for a department which boasted a $83.7 million haul last year, it would have been a significant blow to the school’s prestige and its embattled president, who ironically had been campaigning for a $72 million expansion of the team’s stadium.

“The frustration and anger I see is clear, real and I don’t doubt it for a second,” Wolfe said in a press conference on Monday. He called his decision to step down — effective immediately — the “right thing to do,” and the result of different factions on campus not “listening to each other.”

“We have to respect each other another enough to stop yelling at each other and start listening to each other,” he said. “Use my resignation to heal and start talking again.” Wolfe also referenced an ongoing hunger strike by a 25-year-old black graduate student at the university, Jonathan Butler, who said he was willing to die if Wolfe wasn’t removed from office.

“I already feel like campus is an unlivable space,” Butler recently told The Washington Post. “So it’s worth sacrificing something of this grave amount because I’m already not wanted here. I’m already not treated like I’m a human.”
And yet, the protests on campus have not drawn the level of the attention that the football team’s stand did. Sixty of the team’s 124 players are black and they appeared to have the support of all their teammates, coaches and staff. The team’s coach Gary Pinkel tweeted a photograph of himself this weekend alongside approximately 100 players and staff-members, both black and white, with the caption: “The Mizzou Family stands as one. We are united. We are behind our players.” The team had suspended practices, workouts and all other football related activities in solidarity with Butler.

“They decided to be leaders in this issue to save the life of a fellow student athlete. And not just our black student athletes, but our white and black student athletes made that decision,” Mizzou Director of Athletics Mack Rhoades said during a press conference on Monday evening. “I think it’s important to know, during those discussions, there was never any talk about people losing their jobs. It was simply about a man losing his life.” He added that this situation was “certainly not ideal” and called it “an extraordinary circumstance.”

During the press conference, Pinkel insisted that his involvement was based on supporting the students, who had independently decided as a team to support Butler’s cause. He described receiving an emotional call from his student athletes on Saturday night describing Butler’s condition. “I got involved because I support my players and they said a young man’s life was on the line,” Pinkel said. “My support of the players had nothing to do with anyone losing the job. When it comes to something like this, sports come secondary.”

The protests also drew support from the university’s Graduate Professional Council, its history department, and a famous alum, Michael Sam, the first openly gay NFL player. Democratic Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill called for the Board of Curators to get involved to highlight their “unqualified commitment” to fighting racism, and the state’s attorney general has called for the formation of a task force to investigate Concerned Students 1950’s allegations. And on Sunday, Democratic Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon stated that “racism and intolerance have no place at the University of Missouri or anywhere in our state.”

Student-athlete strikes are rare and when they do occur they have largely been due to working conditions, not a climate of racial animus. Reports of tension at the school stretch back to September, when the Missouri Students Association president Payton Head alleged that he was repeatedly called a racial slur by passengers in a pick-up truck while he was walking on campus. Head, who is African-American, went public with his frustration with the school’s handling of the incident, later telling The Missourian: “I’d had experience with racism before, like microaggressions, but that was the first time I’d experienced in-your-face racism.” MSNBC has reached out to Head for comment but has not heard back at this time. On Monday, he tweeted: “NEVER underestimate the power of students. Our voices WILL be heard.”

Following further alleged racial slur incidents and the appearance of a swastika drawn in human feces on a campus bathroom wall, students – who claimed that their messages directed at administrators had gone ignored – took to the streets and protested during the school’s Oct. 10 homecoming parade. When Wolfe was surrounded by protesters in his car at the event he appeared to show no discernible reaction, which only inflamed activists’ fervor.
On Nov. 6, Wolfe was asked to define “systematic oppression” by protesters outside of a fundraising event. Wolfe said in an exchange that was caught on tape: “Systematic oppression is because you don’t believe that you have the equal opportunity for success.” This response triggered more anger among some members of the minority community on campus. ”Did you just blame us for systematic oppression, Tim Wolfe? Did you just blame black students? “ a female protester can be heard shouting at a departing Wolfe from off-camera.

A student activist organization called Concerned Student 1950 (1950 was the year Mizzou admitted its first black students) had presented Wolfe with a list of demands. The group called for Wolfe to not only issue a handwritten apology to demonstrators but to remove himself from office. They also demanded the creation of a “comprehensive racial awareness and inclusion curriculum,” more funding and resources for social justice programs and a 10% increase in black faculty and staff on campus. Mizzou is a predominately white campus, with roughly 17% of the student body identifying with a minority group, according to the university.

Wolfe refused to meet any of Concerned Student 1950’s demands, but said, “Racism is unacceptable, it’s absolutely unacceptable, and we have to eliminate it,” adding, “My actions will support my words.”

He later said he regretted his reaction to the homecoming protest. “I am sorry, and my apology is long overdue. My behavior seemed like I did not care. That was not my intention. I was caught off guard in that moment,” he said in a Nov. 6 statement.

On Monday, he tried to strike a conciliatory note. In addition to taking “full responsibility” for the frustrations of students and faculty, he implored the school to “focus on changing what we can change today and in the future, not what we can’t change – what happened in the past.”

Meanwhile, Concerned Student 1950 cheered Wolfe’s resignation on Twitter: “Brothers and Sisters, this is a momentus occassion [sic] but do not be moved! Our Brother can eat, but we are still owed Demands! Stay strong!”

Amid racial controversies, UM system president and Mizzou chancellor step down

By DALE SINGER · 20 HOURS AGO

Updated at 5 p.m. with news of Loftin's resignation

University of Missouri System president Tim Wolfe abruptly announced his resignation Monday morning amid strong criticism of his leadership
Several hours later, R. Bowen Loftin said he would be leaving his post as chancellor of the system's Columbia campus to coordinate university research.

The two moves culminated a frenetic few days in which protests in Columbia grew to include a pledge by the football team not to play a game this weekend. That move, backed by the team's coach and the campus athletic director, seemed to move the issue toward the resolutions announced Monday after a hastily called meeting of the Board of Curators.

A statement released by the system late Monday named Hank Foley, who guides research for both the system and the Columbia campus, as interim chancellor at Mizzou. An interim system president would be named as soon as possible, the statement said.

Monday evening, the curators came out of a lengthy closed-door meeting to announce initiatives to be put into place over the next 90 days, including establishing a system-wide officer in charge of diversity, inclusion and equity. They are also calling for a similar position to be filled on each campus.

The curators also announced:

- A review of all system policies relating to staff and student conduct.
- More support for students, faculty and staff who have experienced discrimination.
- More support for the hiring and retention of diverse faculty and staff.

The board also revealed more actions designed "to ensure effective next steps through an open communication process that invites perspective from across the system." These include:

- A task force on diversity, inclusion and equity that will develop strategy for the short and long term based on a review of current programs, policies and practices.
- A leadership training and development program on diversity, inclusion and equity, which will include the curators, the president and top administrators.
- At Mizzou, there will be mandatory diversity, including equity training for all faculty, staff and incoming students.
- A continued review of student mental health services on the Columbia campus.
In a press release, Donald L. Cupps, chair of the University of Missouri Board of Curators made the following statement in reaction to the resignations:

“As a board, we have taken an oath to maintain the standard of excellence and source of pride that the University of Missouri is for all Missourians. We are committed to keeping the institution and our state moving forward,” said Cupps. “It saddens me that some who have attended our university have ever felt fear, being unwelcome, or have experienced racism.”

Listening and learning

Before the curators went into their closed meeting, Wolfe announced his resignation. He said his decision was made out of love for the university and for Columbia, where he grew up.

Citing the unrest that has gripped the Mizzou campus for the past week, including a hunger strike by graduate student Jonathan Butler, Wolfe said he understands the frustration on the part of students, faculty, staff and others.

"The question really is: why did we get to this very difficult situation?" Wolfe said, his face stern, yet sad. "It is my belief we stopped listening to each other. We didn't respond or react. We got frustrated with each other, and we forced individuals, like Jonathan Butler, to take immediate action and unusual steps to effect change.

"This is not, I repeat, not the way change should come about. Change comes from listening, learning, caring and conversation."

Saying that he takes full responsibility for the "frustration and inaction that has occurred," Wolfe asked everyone to "use my resignation to heal and start talking again, to make the changes necessary. ... Please use this resignation to heal, not to hate."

In the statement released by the system Loftin said: "I hope that every member of our campus community will embrace each person’s right to express their opinions in a respectful manner and to make progress toward our common goal of an inclusive campus that values the contributions of all individuals. I am excited for my new challenge to lead the university's research facility development."

Wolfe's resignation comes after members of the Mizzou football team said Saturday night they would not participate in any football-related activities until
Wolfe was removed or resigned. The team members' action was in support of a student holding a hunger strike to protest Wolfe's leadership on racial issues.

Butler tweeted Monday morning that he was ending his hunger strike following Wolfe's resignation.

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon issued the following statement on Wolfe's resignation:

Tim Wolfe's resignation was a necessary step toward healing and reconciliation on the University of Missouri campus, and I appreciate his decision to do so. There is more work to do, and now the University of Missouri must move forward – united by a commitment to excellence, and respect and tolerance for all. The University of Missouri is an outstanding institution that will continue to play a vital role in our efforts to provide a world-class education to every Missouri student.

Here's more background on the situation from an NPR report Sunday:

The football players said that they were standing in solidarity with the Concerned Student 1950 movement, which has for months now called on the university to seriously address systemic racism on campus.

The team tweeted a picture of the student athletes linking arms. "We are no longer taking it," the tweet said. "It's time to fight."

For months, now, black students at Mizzou have documented a series of incidents in which they were accosted with racial epithets. In the most notorious incident, a swastika was drawn on the bathroom wall of one of the dorms using feces.

In October, black students staged a protest along the homecoming parade route. They formed a chain in front of the president's car chanting, "It's our duty to fight for our freedom!"

Wolfe said nothing to the students and when police removed the students from the street, the crowd erupted in applause. Some of the protesters cried.

Help St. Louis Public Radio report on this story.
U. of Missouri president, chancellor leave over race tension

Nov. 10, 2015  By SUMMER BALLENTINE and JIM SUHR

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The president of the University of Missouri system and the head of its flagship campus resigned Monday with the football team and others on campus in open revolt over what they saw as indifference to racial tensions at the school.

President Tim Wolfe, a former business executive with no previous experience in academic leadership, took "full responsibility for the frustration" students expressed and said their complaints were "clear" and "real."

For months, black student groups had complained that Wolfe was unresponsive to racial slurs and other slights on the overwhelmingly white main campus of the state's four-college system. The complaints came to a head two days ago, when at least 30 black football players announced they would not play until the president left. A graduate student went on a weeklong hunger strike.

Wolfe's announcement came at the start of what had been expected to be a lengthy closed-door meeting of the school's governing board.

"This is not the way change comes about," he said, alluding to recent protests, in a halting statement that was simultaneously apologetic, clumsy and defiant. "We stopped listening to each other."

He urged students, faculty and staff to use the resignation "to heal and start talking again to make the changes necessary."

Hours later, the top administrator of the Columbia campus, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, announced he would step down at the end of the year and shift to leading research efforts.

The school's undergraduate population is 79 percent white and 8 percent black. The state is about 83 percent white and nearly 12 percent black. The Columbia campus is about 120 miles west of Ferguson, Missouri, where Michael Brown was killed last year in a shooting that helped spawn the national "Black Lives Matter" movement rebuking police treatment of minorities.

In response to the race complaints, Wolfe had taken little public action and made few statements. As students leveled more grievances this fall, he was increasingly seen as aloof, out of touch and insensitive to their concerns. He soon became the protesters' main target.
In a statement issued Sunday, Wolfe acknowledged that "change is needed" and said the university was working to draw up a plan by April to promote diversity and tolerance. But by the end of that day, a campus sit-in had grown in size, graduate student groups planned walkouts and politicians began to weigh in.

Sophomore Katelyn Brown said she wasn't necessarily aware of chronic racism at the school, but she applauded the efforts of black student groups.

"I personally don't see it a lot, but I'm a middle-class white girl," she said. "I stand with the people experiencing this." She credited social media with propelling the protests, saying it offered "a platform to unite."

At a news conference Monday, head football coach Gary Pinkel said his players were concerned with the health of Jonathan Butler, who had not eaten for a week as part of protests against Wolfe.

"During those discussions," athletic director Mack Rhoades said, "there was never any talk about anybody losing their job. It was simply and primarily about a young man's life."

After Wolfe's announcement, Butler ended his strike. He appeared weak and unsteady as two people helped him into a sea of celebrants on campus. Many broke into dance upon seeing him.

Football practice was to resume Tuesday ahead of Saturday's game against Brigham Young University at Arrowhead Stadium, the home of the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs. Canceling the game could have cost the school more than $1 million.

Shaun Harper, executive director for the Study of Race and Equity in Education at the University of Pennsylvania, said the black football players "understood that they have the power."

"That is so rare," said Harper, who authored a 2013 study on black male student-athletes and racial inequities in NCAA Division I sports. "Not in our modern history have we seen black students collectively flex their muscle in this way."

The protests began after Payton Head, the president of the student government at the Columbia campus, said in September that people in a passing pickup truck shouted racial slurs at him. Head is black. In early October, members of a black student organization said slurs were hurled at them by an apparently drunken white student.

Frustrations flared again during a homecoming parade, when black protesters blocked Wolfe's car, and he did not get out and talk to them. They were removed by police. Also, a swastika drawn in feces was found recently in a dormitory bathroom.

The university did take some steps to ease tensions. At Loftin's request, the school announced plans to offer diversity training to all new students starting in January, as well as faculty and staff. On Friday, the chancellor issued an open letter decrying racism after the swastika was found.

The governing board said an interim system president would be named soon, and board members vowed Monday to work toward a "culture of respect."

The board planned to appoint an officer to oversee diversity and equality at all four campuses. It also promised a full review of other policies, more support for victims of discrimination and a more diverse faculty.

Head, the Missouri Students Association president, called those changes a step "in the right direction."

"It's great to see that from the UM system. It's something that I honestly I didn't expect but had been hoping for, for a long time," he said.
Many of the protests have been led by an organization called Concerned Student 1950, which gets its name from the year the university accepted its first black student. Group members besieged Wolfe's car at the parade, and they conducted a weeklong sit-in on a campus plaza.

On Monday night, a group of about 100 people gathered at that plaza to pray and sing.

The group demanded that Wolfe resign and "acknowledge his white male privilege." It also sought a 10-year plan to retain more marginalized students and the hiring of more minorities at the university's counseling center.

On Sunday, the Missouri Students Association said in a letter to the board that there had been "an increase in tension and inequality with no systemic support" since Brown's death.

Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old, was fatally shot by a white police officer during a struggle. The Justice Department later cleared officer Darren Wilson, concluding evidence backed his claim that he shot Brown in self-defense after Brown tried to grab the officer's gun.

Wolfe, 57, a former software executive and Missouri business school graduate, was hired as president in 2011.

5 Moments That Led 2 Top Leaders at Missouri to Resign

By Andy Thomason NOVEMBER 09, 2015

The dual resignations on Monday of Timothy M. Wolfe and R. Bowen Loftin, the University of Missouri system president and flagship campus's chancellor, respectively, were a resounding victory for people protesting on the Columbia campus in recent weeks. (Mr. Wolfe is leaving entirely; Mr. Loftin is taking another position in the system at the end of the year.)

Both leaders had resisted several calls to resign. But it was the long-simmering dissatisfaction in Columbia, Mo., that played a crucial role in forcing them out. For those just catching up, here are five moments that paved the way for Monday's ousters:

1. Graduate students learn their health insurance won't be subsidized.

In August the university suddenly informed graduate students it would no longer subsidize their health insurance. The measure, which the institution defended as satisfying a provision of the Affordable Care Act, prompted protests and an apology from Mr. Loftin. (He later assured students their insurance would continue to be subsidized.) The university's English department cited the move last week in a letter expressing no confidence in Mr. Loftin.
2. A student leader's account of a racist incident goes viral.

The recent outrage over racism in Columbia began outright in September, when the president of the Missouri Students Association, Payton Head, wrote in a Facebook post that he had been accosted on the campus by men who yelled a racist epithet at him from a truck. "I really just want to know why my simple existence is such a threat to society," Mr. Head wrote in the post, which went viral. The association went on to demand Mr. Wolfe's resignation before the Board of Curators' meeting on Monday.

3. A homecoming parade gets tense.

Students protesting the racist incidents, united under the name Concerned Student 1950, surrounded Mr. Wolfe's car at a homecoming parade in October. When the students refused to move, they were dispersed by the police. Throughout the incident, Mr. Wolfe stayed in the car, which then allegedly bumped at least one of the protesters as it drove away. (Watch video of the incident by The Columbia Missourian.) As he sought to pacify protesters in the last week, Mr. Wolfe apologized for handling the incident in the way he did.


Mr. Butler, a graduate student and one of the protesters at the parade, began a hunger strike on November 2, saying he wouldn't eat until Mr. Wolfe resigned. In the ensuing days, Mr. Wolfe released several statements saying he was concerned about the strike, drawing national attention to the students' grievances.

5. Football players threaten a boycott, and their coach backs them up.

On Saturday a group of Missouri football players said they would join Mr. Butler's protest, boycotting all football-related events until Mr. Wolfe was out of office. The next day, their coach, Gary Pinkel, tweeted a photo of the team together and said he stood behind the players. In a news conference on Monday, Mr. Pinkel said the players had been motivated primarily by concern for Mr. Butler.

How Racial Incidents Sparked Change At The University Of Missouri

The resignation of University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe occurred for a lot of reasons, led by weeks of activism on campus in Columbia and a high-profile student hunger strike.

But it’s clear that social media helped drive the whirlwind of events that led to Wolfe’s sudden ouster on Monday.

Here are my nominations for the three tweets that had the most effect on the situation.

More notably, they also could be part of a whole new way of talking about what needs to happen regarding racial issues in Columbia.

1. **Black MU football players spoke out Saturday night.**

Their threat to not practice and not play made this a huge national story reported on the front pages of The New York Times, The Washington Post and other media, not just on
sports pages. Like it or not, this tweet showed once again the power of sports to drive change.

We're black. Black is powerful. Our struggle may look different, but we are all #ConcernedStudent1950

2. MU football coach Gary Pinkel weighed in Sunday morning.

His support for what his revenue-producing athletes were doing showed that some adults also wanted Wolfe out.

The Mizzou Family stands as one. We are united. We are behind our players. #ConcernedStudent1950 GP

3. A student recorded a brief conversation on race with Wolfe in Kansas City Friday night.

The president appeared clueless in how to talk about the issue of race.

Oh really @UMPrez this is what you think Systematic oppression is?!? @umcurators @CNN @Oprah
COLUMBIA, Mo. — Racial tension, student revolts and resignations have resulted in a dramatic shift in the leadership of the University of Missouri in Columbia.

President Tim Wolfe and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin have resigned in the wake of protests about the administration’s response to racial incidents on the campus. The issue shifted in a new gear over the weekend after football players planned to strike as long as protester Jonathan Butler’s hunger strike went on.

Students said it was a day that people on campus and in the community will think about for a long time.

“Regardless of how you feel about the issues, it’s a great example of one person starting with a belief and then inspiring millions of people,” said Missouri junior Derick Elkin.

Butler’s hunger strike went on for about a week. Few people could have predicted it would lead to the football team refusing to practice or play games.
“I think it’s really awesome that they were willing to go as far as possible until they knew that a change would happen so that people would realize things can’t stay the way they are forever,” said junior Maya Hines. “Eventually things have to change. People can’t be treated the same way.”

The treatment led to protests over the weekend and now many people on campus acknowledge there is a racial problem that needs to be fixed.

“I thought it was really remarkable,” said University of Missouri staff member Kim Nyoni. “It’s very, very informing to see the students share their passion about how they care for Mizzou and how they want to see it a bit better.”

For some, the largest surprise was the late-afternoon announcement that Loftin would leave his post at the end of the year for a different position working with university research projects.

“I was sad. He is like the (figurehead) and over homecoming and everything, there was a lot of representative stuff that went on with him with the bow tie and everything,” said freshman Jazzy Okongo. “He is a good figurehead of our school.”

Some students told KMBC 9 News that they were sad to see Loftin resign, saying that they felt he was working toward a solution and was an iconic figure on campus.

The Washington Post

University of Missouri President Tim Wolfe’s very telling resignation speech

It was a speech that clocked in at less than five minutes. But it was also chock full of meaning.

**In fact, almost nowhere in this still-young week has there been a better example of the tension between the conservative and liberal views of race and the politics around it than behind the podium where University of Missouri President Timothy M. Wolfe stood and resigned Monday.**

The Fix is aware that some Americans are inclined to reject, outright, the idea that some words -- those that we choose to express our ideas, what we say at critical moments and that which we do not mention -- have deeper, often multi-layered meaning. But to believe this, you must reject the
field of social psychology -- and likely political psychology too. You must believe that all advertising (or for that matter, campaigning) is pointless and has no impact at all. It is to insist that human beings always mean only what they say.

That's obviously not the case.

So we asked Ian Haney Lopez and Lee D. Baker to help us dissect what Wolfe did and did not say as he resigned. Why?

Lopez is the author of the much-talked about 2014 book, "Dog Whistle Politics." It explores the sometimes-hidden or even unconscious meaning of public speech. He is also constitutional law and race specialist at the University of California-Berkeley Law School. Baker wrote the 2010 book, "Anthropology and the Racial Politics of Culture." He also brings another perspective, that of a large university administrator. He's dean of academic affairs for Trinity College of Arts and Sciences and associate vice provost for undergraduate education at Duke.

But neither man gave the speech a glowing review.

To find a complete and uninterrupted transcript of Wolfe's resignation, click the link. The bold text in blocks are excerpts of Wolfe's speech. The insights of our experts follow. We've edited them for clarity and length.

The opening

I am resigning as president of the University of Missouri system today. ...

My motivation in making this decision comes from love. I love MU, Columbia, where I grew up, and the state of Missouri. I have thought greatly about this decision, and it's the right thing to do. The response to this announcement I'm sure will bring joy to some and anger to others, and that's why we're here today. So let me speak to why this is so important at this time.

BAKER: Well, my general impression of this speech and, of course this start, is that football has a lot of power at universities.

I do think we have to be somewhat careful about attributing too much meaning to Wolfe's speech -- particularly this pretty standard start. It was hand-written -- it looked like it was jotted down on a yellow legal pad. I doubt seriously that it was vetted through public relations or layers of communications teams. Of course, that also means that, while it may not have been carefully thought out, it was likely heartfelt. And we believe that it came after considerable deliberation about his continued ability to lead.

LOPEZ: You know what I thought here? I thought about the quote the football players used -- what they said in explaining why they felt they could not play. I think they referenced a line from Martin Luther King Jr.'s Letter From a Birmingham Jail, when he wrote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality..." I think
those students meant that. I wish that the president had read that letter at some point -- or certainly today before he resigned.

Remember that what King was talking about in that letter, who he was talking to. It was a letter to other clergy who were not happy about the Birmingham protests, who said that change would come with patience, if they behaved well and waited. They were urging temperance, calm and process. And what King said in that letter was that is not the answer. We have already waited. The answer for any moral person in the face of injustice is protest and disruption, nonviolent coordinated action geared towards creating the circumstances of producing actual change.

When I heard this speech, really from the very beginning, it was clear this president has espoused the view of the clergy [to whom King wrote from jail], whether he recognizes that or not. It was clear as soon as he turned to, "How did we get here?" Wasn't he or his refusal to talk and negotiate pretty deeply involved?

**The essence**

So the question really is, is why did we get to this very difficult situation. It is my belief we stopped listening to each other. We didn't respond or react. We got frustrated with each other, and we forced individuals like Jonathan Butler to take immediate action and unusual steps to effect change.

This is not -- I repeat not -- the way change should come about. Change comes from listening, learning, caring and conversation. We have to respect each other enough to stop yelling at each other and start listening, and quit intimidating each other. ...

Unfortunately this has not happened. And I just want to stand before you today, and I take full responsibility for this frustration, and I take full responsibility for the inaction that has occurred.

**BAKER:** This is where things get interesting. He calls students and faculty by name and their frustration with him is implied. Then he separately addresses his friends and supporters and what he presumes will be their frustration that he is stepping down. That last part comes pretty close to confirming that those who protested are not his friends.

The reality is that you can, very much, support a president or a leader and still encourage or demand that he or she move swiftly in a different direction, take different actions than they have before. That's the essence of an open environment -- certainly a welcoming one. That friendship and support to him seem to be consistent with silence or at least private conversations is telling. As a cultural anthropologist, this is what stood out.

Again, I will assume that he was sincere about his love of different groups. But as a leader, it should be understood that as difficult as the job is you will spend some of your time -- perhaps a large amount of your time -- talking with, negotiating with and listening to groups with different motivations, concerns and needs. You have to listen. You have to compromise to some degree.
Instead, he [Wolfe] kept talking about how change happens. He never talked about his vision for a more inclusive university community. He never mentioned the things he began to put in place and hopes to see continue, what he realized too late or what he thinks his successor will have to do. He never says expressly what specifically he -- not "we" -- did wrong.

I am sympathetic with his position, to an extent. University administrators have difficult jobs to do, and I think most understand that they are one scandal away from a resignation. But when you are the leader of a community that is supposed to be inclusive and open, where people can express ideas and learn that does include listening to what others consider significant, what others are experiencing and demonstrating active progress to address those issues.

LOPEZ: The protesters at this school are saying we are concerned about and we must confront the great moral outrage of racism. And [in this section], the president is saying that we must worry about declining standards of etiquette.

Rather than address the substance of the students' concerns or the structure that put the students in the position that they felt they had to engage in protests, the president is criticizing them for protesting loudly and, I guess, shutting down their football games. And right there, you see the kernel of the problem on this campus. The university president fails to understand the circumstances the students are contending with and essentially dismisses them or, until his resignation, his obligation to listen to them and address them because the students did not ask nicely, they were not dressed in their Sunday best.

In some ways, this kind of fundamental misunderstanding is understandable.

There is a stereotype of African Americans being threatening, and that is embodied in the president’s language, his use of words such as “intimidation.” There is also revisionist myth making about civil rights protests that asks or at this point virtually allows some of us to only look back on them in this odd way. You hear people say things like 'look how neatly dressed they were, they were so polite.'

It's a complete revision of how King was perceived in the 1950s and 1960s. [He was seen as a communist, an agitator -- the man creating protests and therefore problems where they did not exist before.] But what all this mythical talk about polite and dignified protest really does is say, 'you see when people act nicely we will respond. We will also be kind. That is all it takes. But if you are intimidating, then we have no obligation at all.'

Notice, he starts [this section] by asking, "How did we get here?" Then he says "we stopped listening," and "intimidating each other" took over. This is a way of saying the problem in our society right now and on this campus is some people are resorting to coercive tactics, to loud protest, to pressure -- rather than what this president sees as legitimate recourse.

There are two things going on here: People who represent the dominant interest in society, people who are completely at peace with the status quo that is nevertheless built from deeply entrenched hierarchies can react to protest by saying you folks are being rude. And as a result, they cannot or do not have to try to envision the legitimacy of the complaints. Then, the people
who are struggling for change are left with no alternative but to engage in creative pressure tactics and protest. This is what MLK called creative tension when he was responding to the question, "Why protest?"

The second thing you hear in this president’s language -- and what I suspect we will hear a lot more of in coming days from other people -- is this: There is this idea that protest is something that blacks do because they are anti-social and disruptive and difficult.

The dismount

I truly love everybody here and the very institution, and my decision to resign comes out of love, not hate. I’d like to read some scripture that’s given me strength. I hope it provides you with some strength as well, as we think about this next. I have to also to give credit to my daughter, who reminded me of the scripture.

Psalm 46, Verse 1: "The Lord is my refuge and my strength, my very present help in trouble."

We need to use my resignation — please, please — use this resignation to heal, not to hate, as we move forward today for a brighter tomorrow.

BAKER: I'm again inclined to say let's take him at his word that these are heartfelt thoughts and ideas. I did hear his reference to the Psalm and thought he was talking about the university's pain and its struggle. These are difficult times for the whole school. I think he meant that he hoped the university would find some productive way to move forward.

The question is did he recognize, outside of that comment about personal responsibility, that if he wanted to remain as administrator, he had a role to play in that and failing on that front in the eyes of students, the faculty and the football team -- apparently especially the football team -- is why he probably had to go?

LOPEZ: You know, for me, I heard this the speech and the end, and I thought about the way that it seemed connected to a strain of American conservatism that holds that the "real racist" is he or she who brings up race first, brings it up directly and says that it must be considered. It stems from the idea of colorblindness -- a once-liberal idea that essentially held that our race or ethnicity was not all that defined us but we still need to be mindful of how race continues to shape our lives, our options.

But as early as the 1960s, conservatives began to hijack that idea. Then, by the 1970s what you get is this total turnaround. Now, anyone who would mention the ways that race affects an issue, changes things -- or God forbid, may mandate some kind of race-specific solution -- is now the racist, trying to do others wrong.

So, when I heard this, I thought about the fact that conservatives often talk about race all the time in coded terms. They talk about sharia law and Muslim extremists and immigration and welfare rolls. All of those are always conversations about race, but they just don't say the word race if
they can avoid it at all. But really what else have our obsessions about anchor babies and crack babies really been but conversations about a racial threat, a perceived danger posed by the other. Today, that coding has grown more sophisticated.

You hear Republicans claim that others "play the race card." You hear this president talk about his need for comfort, for calm in a time of trouble that is probably personally difficult but there do seem to be some larger issues here.

University of Missouri President Tim Wolfe Resigns Amid Racial Unrest

*The president of the University of Missouri system resigned Monday amid mounting criticism of his handling of racism on the school's campus network.*

"This university is in pain right now ... and it needs healing," President Tim Wolfe said at a meeting Monday of the system's governing Board of Curators in Columbia.

"We have to stop yelling at each other to work problems out and focus on how we can improve the day and the future and not focus on the past," Wolfe said.

Wolfe's exit came two days after black members of Mizzou's football team said they would not play, and a week into a graduate student's vow not to eat until Wolfe left office. Later in the day, R. Bowen Loftin, chancellor of the system's flagship campus in Columbia, announced his resignation, effective at the end of the year.

"To those who have suffered, I apologize on behalf of the university for being slow to respond to experiences that are unacceptable and offensive in our campus communities and in our society," said Donald Cupps, chairman of the Board of Curators.

Cupp said the system's first chief diversity, inclusion and equity officer would be appointed within 90 days as part of a review all system policies.

"Significant changes are required to move us forward," he said. "The board is committed to making those changes."
The developments are the culmination of two months of unrest over the administration's response to complaints of racial slurs and harassment, which many students criticized as lackluster.

Black students say they've been taunted by white students using racial slurs, but protesters have also complained about homophobic incidents and other hateful attacks, most recently on Oct. 24, when a swastika was scrawled in human feces on a dormitory wall.

Wolfe had repeatedly refused to step down, and as recently as Sunday had proclaimed his commitment to "ongoing dialogue" and the development of a diversity strategy due in April.

But the developments on the football team thrust the debate onto the national spotlight. The chairman of the state's House Higher Education Committee said it had become clear that Wolfe could "no longer effectively lead." Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon and U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill pressed the university to act. The university system's governing board responded by calling an emergency meeting.

That is where Wolfe appeared Monday morning, appearing to hold back tears as he announced that he would step down.

"I've thought and prayed about this decision. It's the right to do," Wolfe said.

Wolfe said there had been frustration on both sides, but he blamed himself for failing to communicate well with protesters as debate roiled the school's predominantly white main campus in Columbia.

The protests began soon after the start of the fall semester, when the head of the student government reported that he'd been taunted with a racial epithet while walking on campus. At first, protesters focused their complaints on Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin. But the focus gradually shifted to Wolfe.

On Oct. 10, protesters blocked a red convertible he was riding in during the school's homecoming parade. Wolfe's car drove away, which he later regretted as making it seem as if he didn't care.

That incident was followed meetings between protesters and Wolfe, which seemed to get nowhere. A growing number of critics called for him to quit or be fired.

"The question really is, why did we get to this very difficult situation?" Wolfe said. "It is my belief that we stopped listening to each other."

He mentioned by name Jonathan Butler, the graduate student and activist who announced Nov. 2 that he was going on a hunger strike until Wolfe left.

"This is not, I repeat, not, the way change should come about," Wolfe said.
University of Missouri president resigns amid campus protests

A faculty group at the University of Missouri called for professors and other staff to walk out of classes Monday and Tuesday in the latest protest against the university president's handling of a series of racially charged incidents.

The protests began after the student government president, who is black, said in September that people in a passing pickup truck shouted racial slurs at him. In early October, members of a black student organization said slurs were hurled at them by an apparently drunken white student. Recently, a swastika drawn in human feces was found in a dormitory bathroom.

More recently, two trucks flying Confederate flags drove past a site where 150 students had gathered to protest on Sunday, a move some saw as an attempt at intimidation. One of the participants, Abigail Hollis, a black undergraduate, said the campus is "unhealthy and unsafe for us."

"The way white students are treated is in stark contrast to the way black students and other marginalized students are treated, and it's time to stop that," Hollis said. "It's 2015."

USA Today reported that The Concerned Faculty urged its members to stage a teach-in at the plaza where dozens of the school's African-American students and their supporters have gathered for the past week.

More than two dozen football players at the school have drawn national attention to the protests by announcing that they would not participate in team activities until University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe is removed. Head football coach Gary Pinkel and athletic director Mack Rhoades expressed solidarity with the players and showed support for a Missouri student staging a hunger strike.

The Concerned Student 1950 group, which draws its name from the year the university accepted its first black student, has demanded, among other things, that Wolfe "acknowledge his white male privilege," that he be removed immediately, and that the school adopt a mandatory racial-awareness program and hire more black faculty and staff.

Wolfe hasn't indicated he has any intention of stepping down, but agreed in a statement Sunday that "change is needed" and said the university is working to draw up a plan by
April to promote diversity and tolerance. He said that most of the group's demands have already been incorporated into the university's draft plan for promoting tolerance.

Already, at Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin's request, the university announced plans to require diversity training for all new students starting in January, along with faculty and staff.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reported that Wolfe was confronted outside a fundraising event in Kansas City Friday night by protesters who asked him to define systemic oppression. According to video of the encounter posted on Twitter, Wolfe responded that the students may not like his answer before saying, "Systematic oppression is because you don’t believe that you have the equal opportunity for success —"

That statement provoked anger from the protesters, one of whom asked "Did you just blame us for systematic oppression, Tim Wolfe?" as the president walked away.

But the actions of the football players have garnered the most media coverage.

"The athletes of color on the University of Missouri football team truly believe 'Injustice Anywhere is a threat to Justice Everywhere,'" the players said in a statement. "We will no longer participate in any football related activities until President Tim Wolfe resigns or is removed due to his negligence toward marginalized students' experience. WE ARE UNITED!!!!!"

It was not immediately clear what the football players' statement would mean for the university's next game Saturday against Brigham Young University. The game is scheduled to be played at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, and canceling it could cost the school more than $1 million.

Pinkel expressed solidarity on Twitter, posting a picture of the team and coaches locking arms.

Practice and other team activities were canceled Sunday, Pinkel and Rhoades said in a joint statement. The statement linked the return of the protesting football players to the end of the hunger strike by Jonathan Butler, who began the effort Nov. 2 and vowed to not eat until Wolfe was gone.

"Our focus right now is on the health of Jonathan Butler, the concerns of our student-athletes and working with our community to address this serious issue," the statement said.

Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon said the university must address the concerns so that the school is "a place where all students can pursue their dreams in an environment of respect, tolerance and inclusion."
U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, a Missouri graduate, said the governing board needs to "send a clear message" to the students at the Columbia campus that they'll address racism.

The racial issues are just the latest controversy at the university in recent months, following the suspension of graduate students' health care subsidies and an end to university contracts with a Planned Parenthood clinic that performs abortions.

The school's undergraduate population is 79 percent white and 8 percent black. The state is about 83 percent white and nearly 12 percent black.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*
University of Missouri president resigns amid racism controversy


Tim Wolfe, the president of the University of Missouri system, abruptly resigned following weeks of protests over his handling of allegations of racism on campus. The move came two days after a group of black football players threatened to boycott Saturday's game.

Wolfe resigns as president of UM System

By THE TRIBUNE’S STAFF

Monday, November 9, 2015 at 10:20 am

University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe resigned from his position effective immediately, he said at the start of a Board of Curators meeting Monday morning.

“It’s the right thing to do,” Wolfe said.

Wolfe, who had been president of the system since 2012, said he took full responsibility for the inaction and frustration that occurred on the MU campus. Wolfe said he hopes his resignation helps the university heal and start talking again and make the necessary changes.
“The question really is why did we get to this very difficult situation?” Wolfe said. “We didn’t respond or react; we got frustrated with each other, and we forced individuals like Jonathan Butler to take unusual steps to affect change. This is not … the way change should come about.”

Butler is an MU graduate student who last Monday said he would not eat until Wolfe resigned or was removed as president. Butler said on Twitter after Wolfe’s announcement that his hunger strike was done.

“This is only the first step! More change is to come!!” Butler tweeted.

Student protesters had called for Wolfe’s removal the past month, saying he was negligent in dealing with race issues on campus. A group of students calling themselves Concerned Student 1950 camped in tents near Traditions Plaza for the past week and called for Wolfe’s ouster. The group takes its name from the year the first black graduate student was admitted to MU.

The students gained more campus support Monday with graduate assistants and some faculty canceling classes and participating in a walkout. Demands for Wolfe’s resignation or firing intensified over the weekend when football players posted on Twitter that black players on the team would not play until Wolfe was removed from his post.

“To our students, from Concerned Student 1950 to our grad students, football players and other students, the frustration and anger that I see is clear, real and I don’t doubt it for a second,” Wolfe said.

He asked that faculty, staff and students use his resignation “to heal, not to hate.”

“Change comes from listening, learning, caring and conversation. We have to respect each other enough to stop yelling at each other and start listening,” he said. “Let’s focus on changing what we can change today and in the future.”

Students with Concerned Student 1950 declined to comment on Wolfe’s resignation Monday morning.

The group planned to have a news conference Monday afternoon.

John Wigger, chairman of MU’s Department of History, was on the quadrangle Monday to show support for the protesters. Wigger said Wolfe’s resignation was inevitable.

“It didn’t start with the president,” Wigger said. “It shouldn’t end there.”

Stephanie Shonekan, chairwoman of MU’s Black Studies Department, said MU needs to develop strategies to better understand the climate on campus.

“What can hold our administration and our faculty accountable and responsible for fixing things and for living up to our mission to do research and education that upholds and enhances humanity,” Shonekan said.
Wolfe had been under intense scrutiny and criticism since he refused to address protesters who blocked his car at the Homecoming Parade in October. Some Concerned Student 1950 members said they allowed Wolfe’s car to hit them as the driver attempted to get around the roadblock “to ensure we were heard.”

Wolfe issued a statement Friday apologizing for not getting out of the car and engaging with protesters. He also acknowledged that systematic oppression exists on campus.

Gov. Jay Nixon issued a statement Monday calling Wolfe’s resignation “a necessary step.”

“There is more work to do, and now the University of Missouri must move forward — united by a commitment to excellence, and respect and tolerance for all,” Nixon said. “The University of Missouri is an outstanding institution that will continue to play a vital role in our efforts to provide a world-class education to every Missouri student.”

Wolfe’s resignation signals a chance to heal the divisions at the university, said state Sen. David Pearce R-Warrensburg, chairman of the Senate Education Committee.

“I don’t think it mitigates some of the problems that need to be addressed and the dialogue that needs to continue,” Pearce said. “Politically and socially it was insurmountable, and it was the best alternative.”

Pearce was in Washington, D.C., for a higher education conference and said he was disturbed to see reports of the campus problems on the front page of USA Today, The Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal.

“When your school and state are put in a limelight like that, something needs to be done,” Pearce said.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE
COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

Slew of protests, racist incidents build to Wolfe's resignation

By Alicia Stice

The tensions that culminated with UM System President Tim Wolfe’s emotional resignation Monday have been building for years, with events in the past year bringing things to a boiling point.
August through October 2014: University of Missouri students rallied together for months after white police officer Darren Wilson shot and killed Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, in Ferguson. Student group MU 4 Mike Brown hosted a series of demonstrations on campus and downtown. The demonstrations included silent, hands-up marches through campus, a walk out and “die-ins,” during which protesters lay on the ground.

December 2014: Hordes of students gathered outside of Jesse Hall at MU to protest the death of an unarmed black man at the hands of a white police officer. The demonstration drew about 500 people who chanted and conducted a candlelight vigil for Eric Garner, a black man killed by New York City police officers in July. MU graduate student Jonathan Butler helped lead the demonstration.

December 2014: A group of about 100 demonstrators blocked traffic outside Roxy’s on Broadway downtown. They were protesting a wristband the bar had that read “hands up, pants up,” which many took to be an insensitive play on the slogan “hands up, don’t shoot,” which was widely used during protests after Michael Brown’s death in Ferguson.

March 2015: MU students protested racism on campus by marching through the university’s Greek Town and ending at Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin’s doorstep. That same month, students criticized Loftin at a forum about race. Many expressed concerns about campus climates and racially motivated threats made on social media.

September 2015: Student leader Payton Head wrote a Facebook post describing an experience downtown in which white men shouted at him and called him a racial slur. He wrote about racial discrimination and discrimination against people who are gay or transgender. The post helped reignite passionate protests on campus.

October 2015: A white man used a racial slur and disrupted members of the Legion of Black Collegians as they rehearsed for a Homecoming event. Later that week, members of the group met with Loftin to discuss their concerns. The next day, Loftin announced that all incoming students will be required to complete diversity and inclusion training starting in January.

October 2015: Protesters blocked UM System President Tim Wolfe’s car during MU’s Homecoming Parade. Videos of the incident show a few white parade spectators getting between the protesters and the car. Wolfe did not speak to the protesters, who claimed he allowed his car to hit them. Wolfe issued a self-described “overdue” apology for his actions in November.

November 2015: Jonathan Butler began his hunger strike. Butler said he would not eat until Wolfe stepped down or was fired. Black players on MU’s football team announced they would boycott football activities until Wolfe left office. Wolfe resigned Monday, a full week after Butler first started his hunger strike.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN
UM PRESIDENT OUT

Wolfe resigns as UM System president amid campus uproar

MISSOURIAN STAFF, Updated 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — UM System President Tim Wolfe resigned Monday morning at an emergency meeting of the UM System Board of Curators.

"My motivation in making this decision comes from love" for Columbia and the university, Wolfe said.

Wolfe has garnered widespread criticism over the past few weeks for his inaction in response to protests about the racial climate at MU.

Wondering how the racial tensions at MU got to this point? Here's a timeline of key events.

Graduate student Jonathan Butler ended his hunger strike shortly after Wolfe's resignation. Butler stopped eating on Nov. 2, vowing to strike until Wolfe had been removed as president. He said Wolfe had failed to act on multiple incidents of racism at MU.

Butler ended the strike with an announcement on Facebook that picked up nearly 600 "likes" and more than 200 "shares" within 10 minutes.

Butler was seen leaving the quadrangle campsite in a car at about 11:20 a.m.

Concerned Student 1950, the group Butler helped found, called for meetings with the governor and the UM Board of Curators in a press conference at 1 p.m. Butler said he appreciated the prayers of supporters. The group said it would not answer other personal questions.
Pressure on the curators to remove Wolfe or for the president to resign mounted quickly over the past few days. The Missouri football team said Saturday that it would refuse to practice or play until Wolfe left.

About 30 feet from the Old Alumni Center, where Wolfe announced his resignation in the Fireplace Room, a few golfers were just teeing off for the morning at A.L. Gustin Golf Course. Around the center, reporters were pacing, making calls and texting while waiting for the curators to return. Behind the building, MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin paced the patio. A security guard stood beside him.

Wolfe had to repeat his resignation when Curator David Steward, who had phoned into the meeting, said from a speaker at the center of the conference table that he was unable to hear. Wolfe moved closer to the microphone but that didn't work. He waited silently. After more than two minutes he began again.

"As I said earlier — I am resigning as president of the University of Missouri system."

Wolfe was contrite.

"Why did we get to this very difficult situation?" Wolfe asked. "It is my belief we stopped listening to each other."

He took full responsibility for the inaction that has occurred and for frustration on campus.

"This is not, I repeat is not, the way change should come about," Wolfe said. "Change comes from listening, learning, caring and conversation."

Missouri Student Association President Payton Head joined a group cheering and chanting on the Mel Carnahan Quadrangle, where protesters for the past week had been camping. Head’s Facebook post about someone shouting a racial slur at him from a passing truck as he walked on campus helped spark the series of protests that ensued.
Concerned Student 1950, so named because MU admitted its first black student that year, blocked Wolfe’s car during the Homecoming Parade on Oct. 10. Wolfe remained in his car as police ushered the protesters off the street.

At Carnahan Quadrangle, protesters gathered close, put their arms around each other, swayed and starting singing “We Shall Overcome.”

MU running back Trevon Walters said while watching the celebration with teammate DeSean Blair on the quad that the Tigers are "for sure playing" Saturday against BYU at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City.

"More than football, more than scholarships, I'm just happy our athletics department was behind us," Walters said. Even if the Tigers were 10-0 and in contention for the college football playoffs, he said, they would have gone through with the walkout.

Later, more than 10 football players stood in the middle of a circle created by human arms linked together. Some of the players were dancing. As they left the circle, Kerry Mullin, 48, a stay-at-home mom who lives in Columbia, thanked the players one by one. Her 6-year-old son, Taygen Givan, was alongside.

Word of Wolfe's resignation spread quickly throughout the Concerned Student 1950 campsite as people checked their phones for the news around 10 a.m. The crowd went quiet as the curators convened, then bubbled with conversation as Wolfe spoke inside the Old Alumni Center on Carrie Francke Drive.

Then, a woman stood on a table on the quad and grabbed the crowd's attention.

"This is a movement, not a moment!" she yelled to cheers. She later thanked everyone for coming.
Concerned Student 1950 vowed to continue and gathered in a group near the campsite. They sang "I believe that we will win" and danced as cameras caught the moment under the bright morning sun.

The group once again declined to talk with news media. Its tents remained standing at 11 a.m.

The Forum on Graduate Rights was still encouraging a walkout for Tuesday.

"THE WALKOUT IS CONTINUING," it said in a statement. "This runs deeper than Tim Wolfe, and is not only about racism, it's about labor exploitation — not just for ourselves, but for faculty, staff, and facilities and support workers.

"Now, more than ever, we need to demonstrate our sustained collective power — because we, with organized students, have helped demonstrate exactly what organized power has done and can do."

The forum announced it would hold a rally at noon at Traditions Plaza.

Gov. Jay Nixon said Wolfe's resignation was "a necessary step toward healing."

Wolfe, a native of Columbia and a graduate and former quarterback at Rock Bridge High School, became UM president in February 2012. He earned a business degree at MU in 1980 and had served in several leadership positions, including 20 years as an executive at IBM and as president of the software company of Novell Americas.

He said when he took the job as president that he hoped it would be "a very long and last role of my career."

In his acceptance speech, he called for a diversity of opinion in planning for the future of the university.

"This formal process that we will build together needs to be inclusive and open," he said. "In the proudest tradition of the academy, it needs to incorporate different points of view, weighing
many options and alternatives, respecting every opinion brought into the dialogue, and it needs to set the course that we can all get behind, have ownership in and be successful."

Not long after he took office, he told the Missourian that "the toughest leadership lesson he's learned is to know when to fold." (See the full profile here.)

"When you don't have the skills or the people to deliver a service or try to sell a product that's not in demand, no matter how hard you work, you won't be successful," he said. "So the leadership lesson learned is when you go into a situation, you have to evaluate the cards that you're dealt and play that hand to the best that you can. Sometimes you're dealt a losing hand, and instead of trying to stay in the game and bluff your way through, where you end up spending more money and wasting people's time, you just need to fold."

Wolfe became the second consecutive UM president to resign the position.

Gary Forsee resigned in January 2011 for vastly different reasons. He said he needed time to be with his wife to focus on her recovery from cancer, according to previous Missourian reporting.

After Forsee's resignation, the curators voted to approve a list of qualifications for the next system president. Strengths the board sought included a business background, a political presence in Jefferson City and the ability to communicate with university stakeholders.

Wolfe took over after system general counsel Steve Owens had served as interim president.

State, campus leaders respond to MU president's resignation
Leaders from various positions across the state responded to the resignation of MU System President Tim Wolfe Monday afternoon.

Wolfe announced his resignation following a multi-day hunger strike by a MU grad student who claims MU leaders didn't address alleged racism in a timely manner.

Some Mizzou football players got involved and said they would stop playing until the issue was resolved and Butler's hunger strike came to an end.

On Monday, following Wolfe's announcement, Mizzou Athletics released the following statement, "The primary concern of our student-athletes, coaches, and staff has been centered on the health of Jonathan Butler and working with campus leaders to find a resolution that would save a life. We are hopeful we can begin a process of healing and understanding on our campus."

Governor Jay Nixon said, “Tim Wolfe’s resignation was a necessary step toward healing and reconciliation on the University of Missouri campus, and I appreciate his decision to do so,”

Gov. Nixon said, “There is more work to do, and now the University of Missouri must move forward – united by a commitment to excellence, and respect and tolerance for all. The University of Missouri is an outstanding institution that will continue to play a vital role in our efforts to provide a world-class education to every Missouri student.”

Attorney General Chris Koster said, “I support today’s decision by Tim Wolfe, but this step is a beginning and not an end. My hope is that the University of Missouri Board of Curators creates a process by which incidents can be reported and investigated in a manner that has credibility within the student body. It is important that our flagship university learns from and is made better by this experience.”

Senator Claire McCaskill said, “This was the right decision to help the University turn the page, and for its leaders to recommit to ending racism on campus. Tim Wolfe loves the University of Missouri, and his action today was a reflection of that. I’m confident that my alma mater will work to create a stronger community of acceptance and equality.”

Assistant House Minority Leader Gail McCann Beatty responded by saying, “With the resignation of UM System President Tim Wolfe, it is the duty of the Board of Curators to take immediate action to address the concerns of minority students. Inaction and indifference is what brought us to this point. The curators must not repeat that mistake. Instead, the curators should consider this an opportunity to make substantive changes to the university’s culture to ensure equality and respect for all students.”

The ACLU of Missouri said, “The ACLU of Missouri honors the University of Missouri students and faculty who have displayed courageous and creative leadership in bringing attention to the racism that is an unfortunate part of the history of our state and its institutions, and which continues to this day. Only by publicly speaking about these issues, by listening to each other, and by demanding proactive solutions from our leaders, can we hope to move forward and create a state where all Missourians are afforded equal opportunity and treatment by the law.”
Representative Caleb Rowden said, "I applaud President Wolfe for making a very difficult personal decision today that was ultimately in the best interest of the University of Missouri System and our flagship campus here in Columbia. I wish him and his family well in their future endeavors.

We live in a country that values freedom of speech and freedom of association; we will always face differences and disagreements amongst ourselves. As good citizens, we are called to engage those with whom we disagree in civil debate and informed dialogue. Our Mizzou family has reached a pivotal moment will we allow ourselves to be defined by conflict and strife? Or will we come together and create a positive dialogue and a productive vision for this institution we have all grown to love? As a Mid-Missouri elected official, I am willing to do whatever I can to help facilitate a path forward. Honesty, empathy, education, and engagement are critical to the future of institutions like Mizzou and to our society as a whole. My hope is that all Missourians will feel comfortable publicly sharing their views, and likewise are willing and able to think critically about those views and about the opposing views of others."

Senator Maria Chapelle-Nadal spoke to ABC 17 News following Wolfe's resignation.

She said, "First of all, there are a list of demands from the UM students who are in this action, the hunger strike, as well as camping out on campus. This meets the first demand. We still have nine more to go. And so, I'm very happy that the president made this decision that we have to focus on how he made the statement, he said use this as a way of healing. There are a lot of people who are frustrated, which we know that to be the case nationally. But I want to make sure that that you and system really focuses on the culture environment of the student population. And when there are concerns, that students have a pathway to resolution. And so, even though it's a good day for many people, we have to focus on healing and we also have to have policies that are put in place to protect everyone."

The Forum on Graduate Rights said, ""The Steering Committee of the Forum on Graduate Rights with the Coalition of Graduate Workers are outraged by President Tim Wolfe’s statement issued on Sunday, in which he and the University of Missouri System administration doubled-down on “business as usual” as the path forward for our troubled campus.

In solidarity with anti-racism activists at the University of Missouri, we are calling for graduate workers to walk out on Monday, November 9th, and Tuesday, November 10th. This step has not been taken lightly. We have chosen to do so because we believe an injury to any member of the campus community is an injury to all, and that our fight against labor exploitation has common cause with campus fights against other forms of systemic inequality and oppression.

We urge graduate students to further show their support by participating in demonstrations which will be announced through social media. Removing Tim Wolfe will not be the end of our fight, and we will continue to organize as workers to ensure a more equitable University community."

Planned Parenthood also released a statement Monday night in support of the announcement. Laura McQuade, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri said, "We are grateful to Jonathan Butler for risking his life to bring attention to the inequities faced
by people of color, women, and other marginalized groups treated by MU leadership as though their issues and voices don't matter." McQuade also said, "Before assuming a new role, we urge Chancellor Loftin to immediately reinstate the appropriate clinical privileges to ensure there is no disruption in health care access for the residents of this community."

Wolfe resigns as UM System president


University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe has announced he is resigning from his post amid racial tension.

President Tim Wolfe said Monday that his resignation is effective immediately.

This comes as the University of Missouri Board of Curators entered into a special meeting Monday morning amid protests against racism and discrimination at the campus.

Wolfe addressed the board on Monday, saying he takes full responsibility for the controversy at the University of Missouri, and wants everyone to use his resignation as a healing process.

"This institution is a source of pride for the state and beacon of hope for many young people from all walks of life, and it has been my honor to lead it." Wolfe said. "This is the hardest thing I have ever done in my life, but I made my decision based on what I believe is right for the University of Missouri."

"Recent circumstances, including serious concerns about the MU campus and its leadership, have created too much pain at Mizzou, which is my alma mater and the place I call home," he said. "I sincerely wish it was different, but events are such that the best course of action for the university at this time is for me to resign."
In a statement issued late Monday morning, Governor Jay Nixon said Wolfe's resignation was needed to move forward.

"Tim Wolfe's resignation was a necessary step toward healing and reconciliation on the University of Missouri campus, and I appreciate his decision to do so," Gov. Nixon said. "There is more work to do, and now the University of Missouri must move forward - united by a commitment to excellence, and respect and tolerance for all. The University of Missouri is an outstanding institution that will continue to play a vital role in our efforts to provide a world-class education to every Missouri student."

Wolfe has been criticized in recent weeks for a lack of action in response to the issue of racism on the MU Campus.

MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin is currently outside the Old Alumni Center, where the MU board of curators is still in closed session.

He tells KRCG 13 he has no comment on Tim Wolfe's resignation at this time.

For months, black student groups have complained of racial slurs and discrimination on the overwhelmingly white campus of the University of Missouri's four-college system.

Tension flared during the homecoming parade back in October when protesters blocked Wolfe's car, and he stayed inside his car without talking to them. They were removed by police.

Just this past weekend, dozens of University of Missouri football players announced they will not take part in team activities until UM System President Tim Wolfe is fired or resigns.

This controversy followed a hunger strike by Jonathan Butler, a Missouri graduate student.

By Sunday, a campus sit-in had grown in size, graduate student groups planned walkouts and politicians began to weigh in.

In a statement issued Sunday night, Coach Gary Pinkel said it is clear the players on strike will not play until Butler resumes eating.

A spokesperson for Concerned Student 1950 tells KRCG 13 that now that Wolfe has resigned, Butler's hunger strike is over.

Dozens of Missouri football players say practice will resume on Monday and that Saturday's game against BYU will go on as planned.

MU faculty council President Ben Trachtenberg says the students have been "inspiring" during the week's protest.

He says he hopes the next UM System President adheres to the principle of shared governance and does a better job involving the four campus chancellors and students.
Trachtenberg said that some MU faculty had planned on holding classes near the protest site on the Carnahan quadrangle.

KRCG 13 has a crew at the meeting and will update this story as more information will become available.

Students, faculty say Wolfe resignation a good first step

Columbia — Students and faculty said Monday they hoped future university leaders...
"It's a tough job, and we need somebody who's ready to go after it," he said.

Wolfe announces resignation as UM System president

After pressure from Concerned Student 1950, Wolfe announced his resignation Monday morning.

University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe announced his resignation today amid growing racial tensions on MU’s campus.

The announcement was made at 10 a.m. during a UM Board of Curators meeting.

In his statement, Wolfe addressed the frustration of students and members of the MU community. He also acknowledged that a lack of communication “forced individuals like Jonathan Butler to take…unusual steps to affect change.”

“To our students, from Concerned Student 1950, grad students, football players and other students, the frustration and anger that I see is clear, real, and I don’t doubt it for a second,” Wolfe said.

A series of controversial events have caused growing tensions on campus this semester.

On Monday, Nov. 2, graduate student Jonathan Butler began a hunger strike with the goal of Wolfe’s removal. Wolfe announced his resignation on the eighth day of Butler’s strike, just over a week after it began.

Members of the Missouri football team announced a boycott of all football-related activities Saturday night until Butler began eating.

The Missouri Students Association tweeted a series of statements following Wolfe’s resignation.

Wolfe had been the system president since 2012. He grew up in Columbia, graduating from Rock Bridge High School and from MU with a bachelor’s degree from the Trulaske College of Business in 1980.
His father worked at MU as a communications professor in the College of Arts and Science from 1967 to 1997.

Wolfe’s father taught communications at MU’s College of Arts and Sciences, and his mother now teaches law at the Massachusetts School of Law in Andover after earning four degrees at MU.

The Board of Curators announced on Dec. 13, 2011, that the year-long search for a new curator had concluded with the hiring of Wolfe.

“Serving this great university and our state is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me, and I commit my full attention and energy to this endeavor,” Wolfe said in a 2011 Maneater article. “It is obvious to me, and it will be one of our goals to make it obvious to our fellow Missourians, that the University of Missouri System is the greatest asset in this state.”

Previously, Wolfe served as an executive for IBM for 20 years and then became the executive vice president of Covansys in 2000. He then served as President of the Americas at Novell in 2003-2007.

“I am very much looking forward to talking to students and trying to understand how we’re doing in delivering a quality education to each and every student on the campuses we serve,” Wolfe said in the 2011 article.

In an Aug. 20, 2014 Maneater article, the Board of Curators announced that it had extended Wolfe’s contract through June 30, 2018. It was previously scheduled to expire on February 15, 2015.

In the article, former board chairman Don Downing said that enrollment and donations have “substantially increased under Wolfe’s watch.”

Toward the end of his announcement on Monday, Wolfe choked on his words with tears in his eyes.

“My decision to resign comes out of love, not hate,” Wolfe said. “...Use my resignation to heal and start talking again, to make the changes necessary.”

**Concerned Student 1950 reacts to Wolfe’s resignation in news conference**
The group demanded immediate meetings with Faculty Council, UM System Board of Curators and Gov. Jay Nixon.

Concerned Student 1950 called Tim Wolfe’s resignation a “glimmer of hope” for marginalized students but said Wolfe leaving is “just the beginning” at a news conference Monday afternoon.

The UM System president was under pressure to resign after graduate student Jonathan Butler’s weeklong hunger strike, Mizzou football players’ boycott of football activities and a day of national media coverage.

Butler spoke publicly for the first time since the end of his hunger strike in front of more than 500 people at Traditions Plaza.

“It would be inappropriate if I did not acknowledge the students who have been fighting for us,” Butler said. “This was not Jonathan Butler. This was the Mizzou community for one of the first times I've seen stand together united.”

Concerned Student 1950 member Marshall Allen announced a new demand: immediate meetings with Faculty Council, UM System Board of Curators and Gov. Jay Nixon.

Concerned Student 1950 leaders said they criticize MU because they love MU and want to see it change.

“I can say the last eight days, I've seen an outpouring of love that has empowered me to continue this fight,” graduate student Reuben Faloughi said. “If you're marginalized, keep fighting. You can get what you want. You can get what you deserve.”

The students said they want “full shared governance” over the university, including input in the selection process for Wolfe’s successor.

They said in 10 years, they would like to see a more inclusive campus and 15 percent black faculty.

At the end of the news conference, Butler led the crowd in chants.

“I am a revolutionary,” Butler chanted. “It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win. We must love and support each other. We have nothing to lose but our freedom.”

Chants of “M-I-Z, Z-O-U” broke out after, and one of the Concerned Student 1950 members asked the crowd to stop.

“That’s still traumatic for us because it was used against us,” a student said.
Politicians, administrators, alumni weigh in on Wolfe's resignation
MISSOURIAN STAFF, 19 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Tim Wolfe's resignation as UM System president prompted a flurry of statements.

Missouri Attorney General and gubernatorial candidate Chris Koster

"I support today’s decision by Tim Wolfe, but this step is a beginning and not an end. My hope is that the University of Missouri Board of Curators creates a process by which incidents can be reported and investigated in a manner that has credibility within the student body. It is important that our flagship university learns from and is made better by this experience."

Forum on Graduate Rights

"Today, the University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe resigned from his position. This resignation has followed many weeks of activism from students — marked notably by Jonathan Butler’s hunger strike — to address racism on campus, and the inadequate response from Mizzou and UM System administrators. This is only the beginning.

The past 10 weeks have demonstrated the power of students organized for the common purpose of changing our University’s culture and administration. However, addressing systemic inequities at our campus, such as racism, homophobia, misogyny, and labor exploitation, will require that graduate students continue to organize for collective action. We cannot wait for solutions to come from administration; we must mobilize to enact them.

Throughout this activism, it has become abundantly clear: Mr. Wolfe’s successors, both interim and permanent, must be prepared to immediately address concerns raised by
#ConcernedStudent1950, the Forum on Graduate Rights, and other student and employee movements for real change to take root in our community. A broad spectrum of student advocacy groups across campus must be included in the process to select a new President in a meaningful, empowered way. We will continue to speak out and advocate for the rights of all marginalized groups on campus.

The Forum on Graduate Rights stands in solidarity with #ConcernedStudent1950, the Coalition of Graduate Workers (CGW) and other students advocating for a more equitable campus and better working conditions."

---

**Kansas City councilman and MU alumnus Jermaine Reed**

"The selection of new leadership is an opportunity to develop Mizzou into a more inclusive community, where students from different races, religious affiliation, and backgrounds can receive a stellar public education that will prepare them for the rigors of the world.

"For four years, the University of Missouri was my home. The education I was afforded and the personal growth I experienced as a first-generation college student made me the community leader I am today. As an alumnus, I am determined to helping the university continue being an engine for developing talent and leaders that will impact generations.

As a student leader, I fought against injustices then, and I applaud the courage of current students and faculty for standing up to the status quo.

I thank Tim Wolfe for his service to the University System, and I encourage the Board of Curators to pursue an inclusive search process for the selection of the next president."

---

**Jim Spain, vice provost for undergraduate studies, on Twitter**
"I am humbled and inspired by the courage our students have demonstrated. I pledge to be part of the solution working towards a great MU!"

Assistant Missouri House Minority Leader Gail McCann Beatty, D-Kansas City

"With the resignation of UM System President Tim Wolfe, it is the duty of the Board of Curators to take immediate action to address the concerns of minority students. Inaction and indifference is what brought us to this point. The curators must not repeat that mistake. Instead, the curators should consider this an opportunity to make substantive changes to the university’s culture to ensure equality and respect for all students."

The Rev. H. Knute Jacobson, Calvary Episcopal Church

Our Episcopal baptismal vows call us to “respect the dignity of every human being.” The Clergy and Dismantling Racism Team of Calvary Episcopal Church express their strong dismay at the multiple incidents of racism and hate speech on the University of Missouri Columbia campus, as well as the persistence of racial discrimination in the Columbia community.

"We deplore systemic racism both on campus and in our society at large; and yet we, too, share in the sins of protecting and misusing privilege. We join with all those who have expressed concern for the health and well-being of protesters, and we keep all those seeking justice and dialogue in our thoughts and prayers.

U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Missouri

"This was the right decision to help the University turn the page and for its leaders to recommit to ending racism on campus. Tim Wolfe loves the University of Missouri, and his action today
was a reflection of that. I’m confident that my alma mater will work to create a stronger community of acceptance and equality."

Jeffrey Mittman, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri

"The ACLU of Missouri honors the University of Missouri students and faculty who have displayed courageous and creative leadership in bringing attention to the racism that is an unfortunate part of the history of our state and its institutions, and which continues to this day.

"Only by publicly speaking about these issues, by listening to each other, and by demanding proactive solutions from our leaders, can we hope to move forward and create a state where all Missourians are afforded equal opportunity and treatment by the law."

State Rep. Brandon Ellington, Missouri Legislative Black Caucus chairman, D-Kansas City

"The Missouri Legislative Black Caucus stands in solidarity with University of Missouri students in demanding long overdue action to address racial bias on campus, and we are disheartened that administrators were slow in treating this issue with the seriousness it deserves. The resignation of University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe demonstrates that leaders who ignore injustice or cling to the status quo do so at their own peril.

"We can no longer allow institutionalized racism to endure anywhere in Missouri. It is the solemn duty of everyone in a position of authority to identify and eradicate racial injustice."

Missouri Secretary of State Jason Kander
"University of Missouri students clearly lost faith in the administration's ability to make meaningful change in race relations on campus, and their voices were obviously heard loud and clear.

"I hope the Concerned Student 1950 movement is a starting point for an important dialog that is long overdue at Mizzou and across the state, and that student concerns are no longer ignored by the university. While it will take time to replace President Wolfe, the university cannot wait to take action to ensure black students have the same opportunities to succeed as white students. The new leadership of the university should immediately begin having conversations with students, faculty and staff to reach an understanding on the concrete steps that need to be taken in the next couple of months to rectify this troubling situation now — not sometime in the future."

Gov. Jay Nixon

"Tim Wolfe’s resignation was a necessary step toward healing and reconciliation on the University of Missouri campus, and I appreciate his decision to do so. There is more work to do, and now the University of Missouri must move forward — united by a commitment to excellence, and respect and tolerance for all. The University of Missouri is an outstanding institution that will continue to play a vital role in our efforts to provide a world-class education to every Missouri student."

State Rep. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia

“I applaud President Wolfe for making a very difficult personal decision today that was ultimately in the best interest of the University of Missouri System and our flagship campus here in Columbia. I wish him and his family well in their future endeavors.

We live in a country that values freedom of speech and freedom of association; we will always face differences and disagreements amongst ourselves. As good citizens, we are called to engage
those with whom we disagree in civil debate and informed dialogue. Our Mizzou family has reached a pivotal moment — will we allow ourselves to be defined by conflict and strife? Or will we come together and create a positive dialogue and a productive vision for this institution we have all grown to love?

As a Mid-Missouri elected official, I am willing to do whatever I can to help facilitate a path forward. Honesty, empathy, education, and engagement are critical to the future of institutions like Mizzou and to our society as a whole. My hope is that all Missourians will feel comfortable publicly sharing their views, and likewise are willing and able to think critically about those views and about the opposing views of others.”

State Reps. Kip Kendrick and Stephen Webber, D-Columbia

"The resignations of President Wolfe and Chancellor Loftin provide an opportunity for the University of Missouri to move forward as a community. The Missouri Board of Curators must engage in a meaningful dialogue and take concrete action so every student at the University of Missouri feels safe and welcome.

"As the flagship campus Mizzou has an obligation to set an example and create an environment where open, honest, and meaningful dialogue can take place. Progress is never easy; but we are confident our community can meet the challenge. We stand ready to work with the students, faculty, and staff through this process."

Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor for student affairs

"Mizzou students,"
"For more than a year, student activists have challenged all of us to do more to eradicate the culture of racism that persists at Mizzou. Today is an especially emotional day for us. What happens next is in our hands.

"I want to assure you, we are working toward real, enduring change. But it will not be easy. It requires courage, humility, patience and empathy. It requires every member of the Mizzou community — students, faculty, staff and administrators — to commit to taking personal action.

"We need to look inside, examine our own biases and think carefully about the things we say and do that cause others to feel hurt, unwelcome and excluded. We need to call each other out when we witness behavior that does not align with our community’s core values. We must listen, learn and grow.

"The healing starts today. The hard work continues.

"Together, we will make a better Mizzou."

Activists say fight is not finished after UM president's resignation

By Alan Burdziak

Monday, November 9, 2015 at 3:20 pm

A little more than three hours after University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe resigned, 11 original members of the activist group Concerned Student 1950 demanded an “immediate” meeting with the Intercampus Faculty Council, the Board of Curators and Gov. Jay Nixon to discuss shared governance of the UM System.

Speaking at Traditions Plaza to hundreds of supporters and local, national and international media outlets, the activists cautioned that their fight was not over. Visibly weak from his hunger
strike that ended when Wolfe quit Monday morning, MU graduate student Jonathan Butler said it was “disgusting and vile” that it took so long for Wolfe to act on issues of racism on campus. He also told people to not only focus on what happened Monday.

“Look at why did we get here in the first place, the struggle, why we had to do what we did,” Butler said.

The group’s calls for Wolfe’s job intensified over the past week. Butler began his hunger strike last Monday, and activists with Concerned Student 1950 camped out in tents near Traditions Plaza. The protesters were upset that administrators had not done enough to address racism on campus after a series of recent events. The 11 founders of the group blocked Wolfe’s car during the Homecoming Parade on Oct. 10, but Wolfe did not get out of the car and talk with them.

At Carnahan Quadrangle on Monday morning, hundreds of people showed up to support the group. Shortly after Wolfe announced his resignation, supporters of the group locked arms around the quad to keep media out of the campsite where protesters and organizers had stayed.

Supporters brought Butler into the quad and announced his hunger strike had ended. They chanted slogans including “The only thing we have to lose is our chains” and “It is our duty to win!” Protesters danced and sang in a large group on the lawn, but elation soon turned to cautious optimism when the 11 Concerned Student 1950 members took the stage.

The organizers said they will continue to fight for equality at the university and that they will post a new list of demands in the near future. Butler similarly protested when health insurance subsidies were momentarily eliminated for graduate assistants at MU. There are many issues on campus that interact, he said, and they’ve shown that the group can achieve results.

"This was not Jonathan Butler, this was the Mizzou community — for one of the first times I've seen — coming together," Butler said.

Some students and faculty who did not participate in the celebration but watched the events unfold said they supported the group. Kayla Leach, a communications major at MU, said Wolfe’s resignation was a good starting point but that more changes should be made at the administrative level.

“It needs to start with the leadership," she said. "Changes really start top-down, and by holding our leadership accountable, then you can begin to hold accountable who comes next.”

Racism on campus is a frequent occurrence, she said, recounting one night when she walked across campus to meet a friend at a downtown restaurant. During her brief walk, she said someone shouted obscene language and racial slurs at her six times.

“It was stressful experience for us because we thought, 'How is it only 10 o’clock at night and I can’t cross campus safely by myself without someone screaming at me?’” Leach said.
Kate Sansone, a communications and psychology major, said she has not had the same experiences but that she sympathizes with people who have been victimized with racism.

“When you don’t feel safe on campus, you don’t feel that you have the equal opportunity to learn like everyone else does,” Sansone said. “You don’t feel that you have the same freedom and safety. You don’t feel like you’re welcome.”

Like many others Monday, Kyle Smith said Wolfe quitting was little more than a start.

“It’s a positive step in the right direction,” said Smith, a junior communications major. “I don’t think it’s over at all, though. The hateful are gonna come out and they might retaliate or whatever, but I do think it’s a step in the right direction.”

As for what the UM System should do to make strides, Smith said it will be important to find the right leader to succeed Wolfe.

“Somebody who cares about the UM System, someone who will actually talk with students, that will hear what they have to say and actually ask for change,” Smith said.

While most people on the quad were excited, freshman Pat McKelvey worried that the national and international coverage might hurt MU's reputation. Wolfe needed to go because he didn’t respond correctly, McKelvey said, but he said the image of the school could hurt Concerned Student 1950’s goal of diversifying the campus.

“We were just called a racist campus on national TV,” McKelvey said, referring to a report he saw on ESPN. “I don’t think you’re going to be a destination for African-American grad students or faculty” if the campus is seen as racist.

There was speculation about what would happen to R. Bowen Loftin, the chancellor of the university’s flagship campus, who resigned Monday afternoon. Many said they felt he would be next out the door and that he also did not do enough to address racism at MU.

Loftin had made more of an effort than Wolfe, Sansone said, but she wondered how much of it was genuine.

“The fact that he acknowledged it at least a little bit is maybe a glimpse of hope,” she said.

For Leach, though, Loftin should have been more active from the beginning, engaging with students and addressing their concerns.

“Twitter mentions and emails are not enough,” Leach said.
Hochman: At Mizzou, emotions boil and uncoil

Nov. 10, 2015  •  By Benjamin Hochman

COLUMBIA, Mo. • I'm standing in the middle of history. Hundreds of University of Missouri students have ascended to the middle of Carnahan Quadrangle — black and white and other races too, some football players, some football fans, some who don't care about football, but can definitely feel its power.

“It is our duty to fight for our freedom!” they chanted. “It is our duty to win! We must love and support each other! We have nothing to lose but our chains!”

It's 11:05 a.m. Monday. Until moments earlier, hundreds of students stood in a human blockade, defending a circle surrounding the African-American students who have set up tents here. The protesting students demanded the university's systems president resign because not enough has been done to curtail campus racism. The students in the blockage don't want the media to infiltrate.

But now, we're all together, in the middle of the quad. Fists are in the air. Cell phones, too. After the chant, the students start chanting: “Power! Power! Power!”

It's all so surreal and intense and liberating and compelling and just crazy that here, at Mizzou, this international news story is taking place. The football team had gone on strike to support the cause, to persuade the president to quit, and thus end a fellow student's hunger strike. Indeed, the systems president has resigned.

“We are the future, the youth,” Mizzou football player Eddie Cerrano told me. “It's good to see us standing for what we think is right. There's a lot of controversy with the whole incident, because it's something new, revolutionary, a lot of people are going to reject it – (the fact that) a lot of people are angry that the football team went on strike. A couple years down the road, the picture will be painted more vividly.”

The football players will speak to the media at 3:30 this afternoon, as will coach Gary Pinkel, who supported the players' strike.

Now, I'm inside the quiet student union. Students check their phones from tables. A tour group of potential students walks by. It's calm. Then, a few of the African-American protesters proudly strutted inside, chanting “Power! Power!”

Students glance up from their lunches or laptops.

One student, visually miffed, barks back: “We heard ya, we're trying to get an education!”

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Hochman: Lessons from old professor ring true at Mizzou

Nov. 10, 2015  •  By Benjamin Hochman

COLUMBIA, Mo. • Back on campus, I thought of the old professor. Robert Collins. He taught a course about the 1960s, about social activism, about the power of sports, about how change doesn’t happen by wishing and
hoping; change comes from challenging.

**Of course, that’s the theme here at Mizzou — African-American students challenging the status quo, proclaiming they don’t feel comfortable on their own campus, where they are occasionally called names and where most of the professors don’t look like them.**

But similar to 1968 Olympians John Carlos and Tommie Smith, the athletes who raised their black fists on the medal stand in defiance, it sometimes takes sports to make change in society. Or, at minimum, spark society.

“Sports are something that people pay attention to,” Collins told me Monday evening, in reference to the Mizzou football team’s unprecedented strike, which ended Monday after university system President Timothy M. Wolfe resigned. “It’s not just ‘it’s a football school, and this is further proof of the tail wagging the dog.’ I think this is more akin to Jackie Robinson, the importance of sports, at some moments, to put (issues) on display.”

This past weekend, a Southeastern Conference football team said it wouldn’t practice or play until social change was made on campus. Take your own politics out of it for a moment — that’s still a pretty profound moment in sports. And in society.

It happened, and less than 48 hours later, Wolfe resigned, graduate student Jonathan Butler stopped his hunger strike and change began.

Will Mizzou’s campus be better off — at least somewhat — in a year, in 10 years, in 100 years, because of the activism that has happened this autumn? One wants to believe the answer is yes.

I’m not naive enough to think that the campus of Mizzou will become some sort of racial utopia. There will always be jerks.

“Obviously we’ve got some problems,” Missouri football coach Gary Pinkel said Monday, “but the good news is — we’re going to fix them, and Mizzou’s going to be a lot better place because of it.”

They’re mad as hell and they’re not going to take it anymore. No, not the African-American protesters. I’m talking about the group of Caucasian people I encountered Monday, those who commented on our website, those who murmured in the student union, those who, as I aired live speeches on a Twitter video feed, wrote curse words and racial slurs about the people who started this movement … the same people who started it because, in part, people were cursing at them and using racial slurs.

So again, step away from personal thoughts about the African-American students’ demands for a moment. Yes, their demands are arguably murky. But look at the forest not the trees — maybe, just maybe, people at Mizzou will someday be nicer to Butler’s son than to Butler.

“I have to say, one rule I often break is reading comments on the Internet, it’s like taking the lid off the id,” Professor Collins said. “It doesn’t matter what it is, even in pretty highfalutin and esoteric discussions of economic policy, man, these people get mean.”

Why can’t we become better humans from this? Why can’t we acknowledge the sorrow in the eyes and voices, those being the activists or the football players, and challenge ourselves to be the type of people our sons and daughters would be proud of?

“We are the future, the youth,” Mizzou football player Eddie Cerrano told me. “It’s good to see us standing for what we think is right. There’s a lot of controversy with the whole incident, because it’s something new, revolutionary, a lot of people are going to reject it — (the fact that) a lot of people are angry that the football team went on strike. A couple years down the road, the picture will be painted more vividly.”
Yes, surely not all of the Mizzou football players were thrilled to potentially forfeit a game, and a game in an NFL stadium at that (Mizzou hosts Brigham Young at Kansas City’s Arrowhead Stadium on Saturday). But these players realized their moment. They realized their influence. They realized that this could be bigger than them — that by striking from playing and practicing until Wolfe resigned, they could spark a change that not a thousand shouting protesters could.

The football players realized the power of being a football player means a lot more than, well, football.

These young men started something big. They ticked off a lot of people in the process — maybe you — but history will look back at them as trailblazers. A campus climate could change in the coming decades because of the 2015 football team. Yes, it would’ve been nice if the 2015 football team had, you know, actually won some winnable games. But that’s still a powerful legacy.

And really, perhaps the best thing for this movement was the fact that the team wasn’t good this season. If Mizzou had been in the mix for the SEC championship, it’s hard to believe the players would’ve risked it for the sake of social change. But because they only have four wins, they had the possibility to risk this.

“It’s paramount as a campus and a community that this not divide us,” athletics director Mack Rhoades said Monday, “but rather bring us together to listen, to grow, to understand and to create positive change.”

And so, earlier in the day Monday, I stood in the middle of history. Hundreds of University of Missouri students ascended to the middle of Carnahan Quadrangle — black and white and other races too, some football players, some football fans, some who don’t care about football, but could definitely feel its power.

“It is our duty to fight for our freedom!” they chanted. “It is our duty to win! We must love and support each other! We have nothing to lose but our chains!”

Fists were in the air. Cellphones too. Then the students started chanting again: “Power! Power! Power!”

It is all so surreal and intense and liberating and compelling and just crazy that here, at Mizzou, this international news story is taking place. Change could happen. And to think, you can help make some change by just being a bigger man or woman.

Challenge yourself.

Racial Disparities in Higher Education: an Overview

By Beckie Supiano NOVEMBER 10, 2015

Racism on American campuses is a matter of national concern again this week following protests at the University of Missouri at Columbia that led on Monday to the resignations of both the campus’s chancellor and the system’s president.
Protesters unhappy with the administration’s response to several incidents in which African-American students were the targets of racial slurs formed a group called Concerned Student 1950, a reference to the year the university admitted its first black student.

The protests, which included a graduate student on a hunger strike and gained traction after the university’s football team joined in, called for the resignation of the system’s president, Timothy M. Wolfe, who announced on Monday that he was stepping down. Several hours later, the chancellor of the Columbia campus, R. Bowen Loftin, resigned as well.

While the situation in Missouri is dramatic, and the protests there particularly successful, racial tensions have flared up on several campuses in the past year.

Those events draw attention to continuing racial disparities in higher education, where African-Americans make up a small portion of professors, presidents, and selective-college enrollments. Let’s take a look at some relevant data:

**Disparities in Where Students Enroll**

College enrollment is racially polarized. White students are overrepresented in selective colleges — which have more resources to educate and support them — while African-American students are overrepresented in less-selective institutions. The table below comes from a 2013 study by Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce, which also found that this polarization has grown more pronounced since the mid-1990s.

**Disparities Between Players and Coaches**

In at least one corner of higher education African-American students are not underrepresented: the rosters of competitive football teams. A majority of football players in the National Collegiate Athletic Association’s Football Bowl Subdivision, the highest level of competition, are African-American.

But leaders of the subdivision’s colleges and conferences are "overwhelmingly white and male," according to a report by the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport, at the University of Central Florida. For instance, 87 percent of head football coaches of the subdivision’s teams are white.

**Disparities Among Faculty Members**

The ranks of full-time faculty members remain heavily white, according to data from the U.S. Department of Education. Seventy-eight percent of full-time faculty members — and 84 percent of full professors — were white in 2013.

**Disparities Among Presidents**

Whites are even more overrepresented among college leaders, according to data from the American Council on Education. Eighty-seven percent of presidents, and 88 percent of those recently hired, are white.
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — When cotton balls were found scattered outside the black culture center at the University of Missouri's flagship campus in 2010 in a clear reference to slavery, two white students were arrested and expelled, with no larger discussion of race on a campus where blacks weren't allowed to enroll until 1950.

"To say we were livid is an understatement," says black alumna Erika Brown, who graduated with degrees in 2007 and 2012 and now lives in St. Louis. "It was just another example of them finding the offender and never going past that. There was never a larger discussion."

Skip ahead five years to more racially charged incidents at the Columbia campus, where blacks account for just 8 percent of undergraduates. This time, students emboldened by last year's protests in Ferguson took action, which led to the announcement that the university system's president and the campus chancellor would resign — as well as the promise of even more changes.

Reuben Faloughi, a third-year doctoral student in psychology from Augusta, Georgia, who participated in the campus protests, said more needs to be done, but acknowledged feeling "liberated" by the exodus of university system President Tim Wolfe.

Such activism, he says, is a nod to Ferguson, the St. Louis suburb about two hours from Columbia where Michael Brown, a black, unarmed 18-year-old, was killed by a police officer. After the shooting, Faloughi took part in a "die-in" protest in Columbia, joining others in feigning death in Brown's memory.

"That was the first time I got involved in activism," he told The Associated Press. "I never felt that unity before, that kind of energy. It was very empowering, and it planted the seeds that students can challenge things."

Mike Sickels, a 32-year-old doctoral student from Glasgow, Kentucky, also credited Ferguson for inspiring the push for Columbia campus reforms. But he added: "This is something I wish had been happening here my entire tenure. I think universities should be bastions for this."

A St. Louis County grand jury and the Department of Justice ultimately exonerated Officer Darren Wilson in Brown's death, concluding evidence backed Wilson's claim that he shot Brown in self-defense after Brown tried to grab the officer's gun.
But months of Ferguson protests still scored what activists considered victories, including the resignations of the predominantly black city's police chief, city manager and municipal judge. A new state law also limits cities' ability to profit from traffic tickets and court fines — a measure that followed the Justice Department's findings that Ferguson's policing and municipal court system unfairly profited from minorities.

At the University of Missouri, black student groups had complained for months that Wolfe was unresponsive to racial slurs and other slights. The complaints came to a head Saturday, when at least 30 black football players announced they would not play until the president left. A graduate student went on a weeklong hunger strike.

Wolfe, hired in 2011 as the top administrator of the system, and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin stepped down hours apart Monday.

Students who pressed for Wolfe's ouster celebrated it Monday. Critics considered him out of touch and insensitive, pointing to his claims the university was working to draw up a plan to promote diversity and tolerance — by April, a wait protesters considered laughably unacceptable. They also pointed to his response to black protesters who blocked his car during a homecoming parade; he did not get out and talk to them, and they were removed by police.

That followed a September incident in which the student government's president, who is black, said people in a passing pickup truck shouted epithets at him. Early last month, members of a black student organization said slurs were hurled at them by an apparently drunken white student. A swastika drawn in feces was found recently in a dormitory bathroom.

In announcing his resignation during a meeting of the system's governing curators, Wolfe, a former business executive with no previous experience in academic leadership, took "full responsibility for the frustration" students expressed and said their complaints were "clear" and "real." Later in the day, Loftin said he was stepping down at the end of the year to head research efforts.

Calling Wolfe too reactionary to be a leader, protest organizer Shelbey Parnell told reporters: "We need an educator where an educator is supposed to be."

Parnell and other members of the group Concerned Student 1950 said they planned to aggressively make their case to Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon, the university system's curators and the Columbia campus' faculty council. Among other things, they want a say in Wolfe's successor, an emphasis on shared governance, more inclusivity for minority students and more black faculty.

Some change already is afoot. At Loftin's request, the school announced plans to offer diversity training to all new students starting in January, as well as faculty and staff. The governing board said an interim system president would be named soon, and board members vowed Monday to work toward a "culture of respect."

The panel also planned to appoint an officer to oversee diversity and equality at all four campuses, and it promised a full review of other policies, more support for victims of discrimination and a more diverse faculty.

But Brown, the former student who now lives in St. Louis, said she remains skeptical, given the school's history with race relations.

"The question is, where do we go from here?" she said.
Protesters celebrate after top University of Missouri leaders resign over racial turmoil

The campus coup d’etat was over.

After two top University of Missouri system officials announced their resignations Monday following allegations that they had not sufficiently addressed racial issues on campus, students danced on the quad where activists had set up a tent city. The football team announced that it was ending its strike and would resume practicing for this weekend's football game.

At an outdoor amphitheater, hundreds of students chanted in the sun, “I ... am ... a ... revolutionary!” Social media users around the world joined in, tweeting more than 100,000 times about the day's protest.

The uprising was partly a ripple effect from last year's protests in Ferguson, Mo. Missouri again proved itself a cauldron for black radicalism, with students pairing bold physical protests with a social media megaphone to demand a renewed focus on racial inequality from their university administration.

“The frustration and anger that I see is clear, real, and I don't doubt it for a second,” said university President Tim Wolfe as he resigned Monday morning at a meeting of the system's governing body, the Board of Curators.

“I take full responsibility for this frustration and I take full responsibility for the inaction that has occurred,” said Wolfe, a businessman who took charge of Missouri's public university system in 2012. “Use my resignation to heal and start talking again.”

Several hours later, the University of Missouri’s chancellor, R. Bowen Loftin, also announced that he would step down from leading the campus and take a different job coordinating research efforts at the university. He, too, had been criticized for not approaching racial problems more aggressively.
“We take our responsibility very seriously,” Board of Curators Chairman Donald L. Cupps told reporters. “The situations that have occurred in the past few months have been eye-opening for us.”

Student activism is nothing new, and not even something uncommon this semester: Similar protests over racist incidents took place at Yale University and a high school in Berkeley in recent weeks.

University of California President Janet Napolitano said that college campuses have “historically been places where social issues in the United States are raised and where many voices are heard. That’s just part of a university.”

But the rise of social media had made a major difference, she said, between activism on today’s campuses and those during the Vietnam War and civil rights era of protest. “It makes the pace of things more rapid now,” she said.

In Missouri this year, campus activism was stretched to unusual limits, owing in part to social media, and to many students’ connections to the protests in Ferguson and a desire to bring the fight closer to home.

“A lot of Mizzou students traveled to Ferguson,” and those who didn’t “wanted to stand up and make a change,” said Ayanna Poole, a 22-year-old senior from Tyler, Texas, who is one of the founding members of the black campus activist group Concerned Student 1950. “I do believe it’s been a domino effect.”

The Missouri football team's strike, announced Saturday and endorsed by Coach Gary Pinkel, risked a loss to the university of $1 million if the team canceled its game next weekend.

Another key factor was graduate student Jonathan Butler, who went on a hunger strike Nov. 2 to demand Wolfe’s removal. Butler, wearing a shirt that said “I love my blackness and yours,” addressed his fellow students at a campus amphitheater Monday.
“Please stop focusing on the fact of the Mizzou hunger strike itself,” Butler pleaded to a quiet audience. Focus instead, he said, on the “disgusting and vile” reasons a hunger strike had been necessary in the first place.

A semester’s worth of increasingly turbulent protest marked one of the most notable recent episodes of activism at the university system's flagship campus in Columbia. But episodes of racism on campus long preceded Wolfe’s reign.

Cynthia Frisby, a journalism professor, wrote in the Missourian newspaper this week that in her 18 years at the university, “I have been called the N-word too many times to count.”

In 2010, two white students scattered cotton balls on the lawn of the campus’ black culture center in what black students saw as a racist attack. The pair were convicted of littering.

One of the key differences since Wolfe’s arrival as president in 2012 has been the advent of social media as a weapon for activism and racism alike.

University of Missouri students spotted an anonymous threat on the social media app Yik Yak in December, after riots in Ferguson: “Let’s burn down the black culture center & give them a taste of their own medicine.”

Hundreds rallied on campus to protest the message.

In September, the president of the Missouri Student Assn., Payton Head, who is black, said that he was walking through campus when a man in a pickup shouted a racial epithet at him.

Head confronted the issue in a short essay on Facebook.

“I’ve experienced moments like this multiple times at THIS university, making me not feel included here,” Head said in a post that went viral, with other students echoing his account with their own.
Colleges and universities have faced difficulties with the rising use of social media to both document alleged incidents of racism or violence and to organize protests against them, according to Barmak Nassirian, director of policy analysis at the American Assn. of State Colleges and Universities.

“The availability of instant video, photo and texting generally means that a lot of things that might have remained a very local concern quickly take on a national following and national implications,” he said.

That makes what is already a challenging job for a university president “that much more challenging,” Nassirian said. Campus leaders might not realize at first how an incident on campus can suddenly take on much wider implication.

University of Missouri administrators seemed to stumble in response to viral-ready incidents, and each stumble only made Wolfe a greater target.

When students asked him to define systematic oppression Friday night outside a fundraiser in Kansas City, Mo., Wolfe replied, “Systematic oppression is because you don’t believe that you have the equal opportunity for success,” upsetting protesters by implying oppression was a perception rather than a reality. The event was captured in a video that, of course, was viewed and shared thousands of times.

When black protesters surrounded his car during a homecoming parade in mid-October, Wolfe sat silent instead of getting out or opening a dialogue.

The homecoming confrontation was the moment Concerned Student 1950 was born, its name an allusion to the first year that the university accepted a black student.

The group empowered itself through Twitter and Facebook, and rejected reporters from other media. A video emerged Monday of protesters arguing with and shoving a freelance student photographer trying to capture celebrations on the public campus quad.
One adult in the video can be seen grabbing a videographer’s camera and telling him, “You need to get out,” and then shouting to other protesters: “Who wants to help me get this reporter out of here? I need some muscle over here!”

“We truly appreciate having our story told, but this movement isn't for you,” the group tweeted from its Twitter account.

The photographer who was shoved, Tim Tai, responded.


The Latest: Missouri student government president says he's glad to see changes

By The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The latest on the protests and turmoil over racially charged incidents at the University of Missouri (all times local):

10 p.m.

The student government president at the University of Missouri is calling new initiatives that aim to address issues of race and discrimination steps "in the right direction."

Missouri Students Association President Payton Head, who is black, said he had been hoping for change and was glad to see the ideas put forward Monday by the four-campus system's governing body.
The university system said it will appoint its first chief officer for diversity, inclusion and equity, and it pledged to work toward a more diverse faculty and staff, among other things.

Also Monday, system President Tim Wolfe and Columbia campus Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced their resignations.

Head spoke out earlier this year about racial tensions on campus after he said people in a passing pickup truck shouted slurs at him.

He says he doesn't think the changes will end the tensions on campus. He says that's because many students weren't aware of the underlying issues that stirred months of protests.

6 p.m.

The University of Missouri senior vice chancellor for research and graduate studies will serve as interim chancellor for the Columbia campus after R. Bowen Loftin's resignation takes effect at the end of the year.

Hank Foley said he has not yet met with members of Concerned Student 1950. Student members of that group have been protesting of University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe's handling of racial issues. Wolfe and the Columbia campus Chancellor resigned Monday.

Foley said meeting with members of Concerned Student 1950 is "among the next steps."

Foley said he wants "to make people feel included and make them feel that this is their campus."

Foley also is the University of Missouri system's executive vice president for academic affairs, research and economic development.

—

5:10 p.m.
The University of Missouri System plans to enact several initiatives in the next 90 days to address racial turmoil that led to the resignations of President Tim Wolfe and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

The university system said in a news release Monday that it will appoint its first chief officer for diversity, inclusion and equity. It also plans a review of all university policies related to staff and student conduct and to provide more support to those who experience discrimination. It also pledges to work toward a more diverse faculty and staff.

Task forces addressing inclusion will be required on all four of its campuses.

Wolfe's resignation was effective immediately. Loftin will step down at the end of the year to take another job at the school.

4:45 p.m.

The embattled chancellor of the University of Missouri's flagship campus in Columbia says he's stepping down at the end of the year to take a different position.

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin's announcement Monday came hours after the university system's president, Tim Wolfe, said he was resigning, effective immediately.

Black student groups had been calling for leadership changes at the university, saying it had done a poor job of responding to complaints about racial issues, including that minority students had been subjected to slurs.

The deans of nine university departments wrote to Wolfe and the university system's governing board on Monday calling for Loftin's removal, citing a "deep concern about the multitude of crises on our flagship campus."

As president, Wolfe oversaw all four University of Missouri campuses.

3:10 p.m.

A group that led the push to oust the University of Missouri System's president says it wants a say in choosing his replacement and wants the percentage of black faculty doubled, among other things.
Members of Concerned Students 1950 said Monday after President Tim Wolfe announced his resignation that they want meet with the university's governing board, the faculty council and Gov. Jay Nixon to discuss their demands in detail.

Among the other desired changes they mentioned is a greater emphasis on shared governance and more inclusivity for minority students. The university's flagship campus in Columbia is overwhelmingly white.

Graduate student Jonathan Butler, who ended a weeklong hunger strike Monday, says it took the administration much too long to react to the complaints.

2:30 p.m.

A University of Missouri Republican student group is apologizing for a tweet likening students protesting the school's handling of racial issues with Islamic extremism.

The Mizzou College Republicans deleted the Monday morning tweet and said in a follow-up tweet that the post was "the opinion of one individual" and not "a reflection of our organization." The group didn't identify the person who sent the original tweet and didn't respond to requests for comment.

The deleted tweet included the caption "Seen today at #ConceredStudent1950," which was a misspelled reference to Concerned Student 1950, a black student group leading the protests. It showed a photo of scarf-wearing protesters and linked to an article with the headline "Muslim student supports new Holocaust" and a reference below to a "terrorist neckerchief."

1:05 p.m.

University of Missouri officials say the football team will resume its regular activities following the resignation of the university system president.

Athletics Director Mack Rhoades and head football coach Gary Pinkel said in a joint statement that there will be a news conference later Monday. The team will resume practicing Tuesday, as it typically does.

The announcement came hours after university system President Tim Wolfe said he was stepping down amid criticism over his administration's handling of racial issues.
Black student groups that complained for months about Wolfe’s leadership got a big boost over the weekend when 30 black football players said they wouldn't take part in team activities until Wolfe was gone.

Pinkel sent a tweet of support for his protesting players on Sunday.

12:40 p.m.

A University of Missouri graduate student who endured a week-long hunger strike to protest the administration’s handling of racial issues has joined celebrating demonstrators on the Columbia campus.

Jonathan Butler tweeted that he was ending his hunger strike after university system President Tim Wolfe announced his resignation Monday.

Butler, whose hunger strike began Nov. 2, appeared weak and unsteady as two people helped him past a human chain and into a sea of celebrants. Many broke into dance at seeing him.

Black student groups have complained for months about the administration's handling of racial issues, including slurs that have been directed at minority students. They got a boost over the weekend when 30 black football players said they wouldn't take part in team activities until Wolfe was gone.

12:20 p.m.

Gov. Jay Nixon says the resignation of the University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe was a necessary step toward "healing and reconciliation" at the school.

The Democratic governor issued his statement Monday after Wolfe announced that he was stepping down amid criticism of his handling of racial issues.

Black student groups at the school’s flagship campus in Columbia have been complaining for months over the university’s handling of such matters, including racial slurs that have been directed at students.

The issue came to a head over the weekend when 30 black members of Missouri’s football team said they wouldn't take part in team activities until Wolfe was removed.
After Wolfe's announcement, a black graduate student said he was ending his week-long hunger strike meant to force the president's ouster.____

11:50 a.m.

An adjunct professor at the University of Missouri says the school has had racial problems for decades.

Carl Kenney, a 1986 Missouri graduate who is also the pastor of a local church, says the current problems on campus run much deeper than the leadership of university system President Tim Wolfe, who announced Monday that he's resigning.

Kenney says minority students and faculty feel as if they don't belong on campus unless they are football or basketball players. He says the atmosphere has been tense on campus since the university didn't respond last year to the police killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson.

Kenney says that even though the racial problems aren't new, it took a threatened strike by 30 black football players to get the administration to act.____

11:20 a.m.

Protesting students and faculty members are celebrating the University of Missouri System president's announcement that he is resigning amid anger over his treatment of racial issues.

The students and educators at the system's flagship campus in Columbia hugged and chanted when President Tim Wolfe's announced Monday that he was stepping down.

Katelyn Brown, a white sophomore from Liberty, said she wasn't necessarily aware of chronic racism at the school. But she applauded the efforts of black students groups who have complained for months about racial slurs and inequality on the overwhelmingly white Columbia campus.

Their efforts got a boost over the weekend when 30 black football players announced they wouldn't participate in team activities until Wolfe was removed.____

10:55 a.m.

A University of Missouri graduate student says he will end his hunger strike now that the university system's president has resigned.
Jonathan Butler, who started his hunger strike Nov. 2, told CNN that he welcomes President Tim Wolfe's resignation announcement Monday but that the university still has a long way to go to make minority students feel welcome.

Butler says the university system's governing board needs to listen to more minority faculty and student voices so that situations like this don't happen again.

Black student groups have been complaining for months about racial slurs and other slights on the system's overwhelmingly white flagship campus in Columbia. Their efforts got a boost over the weekend when 30 black football players announced they wouldn't participate in team activities until Wolfe was removed.

This item has been changed to correct a reference to resigning University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe, who was erroneously referred to as Tim Wright on first reference.

10:35 a.m.

University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe says he hopes the school community uses his resignation as a way to "move forward together."

Wolfe said Monday at a special meeting of the system's governing board that he takes "full responsibility for the frustration" students had expressed regarding racial issues and that it "is clear" and "real."

Black student groups have been complaining for months about racial slurs and other slights on the system's overwhelmingly white flagship campus in Columbia. Their efforts got a boost over the weekend when 30 black football players announced they wouldn't participate in team activities until Wolfe was removed.

10:20 a.m.

The president of the University of Missouri System says he is resigning amid student criticism of his handling of racial issues.

President Tim Wolfe said Monday that his resignation is effective immediately.

The announcement came at a special meeting of the university system's governing body, the Board of Curators.

Black student groups have been complaining for months about racial slurs and other slights on the system's overwhelmingly white flagship campus in Columbia. Their efforts
got a boost over the weekend when 30 black football players announced they wouldn't participate in team activities until Wolfe was removed.

9:15 a.m.

The student government at the University of Missouri's flagship campus has added its voice to those calling for the school president to resign immediately.

The Missouri Students Association, which represents the 27,000 undergraduates at the system's Columbia campus, called for President Tim Wolfe to step down in a letter sent to the Missouri System Board of Curators on Sunday night.

The students say there has been an increase in "tension and inequality with no systemic support" since last year's fatal shooting of an unarmed black 18-year-old by a white police officer in Ferguson.

The group Concerned Student 1950 and black members of the football team want Wolfe to step down over his handling of race and discrimination at the flagship school of the four-campus system.

8:25 a.m.

Some University of Missouri undergraduate students are attending class despite two student groups calling for walkouts in solidarity with protesters who want the system president to resign.

Brendan W. Merz, a senior undergraduate heading to an economics class Monday, says the protests haven't affected him at all. Merz says the protests are "a little excessive."

The Steering Committee of the Forum on Graduate Rights and the Coalition of Graduate Workers called Sunday for walkouts of student workers out of support for protesters seeking the removal of President Tim Wolfe.

The group Concerned Student 1950 and black members of the football team are calling for Wolfe to step down over his handling of race and discrimination at the flagship school of the four-campus system.

This story has been changed to reflect that the student who said the protests haven't affected him is Brendan W. Merz. There is another student at the school named Brendan A. Merz.
Members of the governing body of the University of Missouri system are set for a special meeting amid ongoing protests over matters of race and discrimination at the system's flagship school.

The University of Missouri Board of Curators is to meet Monday at 10 a.m. on the system's Columbia campus.

According to an agenda provided in a statement announcing the meeting, part of the meeting will be closed to the public.

The statement says Missouri law allows the group to meet in a private "executive session" to discuss topics including privileged communications with university counsel or personnel matters.

A university spokesman didn't immediately respond to questions about whether the group would address the status of University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe. Wolfe has been the target of protests by students, including 32 black football players who announced they will not participate in team activities until he is removed. One black graduate student is on a hunger strike.

Wolfe has given no indication he intends to step down.

At Mizzou, an upheaval leads to a campus celebration

Nov. 10 • By Stephen Deere, Koran Addo

COLUMBIA, MO. • After a remarkable and swift revolt by students and faculty centered largely on matters of race, the leaders of the University of Missouri System and of its flagship campus both stepped down from their jobs within hours of each other on Monday.

System President Timothy M. Wolfe announced his resignation just as curators were beginning an emergency meeting over the direction of a campus fractured by protests and accounts of discrimination. His action sent thousands of students to the heart of the campus to celebrate.
Then, by the end of curators’ marathon meeting, Mizzou Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced he would assume a lesser role.

Donald L. Cupps, chairman of the board of curators, was left to read from a familiar script, as he announced formation of task forces and the hiring of a diversity, inclusion and equity officer, and promised to make the faculty and staff look more like the student body.

“The problems that we have experienced can’t be blamed on President Wolfe,” Cupps said. “It can’t be blamed on Chancellor Loftin. It’s got to be blamed on all of us. It’s the fellow students that say things they shouldn’t or do things they shouldn’t. It’s the faculty, staff, employees that do not do what they should do. As board members we have to examine ourselves.”

The events focused the country’s attention again on the Show-Me state, even while images of protests and unrest in Ferguson were still fresh.

Less than two months after the head of the student body wrote a Facebook post about being called a racial slur, events snowballed with such ferocity that by Monday resignations seemed inevitable.

The tension had escalated last week with a student’s hunger strike and promises from black football players to boycott team activities — a move that ensured the embarrassment of the university system on a national stage, threatened Mizzou’s pocketbook and forced curators to act swiftly.

MULTIPLE INCIDENTS

In October, a black student group said members were confronted by a man in Traditions Plaza on campus who used a racial slur. Also last month, someone used human feces to draw a swastika in a bathroom inside Mizzou’s Gateway Hall. Students first confronted Wolfe on Oct. 10 by blocking his car during Mizzou’s homecoming parade. They were met by chants of “M-I-Z-Z-O-U” from white bystanders trying to shout down the protest.

Some black students accused Wolfe of being tone-deaf and not doing enough to address the racism they are confronted with on a daily basis.

A statement for the Missouri Students Association on Monday criticized the university’s leadership for meeting the shooting death of Michael Brown last year with silence.

“In the following months, our students were left stranded, forced to face an increase in tension and inequality with no systemic support,” it read. “Over the last 16 months, the quality of life for our students has only worsened.”

Seven percent of Missouri’s 35,000 students are black. Some said that they have endured racial taunts and threats of physical violence.

On Monday, a tearful Wolfe said he would step down.

He urged the campus to “use my resignation to heal and start talking again.”

His statement also was tinted with a hint of frustration. “This is not, I repeat not, the way change should come about,” Wolfe said at Old Alumni Center on campus, in an appearance that was nationally televised. “Change should come about from listening, learning, caring and conversation.”

Wolfe’s voice wavered as he declared: “My decision to resign comes out of love, not hate.” He then quoted from Psalm 46: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”

CELEBRATION AND REACTION
Within minutes of the announcement, thousands of students, white and black, assembled at the Carnahan Quadrangle, linking their arms in a massive human circle hundreds of yards long around the tents that have sprung up in recent days as a part of the protests. In the middle of the circle, members of the group Concerned Student 1950, which had organized many protests, pumped their fists in the air, shouting: “They said we couldn’t do this,” and “I believe we have won.”

Jonathan Butler, who is pursuing a master’s degree and was on a hunger strike calling for Wolfe’s resignation, was met with cheers when he showed up to the quad. He had already announced via Twitter: “The #MizzouHungerStrike is officially over!” At a press conference, Shelbey Parnell, a Concerned Student 1950 member, said Wolfe was a reactionary leader. “While he was in his position, he was a businessman, and that’s why we needed him out. We need an educator where an educator is supposed to be.”

While students celebrated, the state’s top political leaders began issuing statements.

Gov. Jay Nixon called Wolfe’s resignation “a necessary step toward healing and reconciliation on the University of Missouri campus.”

Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder, a Republican who is seeking the GOP nomination for governor next year, said in a Monday radio interview shortly before Wolfe’s resignation that the students had no legitimate authority to drive him out, and were seeking “governance by mob rule.”

The White House also weighed in, with press secretary Josh Earnest praising protesters for showing that “a few people standing up and speaking out can have a profound impact on the places where we live and work,” according to the Washington Post.

SECOND RESIGNATION
Meanwhile, curators kept meeting, discussing another key personnel change. And other top Mizzou officials, who also blamed Loftin for the lack of cultural and racial sensitivity on campus as well as for other issues, capitalized on the momentum. Nine deans issued a letter calling for Loftin’s dismissal.

Loftin had been criticized for a decision to scale back tuition waivers for graduate assistants and strip them of their health insurance subsidies. After public outcry, Mizzou reinstated the subsidies and agreed to leave the tuition waivers in place for a year. He also came under fire after Mizzou discontinued the clinical privileges for a Planned Parenthood physician and terminated multiple relationships with different Planned Parenthood affiliates in September.

“The environment on campus is not conducive to moving forward, resolving issues and trying to make sure that all of our students are in a good learning environment,” said David Kurpius, dean of the Missouri School of Journalism.

Loftin was called into the curators’ meeting around 3 p.m. He exited about an hour and a half later, and stood at the same podium where Wolfe resigned that morning.

Starting next year, Loftin announced he would transition from the role of chancellor to a “new role where I will work with many people across the university and with the system to advance our mission.”

Henry “Hank” Foley, UM System executive vice president for academic affairs, research and economic development, was appointed interim chancellor for the MU campus.

Cupps said that curators would find an interim system president soon. No details about a severance package or any other changes in compensation were immediately available.
Asked if curators would meet with members of Concerned Student 1950 as the group had demanded, Cupps remarked that he was just focused on getting through the day, but would be willing to sit down with any group.

David Alan Sklansky, a Stanford Law School professor and faculty co-director of the Stanford Criminal Justice Center, views the Mizzou protests as an outgrowth of the Black Lives Matter movement that was triggered by events in Ferguson.

“It might embolden students elsewhere to speak out about aspects of their college experience when they believe they are not being treated as a fully fledged member of the community,” he said.

Emily Dickens, vice president for public policy of the Washington-based Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, said the upheaval provides an opportunity for the University of Missouri’s board of curators.

“A public university has a public agenda and an academic agenda,” Dickens said. “The needs of addressing civil rights and diversity and racism are some of the things that a university can take a lead on. After Ferguson, the students saw that the university could have taken a stand. Students are looking for leadership.”

Dickens said the board took the right approach to lay out the steps it will take in searching for new leadership. “The board coming out with their plan is a great step,” she said. “They’re out front saying, this is what we’re going to do in the next few weeks.”

For the past few days, University of Missouri students had erected a tent city in the Carnahan Quadrangle, with about 50 students occupying the space.

On Monday evening, as the sky grew dark, only about 20 students remained while a gaggle of reporters looked on. The tents still remained.

Kevin McDermott, Lisa Brown and Stephen Deere, all of the Post-Dispatch, contributed to this report from St. Louis. Alex Stuckey and Koran Addo of the Post-Dispatch reported from Columbia, Mo.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

NOVEMBER 9, 2015

Journalists, protesters clash over access after MU officials step down amid racial strife

A video on YouTube shows students pushing photographer Tim Tai who was trying to shoot photos
Tai discussed why he held his ground even though he didn’t want to become part of the story.

BY ROBERT A. CRONKLETON
bcronkleton@kcstar.com

A video on YouTube has gone viral showing students pushing photographer Tim Tai who was trying to shoot photos of the #ConcernedStudent1950 protest Monday.

Tai, a 20-year-old senior from St. Louis studying journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia, was working for ESPN.

In the video, he tells the students that he was trying to do his job and that the First Amendment that protects their rights to stand there also protects his rights to be there.

Tai later said via Twitter that he didn’t mean to become part of the story. He simply was trying to do his job.

ESPN hired Tai Monday morning shortly before MU president Tim Wolfe resigned.

Right after the resignation, Tai ran to the quad where the protestors had been camping out to get photos of their reaction.

“At that point, that was the most impactful picture I was going to get,” Tai said in a telephone interview late Monday.

After about five or 10 minutes, supporters or organizers said it was over and that the media needed to leave.

“I don’t want to make this us versus them,” Tai said. “I don’t want to make it media versus students or media versus activists or media versus protesters. These people have good intentions.”

WHY THE LAST FEW DAYS AT MIZZOU HAVE COLLEGE ADMINISTRATORS EVERYWHERE SCARED
On the other hand, journalism, especially photojournalism, is intrusive, he said. And as a journalist you have to have the confidence to believe that while it is intrusive, uncomfortable and awkward, there is a greater purpose.

“There is a picture to be made that symbolizes more than just the specific moment, that it symbolizes the human experience that other people can relate to,” Tai said.

Tai said he doesn’t know why it got into a shoving match because he was 100 feet away and was not intruding on the campsite.

“I don’t have any ill will towards these people,” he said. “I think they were very well intentioned. I guess they saw other principles more important than my right to be there and document the situation.”

MU UPHEAVAL MEANS MORE CHAOS AHEAD

Covering news when people don’t like you being there is part of the profession, Tai said. The events Monday was national news that took place on a public lawn and involved people who made themselves public figures.

Tai said he was horrified to see the video and embarrassed that he become part of the story. But his job was to make a picture. That’s why he stood his ground.

He added he was very disappointed when he found out later that university faculty and staff members were among those were among those shoving and trying to deny access to the media.

“I don’t like when subjects and reporters are at odds,” he said. “I don’t think that leads to good journalism. I think the best journalism happens when it’s a collaborative process.”

Mizzou protesters thwart media coverage

Nov. 10, 2015 • By Valerie Schremp Hahn

Watch the video: https://youtu.be/xRlRAyulN4o

News reporters and photographers covering the protests at the University of Missouri-Columbia, one of the top journalism schools in the nation, found their efforts at times blocked by the very protesters whose story they were trying to tell on Monday.
Protesters formed a circle in the Carnahan Quadrangle to block members of the media from students who had set up tents there. The protest group, Concerned Student 1950, tweeted: “We ask for no media in the parameters (sic) so the place where people live, fellowship, and sleep can be protected from twisted insincere narratives.” They then posted a video of a sign that said, “NO MEDIA SAFE SPACE.”

Mark Schierbecker, a history and German student from Rock Hill, said that after the announcement was made that UM System President Timothy M. Wolfe resigned, protest leaders asked media to leave the encampment so they could strategize.

A student line around the encampment grew bigger, and the protesters told journalists to step back. Some organizers threatened to call police on the media if they refused, he said. Some of the supporters included faculty members, he said.

Schierbecker, a free speech activist, posted a video to YouTube showing protesters clashing with photojournalism student Tim Tai, of St. Louis County, who was taking photos for ESPN.

“The First Amendment protects your right to be here, and mine,” Tai tells the protesters.

At the end of the video, Schierbecker himself talks with a woman, later identified as MU assistant professor of mass media Melissa Click, and she tells him to leave and grabs his camera. He says he does not have to leave.

“Who wants to help me get this reporter out of here?” she calls out. “I need some muscle over here.”

Schierbecker said several people then pushed him to the end of the circle.

Click did not respond to a request for comment Monday night.

Janna Basler, director of Greek life and leadership on campus, is also seen in the video confronting Tai. When she asks her name, she says, “I am Concerned Student 1950.”

She also did not respond to a request for comment Monday night.

Schierbecker pointed out that Gov. Jay Nixon recently signed a law expanding the parameters of campus free speech zones.

Tai said he didn’t feel any ill will toward the protesters and supporters for what happened. He said he saw many other reporters and photographers blocked by protesters with hands, jackets, papers and posters and forced back physically.

Post-Dispatch photojournalist Robert Cohen was also on the MU campus covering the protest Monday. He called it “the strangest victory party I’ve ever seen. It was a victorious day for the protest, and they didn’t want it recorded.”

“As photographers, we see this sort of treatment or heavy-handedness when somebody’s coming out of a courthouse after they’ve been handed a felony.”

Columbia Missourian reporter Jack Witthaus, of Kirkwood, said he saw faculty members escalate the situation. Some would not identify themselves when asked, said Witthaus, a former Post-Dispatch intern.

Witthaus pointed out that the issues being raised affect faculty as well as students.

“Where there’s a group that’s marginalized, that’s where the media comes in, (we) can tell their stories, and maybe find a way to change what’s going on,” he said.

Tai also wants to promote understanding of the journalists’ role.
“This is a historic situation,” he said. “Journalism has to document history. It’s about this modern civil rights movement that is happening across America.”

Tom Warhover, a journalism professor and executive editor at the Columbia Missourian, said he’s proud of Tai for keeping his cool.

“Journalists get herded a lot more by our politicians and government types on a daily basis,” he said. “We know we have to deal with it. We know we have to work through that.”

Warhover said the opposition the media faced on Monday wasn’t the story. “This is not an end. This is a moment, one of a series of moments,” he said.

He hadn’t thought much about initiating a public conversation reviewing First Amendment rights on campus, he said. “I’m too busy putting the paper together tonight.”

---

Upheaval in Missouri Highlights Football Players’ Power

*By Eric Kelderman  NOVEMBER 10, 2015*

On Saturday evening, black football players at the University of Missouri announced that they were boycotting practice and even a crucial game if the system’s president, Timothy M. Wolfe, didn’t resign over his response to racist incidents on the Columbia campus.

By Sunday, the protesting players had gained a key supporter: their coach, Gary Pinkel. He tweeted this photo:

Late Monday morning, Mr. Wolfe announced his resignation.

It was a remarkable and sudden ending to a tense campus standoff that had begun a week earlier, when a graduate student at Mizzou, Jonathan Butler, announced a hunger strike to protest several recent reports of racism on the campus, and what many there saw as Mr. Wolfe’s slow and inadequate response to those events.

After meeting with Mr. Butler over the weekend, a sophomore football player, Anthony Sherrils, tweeted a picture of his teammates with a statement that they would “no longer participate in any
football related activities" until Mr. Wolfe resigned or was fired for "his negligence toward marginalized students' experiences."

The players' involvement made the story national news. And the outcome is a stark example of the power that athletes can have when they unify behind a broad cause, said several experts on college athletics.

"I can't emphasize enough that President Wolfe's resignation would not have happened at this rate without the football players' and Coach Pinkel's participation," said Daron K. Roberts, a former NFL coach and the founding director of the Center for Sports Leadership and Innovation at the University of Texas at Austin.

The question for many now is whether athletes at other colleges can and will use the example at Missouri as inspiration to start protests on their own campuses, and not just on broad social injustice but also to improve conditions for the players themselves.

"It's going to happen," said Emmett Gill, an assistant professor of social work at the University of Texas at San Antonio who is an advocate for broader rights for athletes. "This stand by the Mizzou student-athletes has set a precedent to not only influence issues in higher education but issues of player welfare," said Mr. Gill, who also heads the nonprofit Student-Athletes Human Rights Project.

Risks and Rewards

While there is broad agreement that the protest by football players had an outsize impact on Mr. Wolfe's resignation, their actions carried considerable risk. The protest was a high-stakes move for nearly all involved.

The players couldn't be certain, at first, if the coaching staff and athletics department were going to support them or punish them, said Ramogi Huma, president of the National College Players Association, which advocates for better playing conditions and academic support for college athletes. "This took a lot of courage; they didn't ask the coaches for permission," he added.

Mr. Gill said that there was also some reputational risk for players who want to play professional football in the future. "It's unfortunate that a player who stands for social-justice issues can be blackballed," Mr. Gill said.

There were also big financial and reputational risks for the university. Mizzou is scheduled to play football against Brigham Young University on Saturday in the NFL stadium in Kansas City, Mo. If the Tigers had forfeited the game, they would have had to pay the opposing university $1 million.

The coaches and athletic department risked looking insensitive if they had not supported the players, several experts added.

Players who skipped practice could have been punished under NCAA rules, said Richard M. Southall, an associate professor of sport and entertainment at the University of South Carolina at Columbia. But coaches could also have violated those players' free-speech rights by punishing them, Mr. Southall said.
During a televised news conference on Monday, both the athletics director, Mack B. Rhoades IV, and Mr. Pinkel said they supported the players, but they also stressed the extraordinary nature of the situation.

"Certainly, the last two days have been challenging," Mr. Rhoades said, adding that there was "no playbook, no script" for how to handle a player boycott.

A Game-Changer

While the team was successful in tipping the balance in this instance, it may not be so easy for athletes to pursue similar protests in the future. Many colleges prohibit athletes from speaking to the news media without permission, or even to use social media to express their personal views.

A key to the success of the boycott was that it focused broadly on a societal issue, said Mr. Huma. He also expressed concern that the hunger strike and allegations of racism hadn't been enough, absent the players' involvement, to generate a quicker response from both the university and the media.

"A graduate student starving himself in protest should have garnered some national attention," he said.

Some may also be cynical that the money at stake gave the team more leverage, said Mr. Roberts, but that's how many decisions are made outside of academe. "I think in an ideal America, it would not take a boycott by student-athletes to bring this issue into the spotlight and bring change," he said.

Mr. Gill said he expected that more college athletes would begin organizing for change, and that athletics departments needed to prepare thoughtfully for that likelihood.

"It's something they should anticipate and develop strategies for working with student-athletes," he said, "or they will be put in a quandary like the University of Missouri was over the weekend."

Athletics officials at Mizzou also said that in the future they hoped to avoid such situations.

"We understand that not participating is an extreme measure," Mr. Rhoades, the athletics director, told reporters at the news conference. "It's not an ideal way to effect change. We hope this is a learning opportunity."
Column: Missouri stand gives players a taste of their power

Nov. 9, 2015  •  By TIM DAHLBERG

Northwestern's football players didn't get their union, and today's major college athletes probably won't ever get their money.

Still, the events in Missouri over the last few days show college administrators would be wise not to underestimate the power of labor — even if it is unpaid.

The football team took a stand, and everyone was forced to listen. The football team took a stand, and the university president was gone.

The issues in Missouri were about race and tolerance, not money and treatment of players. But college officials everywhere should learn some potentially important lessons about power and unity.

Faced with the very real possibility that players would boycott Saturday's game against BYU — something that could have cost the University of Missouri millions of dollars — complaints about diversity and racial tolerance suddenly became very real. What a hunger strike by one activist couldn't accomplish in a week, a stand by 30 black players got done in less than two days.

That's good news for black students and others, whose complaints about racial tensions had largely been ignored at the overwhelmingly white campus. University president Tim Wolfe — who resigned Monday in the wake of the black player revolt — was so clueless he refused to talk to protesters during a homecoming parade last month when they blocked his car before being removed by police.

It shouldn't have come down to a boycott by football players, but in a way it's probably good it did. It not only got things done, but it highlighted the power of players who toil for little more than an education and some meals while bringing in millions of dollars every week for their university.

They stood up for what they thought was right, and they won. They stuck together and forced changes that without them would never have been made.

Think about the implications of that, if you will. If players can oust a university president over racial issues, what's stopping them from getting together to correct other inequities in a college sports system where almost everyone makes money except the players?

Not a lot, which should make some people running college football nervous. Without the cooperation of players they risk losing valuable franchises that bring in tons of cash and help schools market their brands.

"That's the elephant in the room," said Ramogi Huma, who was behind the Northwestern union organizing effort. "In addition to players standing up to racism they also have the power they can potentially harness elsewhere. They're subject to a group of universities imposing unjust rules upon them, and something like this shows they definitely have the power to address it."

It's not going to happen overnight, of course. Huma, a former UCLA linebacker, knows that as well as anyone, after years of trying to rally college players around the idea that they should be treated better and compensated more for their duties on the field.

But cracks are beginning to show in the system, beginning with the O'Bannon case that sought payment for the use of player images and the ultimately unsuccessful effort to organize football players at Northwestern. Those
efforts prompted the major schools to begin offering guaranteed scholarships and more spending money in an effort to appease players who are smarter about their value than they were a generation ago.

There are other signs that schools are finally beginning to pay attention to the voices of their athletes. On the same day Missouri's president resigned, Illinois fired athletic director Mike Thomas following a probe into allegations football players were pressured to play despite being injured.

Coach Tim Beckman was previously fired by the university on the eve of the football season after numerous player complaints.

"Today the culture is different and it's building upon itself," Huma said. "Players are now spontaneously speaking out on issues."

Indeed, players are finding their voices. They're growing tired of blindly accepting things as they are just because it's the way things have always been.

They're still about the only ones not making any money. But that doesn't mean they don't have any power.

Pinkel says the focus was on saving a man's life

Nov. 10 • By Dave Matter

COLUMBIA, Mo. • Monday’s scene around Missouri’s Memorial Stadium was nothing new for Michael Sam. As the former MU All-American walked to the Mizzou Athletics Training Complex to use the weight room, he passed through a crowd of TV cameras and reporters, all on hand to chronicle the biggest story in college sports.

If anyone could relate to Monday’s Mizzou frenzy it was Sam. It was 21 months ago when the defensive lineman announced he’s gay — something no player of his stature had done as Sam had just finished at Mizzou and began to prepare for the NFL draft.

Almost two years later, Sam felt a familiar buzz and warmth at his alma mater. On Saturday, 32 Missouri players shocked college football and joined forces with a campus protest to oust the university system president, pledging to boycott team activities until Timothy M. Wolfe resigned or was fired. Less than 40 hours later, it happened. Wolfe, the leader of the four-campus UM system since 2012, stepped behind a lectern Monday at a meeting of the UM System Board of Curators and announced his resignation.

Local headlines of campus unrest became a national story Saturday when Mizzou’s football team became participants in the standoff. By Monday morning, their side won.

Shortly after Wolfe’s announcement, the Tigers lifted their boycott and will resume preparations for Saturday’s game against Brigham Young in Kansas City. The players’ impact was undeniable.

“It always starts with sports,” Sam said Monday afternoon. “You can go back to Jackie Robinson, Arthur Ashe. The list goes on and on. If you want something to happen, it always starts with sports. I’ve found that (when athletes get involved) it goes much faster.”
Of course, that’s not how the most powerful figures in Mizzou athletics would describe the last few tumultuous days. Missouri football coach Gary Pinkel and athletics director Mack Rhoades met with reporters for 40 minutes Monday to discuss the player boycott that started Saturday night and ignited into the kind of story that attracted reporters from The New York Times, ESPN and USA Today to attend a news conference for a football team treading through a 4-5 season.

By the time Pinkel and Rhoades stepped in front of a crowd of cameras and reporters, Wolfe had already stepped down, the result of pressure from the campus over the Concerned Student 1950 protest and the hunger strike by graduate student Jonathan Butler. Butler ended his hunger strike after Wolfe’s announcement. From there, game on: Mizzou announced plans to practice Tuesday.

If Pinkel and Rhoades came to make one point clear Monday, it was this: They did their best to distance themselves from the protesters’ demands and denied any role the football team played in Wolfe’s resignation. Instead they focused on Butler and his health during a team meeting Sunday.

“I got involved because I support my players and a young man’s life was on the line,” Pinkel said. “Basically that’s what it came down to. Me supporting my players had nothing to do with anyone losing their job. With something like this, football became secondary.”

“It was simply and primarily,” Rhoades said, “about a young man’s life.”

Pinkel first learned Saturday night about a group of 32 players’ plans to strike. They called him before they tweeted a message pledging to stop participating in all team activities until Wolfe was out of office. Pinkel asked the players to wait until Sunday to announce the boycott, but they went ahead with the tweet Saturday. Other players not involved with the boycott found out when the message hit Twitter, Pinkel said.

The African-American players who announced the boycott called senior center Evan Boehm on Saturday. Boehm, the only white player among MU’s four team captains, got a call from the other players when they announced the boycott.

“When my brothers came and gave me a call Saturday night,” Boehm said, “and let me know what was going on, I told them, ‘I respect you guys and I’m backing you guys 100 percent.’ That’s what I did.”

Pinkel was vaguely aware of the racially motivated incidents on campus that launched the protest group and said he wasn’t concerned with the social aspect of the boycott. His players, Pinkel said, were “very, very emotional” about Butler’s health. His hunger strike began last Monday.

“I’m talking to guys who had tears in their eyes and were crying,” he said. “They asked me if I’d support them and I said I would. I didn’t look at consequences. It wasn’t about that at the time.”

“I believe they thought if we don’t help him, if he doesn’t start eating, he’s going to die,” Pinkel added.

On Sunday, about 90 percent of the team met in the dining hall with Pinkel, Rhoades and other staff members to discuss the situation. By the end of an approximate 90-minute meeting, they decided to continue the boycott. Pinkel acknowledged not every player was in lockstep with the protest but still “went along with it.”

“I’m sure,” he said, “some players said, ‘I don’t know if I really agree with missing a game for this, but we’re a team and we’re a family and I get and feel for what those guys are feeling. And I’m going to support them.”

“There wasn’t anybody in that room that didn’t want to play the game,” Rhoades added. “They wanted to play. But they just felt that strong that they needed to make a statement and try to really help Jonathan Butler in his health and his well-being.”
For the first time during a regular-season game week in Pinkel’s 15 seasons at Mizzou, players were not made available for interviews at the team facility. That was their decision, Pinkel said. A few spoke with reporters at a rally on campus, including senior safety and team captain Ian Simon, who read a prepared statement.

“It’s not about us,” Simon said. “We just wanted to use our platform to take a stance for a fellow concerned student on an issue, especially being as though a fellow black man’s life was on the line. Due to the end of the hunger strike, we will be ending our solidarity strike to not practice and returning to our normal schedule as football players. It is a privilege to be playing on the University of Missouri’s football team, and we are very thankful for this opportunity. We love the game, but (at the) end of the day, it is just that — a game.

“This experience, we’ve really began to bridge that gap between student and athlete in the phrase student-athlete by connecting with the community and realizing the bigger picture. We will continue to build with the community and support positive change on Mizzou’s campus. Though we don’t experience everything the general student body does and our struggles may look different at times, we are all ConcernedStudent1950.”

Where do the Tigers go from here? Pinkel’s players proved the power of their influence over the last few days, but he doesn’t believe another similar incident will reoccur, calling this situation “very unusual circumstances.”

For now, the focus is back on football.

“Now it’s time to go back to work,” Sam said as he crossed the Memorial Stadium parking lot dotted with news trucks. “He’ll do his very best to get them ready and focused, and now their focus should only be on BYU so they can win this game to get to a bowl game. It’s on this 2015 senior class. What will their legacy be?”

With a campus crisis put on hold and a president overthrown, that legacy might already be written.

Missouri just latest campus where athletes prompting change

Nov. 10, 2015 • By RALPH D. RUSSO

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — College athletes are learning the power of teamwork goes beyond scoring touchdowns and winning conference titles.

The Missouri football team banded together to add some high-profile heft to a campus protest that resulted in Monday’s resignation of Tim Wolfe, the president of the state university system. Wolfe was under scrutiny for how he handled complaints about racism and other student-welfare issues, and he
was out of a job just two days after the football players indicated they wouldn't practice or play unless changes were made.

That plan included skipping Saturday's game against BYU in Kansas City, which would have cost the school more than $1 million.

It was an extraordinary declaration of solidarity coming at a time when the leaders of college sports are adjusting to more empowered and outspoken athletes than they've seen in years, emboldened by court victories against the NCAA — and now with the ability to vote on NCAA legislation — and more vocal than ever thanks to social media.

"These black football players understood that they have the power," said Shaun Harper, executive director for the Study of Race and Equity in Education at the University of Pennsylvania. "That is so rare. I don't know another class of black people on a university campus that has as much power as these guys, who generate millions of dollars for their institutions and billions of dollars for their athletic conferences. Not in our modern history have we seen black students collectively flex their muscle in this way."

Harper authored a 2013 study on black male athletes and racial inequities in Division I sports. According to the study, blacks make up 63 percent of Missouri's football and men's basketball players, but less than 3 percent of the total undergraduate population.

Because they are often sheltered and controlled within athletic departments, black student-athletes aren't always aware of their power, Harper said.

"Hopefully, this situation raises their consciousness about their authority," he said. "If black men on these teams and at other places that are like Mizzou do what these guys just did, it could be a form of activism that procures lots of benefits for them as well as for the black student collective they represent."

The rise of the empowered college athletes goes beyond race but there is no denying black athletes have been leading figures in some of the most significant recent examples.

Two seasons ago at Grambling, a historically black school, players refused to play a game against Jackson State because they were upset about the firing of a coach, long bus trips to games and poor facilities. The university then committed more than $30,000 to make improvements to the weight room.

Last year, football players at Northwestern, led by quarterback Kain Colter, who is black, tried to unionize team members. Colter's efforts ultimately failed, but many of the benefits the movement sought — guaranteed four-year scholarships and athletic scholarships that cover the full cost of attendance — are now a reality across wide swaths of Division I.

In March, Oklahoma's football team refused to practice for a week after members of the local Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity chapter were caught on video singing a song that used a derogatory term for black people and referenced lynching.

Sooners linebacker Eric Striker, who is black, responded with an angry call for change and became a de facto spokesman for the team. Striker's teammate, center Ty Darlington, said he's not sure what would have happened if the SAE incident had occurred during the season, like Missouri's situation.

"Thankfully, it never came down to us having to decide whether we were going to play games or not. But if it would have, that would have been such a difficult decision," Darlington said Monday. "And I can't say for sure what would have happened."

At Oklahoma, football coach Bob Stoops supported his players and even joined in when they decided to hold a silent protest instead of practicing.
At Missouri, coach Gary Pinkel not only supported a group of about 30 players who announced they would boycott football, but he gathered the whole team the next day and united them all for the cause.

"They want to get more involved with the campus," Pinkel explained Monday. "I think that's a positive."

Receiver J'Mon Moore said he was the first player to visit the protesters last week in the tent city that had popped up on Carnahan Quad. Moore promised his support to Jonathan Butler, the grad student who decided he would not eat until Wolfe stepped down, and then shared his experience with his roommate, Anthony Sherrils.

Moore and Sherrils then spoke to defensive back Ian Simon and defensive end Charles Harris and a desire to support Butler began to spread.

"Our plan was to use our platform to make a difference and stand behind Jonathan," Moore said. "That's what we did at the end of the day."

The independence even showed Monday, as Pinkel held a news conference while his players were elsewhere: Out on campus, among other students celebrating Wolfe's resignation, and issuing their own statement.

"We just wanted to use our platform to take a stance as fellow concerned students on an issue that has special meaning as a fellow black man's life was on the line," senior defensive back Ian Simon said. "We love the game, but at the end of the day, it is just that — a game."

Harris stood nearby, wearing a T-shirt that read "I Can't Breathe," a reference to the words uttered by Eric Garner, an unarmed black man who died in a police chokehold in New York City in 2014.

"Let this be a testament to all of the athletes across the country that you do have power," Harris said. "It started with a few individuals on our team and look what it's become. Look where it's at right now."

Associated Press writer Errin Haines Whack, Sports Writer Cliff Brunt and freelance writer Jade Washburn contributed.

___

Follow Ralph D. Russo at www.Twitter.com/ralphdrussoAP

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

GEORGE KENNEDY: Days of demands lead to upheaval

GEORGE KENNEDY, 12 hrs ago
What a day! By the end of Monday’s special meeting of the university’s Board of Curators, the angry students got the resignation they wanted, and the concerned faculty and distressed deans learned that they will only have to wait six weeks to get theirs.

Jonathan Butler got to start eating again, and the football team returned to practice.

Problems solved, right?

Not quite. Now the real work begins.

Almost lost in the turmoil of the past few days have been the other seven demands from the self-named Concerned Student 1950 group that has been the driving force behind the protest that has earned headlines across the country for our university.

The one that made the headlines, of course, was that Tim Wolfe "admit to his gross negligence,” “acknowledge his white male privilege” and be removed as president. Wolfe pre-empted any motion to fire him by resigning in a tearful speech that revealed, at least to me, a sincere lover of the institution who was ill-equipped by temperament or training to play the public leadership role his job required.

In his farewell speech, he condemned racism and urged understanding with an eloquence that, had it been in evidence a year ago, might have headed off the debacle we watched unfold Monday.

Meanwhile, his more outgoing but less managerially competent underling, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, demonstrated his well-honed survival skills by managing to stay on the payroll, in his present post until Dec. 30 and then in the newly created role of “director of research facility development,” whatever that will be.

In a news release after they emerged from a long closed meeting, the curators admitted, “Significant changes are required to move us forward.” They are, they said somewhat belatedly, “committed to making those changes.”
The changes echo most, but significantly not all, the demands of the revolt leaders. For example, the students demanded a “comprehensive racial awareness and inclusion curriculum.” The curators pledged “mandatory diversity, inclusion and equity training for all faculty, staff and future students.”

The students demanded a 10-year plan to increase retention rates, sustain diversity training and “promote a more safe and inclusive campus.” The curators vowed to “create a diversity, inclusion and equity task force.”

The students demanded the hiring of more mental health professionals, “particularly those of color.” The curators pledged “a comprehensive review of student mental health services.”

However, there was one notable omission. The students demanded that, by 2017-18, the percentage of black faculty and staff be increased to 10 percent. That would require tripling the percentage of black faculty reported most recently. The curators’ response doesn’t even mention that demand.

The reasons were clear to colleagues I trust. First, there aren’t that many candidates of color who’d be considered qualified. And second, recent events and the attendant publicity have probably made those who might be candidates more dubious about signing on here.

In an after-meeting memo to the “University Community,” curators’ President Donald Cupps, a lawyer from Cassville, described the university as “a beacon of hope for everyone, from all walks of life.”

After these days of demands, it seems to me, the beacon is flashing a cautionary orange. Only one letter separates hope from hype.
University of Missouri learns hard lesson in ignoring complaints of racism on campus

This is a sad yet hopeful day for the University of Missouri.

It was also inevitable given everything that has happened.

The school system’s president, Tim Wolfe, finally gave in Monday to a chorus of calls for his resignation from students and faculty frustrated with his tone-deaf handling of racist incidents on campus.

I’m sure his forced departure will elicit the usual knee-jerk response from those quick to dismiss every complaint of racism in America as political correctness run amok.

Yet, in this instance, they would be wrong. Black students said they’ve been taunted for months by white students yelling racial slurs. And last month, a swastika was scrawled in human feces on a dormitory wall. It’s a despicable set of circumstances, some of which are playing out at other schools, too.

But Wolfe, unfortunately, did precious little to allay or address those concerns.

Unlike University of Oklahoma President David Boren, who took clear and urgent steps against the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity members caught spewing racist chants on a viral video last spring, Wolfe tip-toed around the elephant in the room.

Unlike SMU President R. Gerald Turner, who recently shut down a white fraternity’s plans to host a hip-hop party replete with racist, stereotypical images and props, Wolfe was slow to react.
He failed to grasp the magnitude of the problem. When racism raised its ugly head, Wolfe tried to put a pretty face on it.

He looked the other way, thinking it all would go away in due time.

“Why did we get to this very difficult situation” Wolfe said in his tear-jerker of a resignation speech. “It is my belief we stopped listening to each other.”

Sorry, but if you’re the university president, you can’t stop listening.

That’s a huge failure, one that necessarily cost Wolfe his job.

The students and faculty who banded together to demand that the university deal decisively and aggressively with a racially hostile environment should be commended for their principled stance.

Taking a page from the old civil rights movement playbook, they put it all on the line.

A graduate student, Jonathan Butler, went on a hunger strike a week ago, declaring it wouldn’t end until he died or Wolfe left.

Butler’s drastic step came in the wake of protests that began on Sept. 24.

The tension between the president and students complaining about a racist campus environment escalated over the weekend when at least 30 members of the school’s football team threw their weight behind the movement.

The players said they wouldn’t participate in any football activities as long as Wolfe was in power. Then, head football Coach Gary Pinkel – clearly able to read the tea leaves better than big boss Wolfe – took to Twitter and publicly declared his support for forcing changes at the school.

He also canceled practice on Sunday, the same day Wolfe promised to keep dialogue open and support a “system-wide diversity and inclusion strategy.”

It was too little, too late.

By Monday, before Wolfe could fall on his sword, the undergraduate student government was calling for his head, too.
Of course, much will – and should — be made of the sway the football team had in sacking Wolfe. The players’ firm stance against Wolfe’s soft response to racism brought national shame to the university and threatened to wallop the school in the pocketbook.

It certainly got the attention of Missouri’s governor and the state’s House Higher Education Committee. They realized Wolfe couldn’t bail himself out of the mess, let alone untangle the university.

Yes, give the football players credit for risking their scholarships and standing at the university. They showed they have their priorities straight.

But let’s give credit also to all the students and faculty members—black and white—that refused to sit idly by in the face of outrageous and offensive gestures aimed at mocking and dehumanizing them.

They took the University of Missouri to school on this one.

'Too Many Times to Count': My Experiences of Racism at the University of Missouri

By: Cynthia Frisby, Missouri School of Journalism Professor

I have lived in Columbia and been at the university for almost 18 years. During this time, I have been called the n-word too many times to count.

My most recent experience was while jogging on Route K in May of 2015 when I was approached by a white man in a white truck with a Confederate flag very visible and proudly displayed.

He leaned out his window (now, keep in mind I run against traffic, so his behavior was a blatant sign that something was about to happen). Not only did he spit at me, he called me the n-word and gave me the finger.
Of course, I responded with, "Oh yea, get out of your car, you coward, and say that to my face." He then raced off. Typical.

After the Zimmerman trial, I wrote about my experiences being called the n-word twice while I was on my jog. And yes, I have had a few faculty call me the n-word and treat me with incredible disrespect. Yes, faculty.

I have had a student who said he couldn’t call me Dr. Frisby because that would mean that he thinks I am smart, and he was told that blacks are not smart and do not earn degrees without affirmative action. Yes, true story. I have so many stories to share that it just doesn't make sense to put them all here.

What I am responding to is the frequent question I have been asked all week: How have I endured these many hateful experiences for over 17 years, and why am I still here?

I endured because God allows me to see the good and cup half full.
I endured because I know my life is in God’s hands, and I do not walk alone. I endured because I find these to be teachable moments that I use in my classroom with my students. I endured (or better yet endure) because I have an amazing support system.

I endure because there are far too many of my white friends that have a heart of gold, love people of any color with a passion and who have a strong trust in and love for the Lord. I endure because I have friends who are white and daily show me that there are people who can hurt when I do and who sincerely want to make this culture a better place. I endure because I look to the Lord to help me grow and be the best person I can be.

I endure because I CHOSE AND CHOOSE to endure and overcome, and I choose to overlook ignorance. Choosing to overlook these idiots doesn’t make me a "sell-out" or an Uncle Tom. I choose to endure because my mom and civil rights leaders taught me to never run but stand straight, tall and do not run.

Racism is alive, and it's everywhere.
I endure because what I have gone through is nothing like what my mom went through in the '50s and '60s, nor is it even close to what my Lord and Savior had to endure while on the earth (he, too, was spat at, made fun of and even nailed to a cross simply because He loved us/me that much).

Yes, we are better off now than we were in the '50s, but to some extent, we are taking many steps backward by ignoring or not talking about the racial issues.
We need to have open discussions where people share their ignorance and learn from people who are different. (I do this in my classroom every day, and we learn and I learn so much.) So where am I going with this post?

I understand the anger. I understand that we've had enough. I also understand and agree with my friend Traci Wilson-Kleekamp when she wrote, "Jonathan L. Butler and #ConcernedStudent1950 please give space for mistakes, listening, learning and dialogue. This on the job training thing is powerful because it is SO VERY PUBLIC." I not only see this as on-the-job training for our administrators at MU, but I also see it as training for some of my very educated white friends.

The saddest of all things for me is to see how a few of my white friends are responding to these events and basic conflicts in race relations in our nation (i.e., police shootings, the president, etc). It hurts my heart when I see posts from these friends who make fun of us because we find things hurtful like dressing up in black face costumes or Confederate flags flying high in my neighborhood.

What bothers me is that the few of my white friends who feel this way have not taken time or energy to reach out to me and ask me why these things hurt or to understand what is going on or even send an email saying they are confused.

For the two friends who have in the recent days, thank you. That speaks volumes of your openness to understand. You are not even saying that you agree; you just want to hear from me and my thoughts and experiences. Kudos to being open.

Unlike my "other" so-called acquaintances. Instead, they take to social media and make jokes of the students, say things like, "Oh my God, what else are these people going to find offensive?" or even dumber things like, "I guess next year I will dress up as nothing." By the way, the Halloween costume event is not about not dressing up like someone, but it is about dressing up as characters, not as a race of people. It is the heart and intent of a person.

I write this post to ask if those folks who find that the situation on campus is ridiculous to please be a little more open-minded. Ask questions. Do your research. Heaven forbid you will put yourself in their shoes.

Maybe you should dress up in black face and spend a month walking around in that costume, and maybe then you will understand how we feel when you walk in a room or a store and get treated like a second class citizen. Maybe then you will understand that our feelings about being constantly referred to as niggers is more than "just getting over it." Maybe then you will understand why telling the students to get their "a@&S" in class because they are making much ado about nothing hurts and doesn't solve the problem.
I am much more than the n-word.
I am an educated black woman who happens to have worked hard for my Ph.D. I am a mom. I am a grandmother. I am a daughter. I am a sister. I am an auntie. I am a cousin. I am loved by my family and friends. I am smart. I am funny (or so I think). I am a Christian who loves the Lord Jesus with my whole heart. I would die for Him as He died for us. I am YOUR FRIEND!

Yes, I am all of these things. There is so much more to me than the n-word implies. Please consider that when you criticize the events on campus: Yes, I am silly. Yes, I am a drama queen who thinks I should have been born a celebrity. But what I am not is a nigger! Let me just say that.

Consider that you have a friend who deserves and simply wants to be treated equally. You have and know a friend who jogs on Route K and wants to do that without fear that some kids in a car will think it is funny to yell at me and pretend that they will run me off the road. Know that you have a friend who wants to walk out every day with confidence that she will not be spat on or yelled euphemisms simply because of the color of her skin.

To make things better in our world, that would be a start.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Football team says it's 'ready to play' after Wolfe's resignation

JACOB BOGAGE AND AARON REISS, 19 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Moments after UM System President Tim Wolfe resigned, Missouri football players said Monday they will resume team activities and end their strike.

The Tigers are "for sure" playing Brigham Young University in Kansas City on Saturday, backup tailback Trevon Walters told the Missourian from the Mel Carnahan Quadrangle, where hundreds of protesters celebrated after Wolfe's resignation just before 10:15 a.m. Monday.
Missouri head coach Gary Pinkel and athletics director Mack Rhoades released a statement at about noon Monday saying that football activities will resume Tuesday.

The Missouri athletics department could have been on the hook for $1 million if it canceled Saturday's game, according to a contract Missouri and BYU signed.

"We’re just ready to go back to play football," tight end Jason Reese said. "There’s a lot of things that still need to be addressed."

One football player approached Concerned Student 1950 leaders on Wednesday to join the movement that supported graduate student Jonathan Butler’s hunger strike, an effort he pledged to continue until his own death or until Wolfe left office.

Black members of the football team announced Saturday night they would not take part in football activities until Wolfe stepped down or was removed from his post. Sunday the entire team joined their stand after a morning meeting at the Mizzou Athletic Training Complex. Coach Gary Pinkel’s Twitter account posted a photo of team members arm in arm.

Wolfe resigned in a tearful farewell address Monday morning at a meeting with the UM Board of Curators.

Football players gathered at a campout at the quadrangle, where civil rights protesters called Concerned Student 1950 convened, to celebrate the movement's success.

"Here we believe in One Mizzou," defensive end Walter Brady said. "To be with us is a great thing."

Brady and wide receiver DeSean Blair stood among a crowd of fist-raised demonstrators who sang "We Shall Overcome." Receiver Keyon Dilosa and defensive end Marcell Frazier later joined the crowd. Wide receiver J'Mon Moore danced at the campsite.

In their statement, Pinkel and Rhoades said: "The primary concern of our student-athletes, coaches and staff has been centered on the health of Jonathan Bulter and working with campus
leaders to find a resolution that would save a life. We are hopeful that we can begin a process of healing and understanding on our campus."

As players left the Carnahan Quadrangle, a woman thanked them for their strike. Kerry Mullin, 48, was there with her son, Taygen Givan, age 6, and has been involved with Missouri students' civil rights movement since Michael Brown's death in August 2014.

When asked if she was a fan of the Missouri football team, she said, "I'm a fan of people who are willing to do uncomfortable things to make the world a just place."

Tight end Jason Reese wanted to do his part to help, even if it made him uncomfortable that some people didn't notice what was going on at Missouri until the football team got involved.

"It's a terrible feeling to have it be the football team that makes the students voice be heard," Reese said. "We all want to play football, that's why we came here. But there was a man dying."

"We wanted Jonathan Butler to eat. That was our goal."

At the Missouri Athletics Training Complex, a group of football players including running back Ish Witter and tight end Kendall Blanton rode into the parking lot on the back of a pickup truck cheering and celebrating. A "NO MEDIA" sign was posted to the door to the complex. The media will meet with the players at 3:30 p.m.

Protest leaders who spoke to the Missourian on Saturday declined to name the player who led the football team's boycott.

**COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN**

**MU black alumni, others support protesters, decry continued racism**
MISSOURIAN STAFF, 23 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — The pressure on UM System President Tim Wolfe to resign or on the Board of Curators to fire him built rapidly as a special meeting of the curators approached on Monday morning. Student groups and others issued statements and protested in their own way to force his removal from office.

MU black alumni

A statement signed by 783 black MU alumni added their support to the cause of Concerned Student 1950 and other activists calling for action to improve race relations on campus.

"Many of us found ourselves protesting similar incidents on campus, and we find it highly unacceptable that many of these issues are not only continuing, but have become more pervasive," the letter said.

It cited racial incidents that occurred on and around campus from 2004 and 2011. They included:

- 2004: An MU student wrote a post in the Maneater blaming black students for vandalism in Greektown and telling them to "stay in their little worlds."
- 2010: Two MU students threw cotton balls on the lawn of the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center.
- 2011: An MU student spray-painted a racial slur on a statue outside Hatch Hall.

The supporters also said the Mizzou Alumni Association has not given them an opportunity to formally organize. They want an official black alumni chapter to show their support for the black student body.

Chelsea Marks, an alumna who helped write the statement, said they sent it by social media at 2 p.m. Sunday. It had 783 signatures by 5 a.m. Monday and 883 by 9:30 a.m.
"In general, we are just a group of concerned alumni," she said. "Since we don’t have an official black alumni chapter, we were just trying to get our voices heard."

Marks said that she understands things take a long time to set up an official chapter, and that it’s an ongoing conversation.

"This is the same fight we’ve been fighting for years," Marks said.

Statement of Support from Black Mizzou Alumni

We, the undersigned Black alumni of the University of Missouri (“Mizzou”) are deeply concerned about the current environment at our beloved alma mater. It is imperative for the public and the current students matriculating at the university to know that as Black alumni, we stand together in support of the Concerned Student 1950, The Legion of Black Collegians, Missouri Student Association President Payton Head, Graduate Student Activist Jonathan Butler, the University of Missouri Football team and all other student activists.

We recognize that the University of Missouri has a unique history which is tied to the fabric of the state itself. In 1958, the University of Missouri School of Law denied entry to Lloyd Gaines because of his race. Mr. Gaines sued and the Supreme Court ultimately decided that University of Missouri had to admit Mr. Gaines. The Gaines case laid the groundwork for Brown v. Board of Education. In 1950, the University of Missouri admitted its first Black student, however it was not until 1967 that the first Black students were even allowed on the football team. While we acknowledge that we have made significant strides since this time, we recognize that our alma mater can be greater.

While students at the University of Missouri, many of us found ourselves protesting similar incidents on campus and we find it highly unacceptable that many of these issues are not only continuing, but have become more pervasive. In 2004, a Mizzou student wrote a post in a campus newspaper, blaming Black students for vandalism in Greek town and admonishing them to “stay in their little world...” During the 2007 school year, Neo-Nazis protested in downtown Columbia, to which Black students responded with a counter protest. In 2008, Black students banded together against the failed Missouri Civil Rights Initiative which sought to remove affirmative action policies at the University of Missouri. In 2010, two Mizzou students defaced the Black Culture Center by throwing cotton balls on the lawn. For Black students, the Black Culture Center is a staple of safety, making the act even more egregious. In 2011, another Mizzou student spray painted “NIGGER” onto a Residential Hall statue, once again leaving Black students to feel ostracized and unwelcome in their shared living space. We highlight these past events to show our own connection to the plight of current students.

Unfortunately, despite efforts by many Black alumni, the Mizzou Alumni Association (“MKA”) has not yet given us the opportunity to formally organize. We recognize the importance of remaining connected to the undergraduate students and see an official Black Alumni chapter as a means to do so. Additionally, it is a means to galvanize our talented Black Alumni base. Without the presence of an official Black Alumni chapter, we are unable to connect properly to fellow alumni and show our support of the Black student body.

As alumni, we are fully invested in improving the campus climate for current and future Tigers. We want to show our continued support to the students and the University as a whole. As such, we offer our support and assistance to the Black student body and the University to ensure that the student concerns are fully addressed.

In Solidarity
Concerned Black Mizzou Alumni

Missouri Student Association
In a letter to the UM Board of Curators sent Sunday evening, the Missouri Students Association’s Executive Cabinet demanded the immediate removal of UM system President Tim Wolfe.

"The struggles of this campus have too often been met by the silent bureaucracy of an inadequate system. As such, the mental health, academic quality, and physical safety of our black students has been compromised time and time again."

The letter said MU was silent about the police shooting of Mike Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014, which increased the tension and inequality on campus, and worsened the quality of life for students.

"This leadership has undeniably failed us and the students that we represent. He has not only enabled a culture of racism since the start of his tenure in 2012, but blatantly ignored and disrespected the concerns of students."

The Executive Cabinet of undergraduate student government represents the 27,000 undergraduates at MU.
Second Ward Columbia City Councilman Michael Trapp

"I have been touched by the outpouring of support and solidarity for the student activists bringing attention to ongoing issues of racism in Columbia. I add my voice to those in support of Concerned Student 1950 and their allies to call of (sic) our attention to issues of justice and respect. I met with some of the activists on campus and found them to be sincere, prayerful, and committed to making our community a better place. I have offered my ongoing support and encouragement for their struggle. It is everyone's responsibility to work towards a truly just and
inclusive community. I am committed to do my part to make Columbia a safe and welcoming community for all of our residents.”

Former MU student and filmmaker Ankur Singh

Singh demanded MU remove from its website a photo of him.

"In solidarity with Concerned Students 1950 I refuse to allow a picture of me to be used for marketing purposes by the University of Missouri until Tim Wolfe is removed from office. I will not be the one brown kid on your website while Mizzou continuously disregards the lives of people of color."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

How do you break a hunger strike in a healthy way?

NATALIA ALAMDARI, 18 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — MU graduate student Jonathan Butler has ended his hunger strike, he said via Twitter on Monday morning after UM System President Tim Wolfe's announced his resignation.

On Nov. 2, Butler announced the hunger strike in a letter to the UM System Board of Curators asking for Wolfe's ouster. Butler wanted Wolfe out because of the president's inaction in response to a "slew of racist, sexist, homophobic, etc., incidents that have dynamically disrupted the learning experience at the University of Missouri," according to Butler's letter.

Butler consumed only water for a week. Within six hours of not eating, a body would have broken down most of its glucose stores, a primary source of energy, according to Medical Daily.
By the 72-hour mark, the body started breaking down fats and muscle proteins. After 72 hours, the body adapts to low protein levels and begins to conserve protein.

The first foods Butler eats will be the most important, according to Livestrong, a health and wellness website. Because his body lacks energy sources, he must eat foods that are high in nutrients but easily digested. Raw fruits and fruit juices that are high in water are best, as the body digests them easily and they contain nutrients and energy. Fruits like grapes and apples nourish the body, while citrus fruits should be avoided because of high acidity.

The same applies to raw vegetables and sprouts, as they are simple enough to digest and contain needed simple sugars, vitamins, minerals and antioxidants, the website says. By the second day, the body can digest dairy products such as milk and yogurt. Meat, fish and eggs are safe on the third day, and the body can handle normal foods by the fourth day.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU students tell their stories of everyday racism

MARIA DAVISON AND SOPHIA ZHENG, Nov 9, 2015


Throughout the Missourian's coverage of race, we've heard from readers who say they can't relate to stories of racism. Many have said they don't see racism in their worlds, and they just don't think it's still a problem.
We set out to ask people — on campus and around Columbia — what everyday racism looks like to them. Here's what we've heard so far from MU students.

"They'll look at me, and then they'll clutch their bag a little tighter"

Devon Davenport is a freshmen studying sociology. He's from Chicago.

"I'm not the voice of all black people"

LeAundra Jefferson is a senior studying finance and banking. She's from Belleville, Ill.

"Every day I would cry because I'm like, 'my eyes don't look like that.'"

Amy Weinstein is an undeclared major. She's from Chicago.

Being a black female is a double disadvantage

Anitra Adams is studying business. She's from Ferguson, Mo.

We were told at a fraternity, “No, we’re not having a party tonight”

Christine Enubuzor is a sophomore studying biology. She's from Maple Grove, Minn.

"I noticed a lot of girls of different races — that was a really big concern for them"

Annie Lambesis is a journalism major. She's from Chicago.

"Question it, but just be the bigger person."

Victoria Rudd is studying sociology. She is from Chicago.

As a kid, a woman kicked him and his friends out of a pool because they were black

Justin Honore is a sophomore studying journalism. He's from Knoxville, Tenn.

When waiters ignored us for 45 minutes, "we were kind of the elephant in the room"

Erica Winston is a freshman studying journalism. She's from Kansas City, Mo.
We should do a better job of "learning about stuff that they are facing"

Georgianna Victor is studying industrial engineering. She's from Rolla, and she's white.

"A couple of girls were saying, 'Oh, look at that black girl, she’s so ugly.'"

Jasmine Birt is an MU sophomore studying textile management. She's from Chicago.

People at a party wondered, "Is he supposed to be here?"

Norvell Barbour is a senior studying personal finance planning. He's from Chicago.

Moeses King: Residence hall neighbors said the n word around me

Moeses King is a sophomore studying Computer Science. He's from Kansas City, Mo.

"There's always this sort of level of shock" when people hear my major or GPA

Kelsey Bradley is an MU senior studying communication. She's from Chicago.

They "said 'konnichiwa' and laughed hysterically before continuing on their way"

Kerri Voyles is an MU graduate student.

Kerri Voyles, 23, is a graduate student at the University of Missouri. She said coming to MU was when she realized that others could define her by the color of her skin.

I am Korean, though I don't consider myself Korean American as I was adopted into a white American family when I was young. I never understood myself as a person of color having grown up in my family. Coming to Mizzou was the first time I realized how I could be defined by others simply by my skin and my physical appearance. It happened at first in subtle ways. International students approach me speaking in their language, but then I would explain I was sorry and I only speak English; I would try to help them if they needed it. For me, this isn't necessarily negative but rather a misunderstanding and miscategorization based on my appearance.
One example of a racist experience was when I walked home to Greek Town one night my sophomore year. A pair of white men who seemed to be intoxicated were walking towards me. Before I passed them, they placed their hands in a praying position, bowed and said "konnichiwa" and laughed hysterically before continuing on their way.

Initially I brushed it off because they were intoxicated. And I don't find being miscategorized as Japanese offensive either. But looking back, I realize this was racism. It is racist to steal another culture's traditions and words and use them mockingly. It is racist to categorize me based on my race and mock me for it. It is racist to lump all Asian people together into a stereotype. It is racist that though they were intoxicated, this appropriation was embedded in their consciousness to whip out on a passing Asian subject.

Am I forever marked by this occurrence? No. It doesn't define me. Neither does my race. This occurrence points to a culture that reinforces racism and demeaning behavior. And that is what frustrates me. Words, action and inaction all have power.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

FROM READERS: Activism, trial by social media and "Cool Hand Luke"

GEORGE YOUNG/MISSOURIAN READER, 14 hrs ago

George Young is a sports journalist for KFRU-1400 AM and the host of the sports radio show "The Closers" from 4 to 6 p.m. every weekday. He lives in Columbia.

To be lauded — the activism of the Missouri Tigers football players. Long accused by many of being privileged, out of touch and above the normal fray of college life. What began as a group of 30-plus this past Saturday, joining the #ConcernedStudent1950 and
the Legion of Black Collegians bringing to the fore the issue of race, ended with a team photo with Head Football Coach Gary Pinkel expressing solidarity.

As Victorian as our society can be, we have a far easier time discussing gender and sexual preference than fostering an open and reasoned discussion on race. I can tell what color you are by looking; I can’t tell LGBT a whit. As far as I am concerned, I don’t care what color you are. Can you do/learn the job? Yet many feel that a discussion of race is like bringing up Lord Voldemort at a party. Buzz kill!

Now, back to the football players. They seized upon an opportunity to do two things: (1) Become an active part of campus life and make their voices known on an issue that in reality should concern everyone; (2) Exert a giant yank on the purse strings of the flagship institution of the University of Missouri System. With one tweet Saturday night, the players had everyone hauled upright in their chairs and thinking: “Whoa, this is serious!” As an aside — it has been serious for weeks. You just now selfishly noticed.

The predictable and all-too-easy responses began to flood in: “Thought they quit already.” “Should pull their scholarships.” “This wouldn’t happen if they were winning.” And those were the polite ones. The other end of the spectrum: racially charged epithets. All the latter did was to strengthen the resolve. It demonstrated exactly the issues facing the African-American student population at the University of Missouri or any other institution of higher learning. Remember, you can’t fix stupid or ignorant. You can only try to educate.

As to the educational perspective that has been lost with Tim Wolfe: He may be an excellent businessman. He would be the guy I would want on my side if I had a corporation that was hemorrhaging and needed a fix right now. We are not in the world of business, however. We are in the business of education. While the resignation of Wolfe appears to be step one, it is, in reality step 13 of a 12-step program that never should have gotten to this point.

Recall the line from the movie “Cool Hand Luke?” “What we have here is a failure to communicate.” That is where we are. In the age of Twitter, SnapChat, Instagram, Vine, etc. (and to a slower degree Facebook), a failure to deliver your message early becomes an indefensible
position within 12 hours. In the past, one could hide behind “no comment” for 24 to 36 hours while one gathered his ducks and placed them ever so carefully in a row. Now, if you get 24 to 36 minutes, that’s an eternity in social media.

The Office of the President fell behind the interaction curve early and never recovered. When Wolfe did speak, it was poorly done (Kansas City fundraiser). When he did not (Homecoming Parade), he was perceived as “the man just tryin’ to keep us down.” When a release came out, it was late, nebulous and non-committal.

Contrast that with MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, the guy the Columbia campus faculty strongly dislikes but whom the student population thinks is quite the swinger for a fella his age. Dr. Loftin’s Twitter account (@bowtieger) has 24,700 followers (@UMPrez has 4,029). Dr Loftin came in with, compared to Wolfe, a virtual master’s degree in social media. Loftin’s goal was voluminous student interaction and an understanding that it is far easier to ride the wave than to try and breathe when your face is being mashed into the sand.

On Oct. 5, in a response to a racial incident before Homecoming, Dr. Loftin tweeted out a link outlining the steps he was implementing to combat racism and recognizing that what has been done wasn’t enough. Where was Wolfe’s buy-in or at least support of the steps? Wolfe’s account did retweet Dr. Loftin’s Oct. 5 tweet, but it was about the incident at Traditions Plaza and not the initiative posted by Dr. Loftin. There was, for a month, no additional comment, tweet or news release. The silence was deafening.

It was in that moment of omission or commission that Wolfe sealed his fate as system president. The blame is equally distributed in the Office of the President. His handlers had to know better. Heck, he should have known better than to wait until Nov. 3 to issue a tepid release that took none of the responsibility and directed others to find a solution.

It was then that the Trial by Social Media returned its verdict of guilty. The jury became the Missouri Tigers football team, and they judged Wolfe to be wanting when it came to being responsive to the needs of the minority population. The month of silence from the Office of the President became a tacit admission that he neither cared nor was interested in solving the issue.
Hence, the cries of “Wolfe must go.” He helped himself neither in Kansas City when he opened his mouth and removed all doubt that he felt it was not his problem to solve, nor by waiting a month to apologize for his behavior at the Homecoming Parade.

Former President Wolfe’s failure to communicate has led to those most effective of nonviolent activists: The ones who understand that if you tug at the right strings, you will be taken seriously.

And finally, a lesson to all (me included): Social media can enhance or destroy what you have taken years or decades to build.

You have 30 minutes to decide your fate. Choose wisely.

MU grad students plan solidarity walkout

COLUMBIA, Mo. — University of Missouri graduate student workers have been asked to participate in a walkout on Monday and Tuesday.

In a statement released late Sunday afternoon, the Steering Committee of the Forum on Graduate Rights, working with the Coalition of Graduate Workers, said they are outraged by President Tim Wolfe’s statement issued on Sunday.

They say that, in the statement, Wolfe and the University of Missouri System administration doubled-down on "business as usual" as the path forward for the campus.

So, they have asked graduate workers to walk out Monday, November 9th, and Tuesday, November 10th.

They say they will stand in solidarity with their fellow anti-racism activists on campus, and that any injury to one is an injury to all.
The move takes place along with a number of controversies including race and discrimination issues, the removal of graduate students' health care subsidies and an end to university contracts with a Planned Parenthood clinic.

The Coalition of Graduate Workers has been demanding better pay, a long-term insurance solution and full tuition waivers for all graduate assistants, and are discussing unionizing.

This all began after MU decided grad students would no longer receive health insurance subsidies because of an IRS interpretation of the Affordable Care Act, which they later took back.

The groups urge grad students to also get involved with future demonstrations, which they say they will announce through social media.

GUEST COMMENTARY: Time to stand against racial injustice

JENNIFER STEVENSON, 21 hrs ago

As the daughter of Norris Stevenson, I would like to express my deep concern and disappointment regarding the recent events on the Mizzou campus.

Over the years, my family has been honored to witness the legacy of my father, the first African American football player at MU. He was a trailblazer and pioneer for Missouri athletics during a time in American history when racial bigotry was the norm. Not only was he instrumental in paving the way for the African American athletes at MU, he was dedicated to helping mentor athletes, black and white, to become better human beings.

After a short and devastating battle with an aggressive form of colon cancer, Dad passed away in March 2012. It's truly sad to see that more than three years after his passing and 58 years after he first stepped foot on the MU campus, the fight against racial bigotry still rages on. My family
and I are very troubled by the racial conflict and rising tension resulting from the reported incidents directed at African-American students on campus. And, yes, it’s time.

It's time for the stigma of racial injustice on the MU campus and in America to end and for a new legacy of racial tolerance and understanding to begin. I don't want my father's life and legacy to be in vain. He was brave enough to stand and pave the way for us all. We should be brave enough to stand together for our children, for our future.

I stand in memory of my father. I stand with Coach Pinkel and the 30 brave football players in their stand for racial equality. I stand with every student, activist and organization fighting against racial hatred.

I stand.