MU chancellor's new role hits a snag

Nov. 17, 2015  •  By Koran Addo

The idea that former University of Missouri-Columbia Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin would transition seamlessly into a research role at Mizzou following his removal as chancellor last week has hit somewhat of a snag after a health technology company objected to a key part of the plan.

The firm, Cerner Corp., sent a letter to the university’s board of curators suggesting board members overstepped their authority in granting Loftin a leading role at the Tiger Institute for Health Innovation, a partnership the company has with Mizzou.

The decision to move Loftin out of the chancellor’s office and into a new role came after he was summoned to the University of Missouri Board of Curators meeting Nov. 9 following a week of protests on the Mizzou campus over a series of racist incidents.

Loftin, had largely escaped student’s anger over those incidents, but instead became the target of deans, faculty and graduate assistants who were upset over his decision making and management style.

Loftin emerged from the closed-door session no longer the campus leader, but, instead, with two new job titles: director for research facility development and director of university research for the Tiger Institute for Health Innovation.

In a letter to university board members, Cerner attorney Amy Freeman Pierce, said the board got ahead of itself granting Loftin a leadership role with Tiger Institute without first checking with Cerner.

“The purpose of this letter is to express our concern that, without the prior knowledge or consideration of Cerner Corporation, the Terms of Transition entered into by the Board of Curators and R. Bowen Loftin included contemplation of a supporting role for Dr. Loftin within the Tiger Institute for Health Innovation,” the letter says.

Soon after learning of the transition agreement the board signed with Loftin, Cerner requested the university remove all references to Cerner and the Tiger Institute from the agreement.

In hashing out the agreement, it seems board members anticipated some resistance from Cerner. The agreement says Loftin’s title would become official only “with the concurrence of Cerner.”

University spokesman John Fougere said the university appreciates Cerner providing feedback.

“Terms of the transition agreement are subject to further discussion towards reaching a final, formal agreement,” he said.

Loftin lost his position as chancellor just hours after university system president Timothy M. Wolfe resigned over backlash from students critical of his handling of several racist incidents on campus.

It was a tumultuous week on campus that saw students protesting what they described as out-of-touch leadership starting in the president’s office. Protests included one student’s hunger strike and a pledge from the football team to boycott football-related activities until the president stepped down.
While much of the attention was on the president, animosity had been building toward Loftin for months.

Graduate assistants were upset over what they describe as their gradually eroding benefits, faculty in the medical school blamed Loftin for the abrupt resignation of MU School of Medicine Dean Patrick Delafontaine in September over personality clashes, and students at large were angered over his decision to cancel agreements the university had with Planned Parenthood.

The final straw likely was a letter all nine of MU’s sitting deans sent to the board of curators asking for Loftin’s resignation over what they called the “chancellor’s failed leadership.”

Columbia (AP) — A Kansas City-based company that helps operate a research institute at University of Missouri's flagship campus in Columbia is raising concerns about a transition agreement with the former chancellor.

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and the university system's president, Tim Wolfe, last week announced plans to resign amid student protests over the handling of racial issues.

Loftin's transition agreement calls, in part, for him to serve as director of university research at the Tiger Institute for Health Innovation. Health information technology company Cerner Corp. operates the institute with the university.

The Columbia Missourian reports Cerner wants references to Cerner and the Tiger Institute removed from Loftin’s agreement until the institute's governing body reviews the deal.

A university spokesman didn't immediately respond to a call seeking comment Tuesday.
Cerner Corp. is hesitating to endorse a plan for former University of Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin to fill a role with the Tiger Institute for Health Innovation until the institute’s board of governors has an opportunity to weigh in.

“Dr. Loftin has not been appointed to any role with the Tiger Institute,” said Cerner spokesman Dan Smith.

Loftin’s written transition deal, which the Associated Press obtained under Missouri’s open records law, suggested that Loftin head up research facility development and direct university research supporting the Tiger Institute for Health Innovation.

The agreement recommends Loftin have joint appointments in the Department of Health Management and Informatics and the Department of Computer Science in his role with the institute.

Any role Loftin will have with Tiger Institute — a health information collaboration between MU and Kansas City-based Cerner — requires the consensus of the institute’s board of governors, Smith said. Loftin signed the deal Nov. 9, the day he resigned as chancellor and UM System President Tim Wolfe also stepped down. Cerner officials on Thursday notified the university’s Board of Curators that the company had “concerns with the university’s decision to act unilaterally in speculatively including the possibility of a supporting role for Dr. Loftin” for Tiger Institute.

The agreement says Loftin would become director of research “with the concurrence of Cerner.”

“Cerner was not consulted or notified in advance that the Tiger Institute would be included” in the transition plan for Loftin, Amy Freeman Pierce, Cerner vice president and corporate counsel, wrote in the letter to Donald Cupps, chairman of the Board of Curators. The letter requested the immediate removal of all references in the transition plan to Cerner and the Tiger Institute pending review by the board of governors.
As of Tuesday morning, “nothing has come to the board of governors for consideration yet,” Smith said.

Curator Phillip Snowden said any board comment on Loftin’s transition agreement and Cerner’s letter needs to come from Cupps. Cupps was not available for comment Tuesday morning.

Loftin would get three-quarters of his salary as chancellor — more than $344,000 a year — in his new role heading up the school’s research, according to the agreement. Loftin will retain the rank of tenured physics professor, with the expectation that after working for the university for five more years he would be recommended for emeritus status.

The transition deal says he also will get $50,000 in deferred compensation in January, as well as yearly stipends of $10,000 to $35,000 from the university administrator to whom he will report. Loftin’s salary this year was $459,000.

As part of Loftin’s deal, the university indemnifies Loftin against any lawsuits for his actions as chancellor and lets him and his wife stay in the chancellor’s residence for the next four months, with the university covering their moving expenses.

Documents related to any financial agreement involving Wolfe’s departure have not been made public.

Loftin also will continue earning an unspecified car allowance, Monday’s documents show.

Planned Parenthood clinic can reapply for privileges

Nov. 18, 2015 • By SUMMER BALLEN'TINE

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — University of Missouri Health Care said Tuesday that it’s compiling documents so a doctor at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Columbia can apply for state-required privileges after the university decided to pull privileges earlier this year.
Even with the latest move by the university, the clinic in Columbia is likely to lose its license allowing it to provide medication-induced abortions. The physician's current privileges will end on Dec. 1, and University of Missouri Health Care spokeswoman Teresa Snow said in a statement that the application process takes months.

Under state law, Missouri clinics or physicians at those clinics must obtain certain privileges with local hospitals to be able to provide abortions.

A panel of University of Missouri Health Care medical staff voted in September to stop offering so-called refer-and-follow privileges that Planned Parenthood used to obtain approval from the state health department to perform medication-induced abortions. The Health and Senior Services Department has said the Columbia Planned Parenthood will lose its license to conduct abortions without the needed hospital privileges.

The Planned Parenthood doctor's upcoming loss of refer-and-follow privileges comes amid upheaval at the university. Two top leaders stepped down last week following student protests and one student's hunger strike over the administration's handling of racial issues.

The university also dealt with blowback after it began breaking ties with Planned Parenthood amid legislative investigations that delved into the Columbia clinic's relationship with the University of Missouri.

Former Columbia campus Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, who announced his resignation Nov. 9, had called for a review of university policies and procedures. A number of agreements with Planned Parenthood were canceled as a result, although three additional agreements have since been finalized.

How interim leadership will handle the university's relationship with Planned Parenthood is unclear. Requests for comment to Interim Chancellor Hank Foley were not immediately returned Tuesday.

Abortion-rights supporters and abortion foes continue to pressure the university over its relationship with Planned Parenthood.

Kathy Forck, a campaign director with the Columbia chapter of anti-abortion group 40 Days for Life, said she and others met with Loftin days before he resigned and delivered nearly 3,800 letters backing decisions to cut ties with Planned Parenthood. She said groups opposed to abortion are working on more letter-writing campaigns.

Forck said anti-abortion activists stand by former calls to administrators and the University of Missouri System's governing board to get the university "out of the abortion business." She says granting a Planned Parenthood doctor privileges that could be used to get state approval to perform abortions would violate state laws prohibiting public funds from being used to facilitate abortions.

A Tuesday email from Planned Parenthood Advocates in Missouri urges supporters to ask Foley to reinstate the clinic physician's privileges and renew contracts with the clinic.

"By yielding to political pressure former Chancellor Loftin emboldened politicians who continue to pressure the University to cut off even more learning opportunities for students," reads a sample letter to Foley linked to in the release. "You have the opportunity to stand up to the politicians and show MU's commitment to academic freedom and the delivery of health care."

More than 2,000 petitions had previously been delivered to Loftin with those demands.
Missouri state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, a Republican candidate for attorney general, suspects that a disparaging story in Middle East-based Al Jazeera may be tied to a death threat that has prompted him to temporarily close his office in the state Capitol.

Schaefer, R-Columbia, said in an interview Tuesday night that the article by Al Jazeera's U.S. affiliate – which appeared online last week – contained “inflammatory stuff” as part of its critical coverage into his recent probes of ties between the University of Missouri and Planned Parenthood.

Schaefer then pointed to anti-Christian comments made by the caller who delivered the death threat in a telephone call last weekend to the general Senate phone line.

He called the call “a rant against Christians.”

“I assume it’s related to the Planned Parenthood stuff,” Schaefer said, although noting that the caller did not mention the private organization.

In any case, Schaefer said he would keep his Capitol office closed until the state Highway Patrol completes its investigation into the call. “We’ve given it to law enforcement and we’re waiting to hear from them,” the senator said.

Patrol Capt. John Hotz said the investigation is still underway.

Schaefer said he has received threats before. But this call was different, he added, calling it “more graphic, more violent, more disturbing.”
Schaefer has headed a legislative panel this summer that has been investigating the activities of Missouri’s Planned Parenthood clinics. The probe, still underway, is prompted by disparaging videos produced by an anti-abortion group that asserted some Planned Parenthood operations in other states were improperly selling fetal body parts obtained from abortions. One of the videos contended that there may be a St. Louis connection.

Local and national Planned Parenthood officials have denied any wrongdoing, and contend the videos were inaccurate and heavily edited. Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster says his office’s investigation uncovered no improprieties.

Schaefer also has targeted the University of Missouri because of its initial role in granting hospital privileges to a physician who is performing drug-induced abortions at the Planned Parenthood clinic in Columbia, Mo., and the use of embryonic stem cells in two medical research projects at the university.

The Al Jazeera article was prompted by Schaefer’s more recent criticisms of a University of Missouri doctoral student’s study into the effects of Missouri’s fairly new 72-hour waiting period for abortions. The article featured an interview with the student.

Schaefer said Tuesday that he had just received documents from the university about the student’s work. Schaefer contends the study is aimed at getting a pro-abortion result – which the student denies.

Schaefer also contends that the study may be breaking state law, which bars any spending of state money on abortion or related activities. The student has said she’s paying all of her study’s expenses.

Schaefer called the Al Jazeera article about the student “irresponsible” and noted that he was not interviewed.
What, or more importantly, who is Missouri Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, afraid of when he seeks to stop an MU graduate study on the effects of the 72-hour waiting period for a woman to receive an abortion? What about the U.S. Supreme Court taking on abortion as a key case, Whole Woman's Health v. Cole, in what some have called the third installment of a trilogy (Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey) protecting a woman's right to choose?

There is a key issue involved in both of these stories — what places an "undue burden" on a woman's right to choose? Does the question become, "Does the 72-hour waiting period create this undue burden?"

The academic study would look at the effects of the 72-hour mandated waiting period between the time a woman seeks the initial visit concerning an abortion until the time she can have the procedure done. Schaefer is claiming that the study would be in violation of a Missouri statute (MoRVS.188.039). After reading the law, I cannot find how Schaefer has come to this interpretation.

The Supreme Court case comes out of Texas, which passed a number of anti-abortion laws that would essentially close down all but about 10 Planned Parenthood centers in the state. Texas had over 40 clinics prior to the passing of the 2013 statutes. Two of those restrictions require 1) that the women's health centers meet surgical center standards and 2) that the physician performing the procedures has admitting privileges in a hospital no more than 30 miles away. Eleven other states have similar laws in place; Missouri is one of those states.
The Court will decide if the Texas laws constitute an "undue burden" on a woman's right to terminate a pregnancy and whether a lower court erred, deciding if such "laws that would cause a significant reduction in the availability of abortion services while failing to advance the [Texas'] interest in promoting health — or any other valid interest."

What I believe Schaefer and others of his political leaning are afraid of is that the academic study would find that the 72-hour waiting period does produce an "undue burden" on the woman and, depending on the Whole Woman's Health case, bring the legality of such laws under the scrutiny of the courts of this nation. In other words, the religious-political conservative movement will lose its battle to impose its non-scientific based anti-choice laws on the state and nation.

There is a third newsworthy concern that Mr. Schaefer and his ilk need to be watching. A Missouri woman, under the pseudonym of "Mary" and a member of the Satanic Church, is claiming that the 72-hour waiting period law is not based on scientific research and, therefore, in violation of her religious beliefs.

Her letter to her medical provider claims that the 72-hour waiting period interferes with the "inviolability of my body and thereby imposes an unwanted and substantial burden on my sincerely held religious beliefs." "Mary" lives some four hours from St. Louis, and the 72-hour waiting period would require her to make two very long and expensive trips to have the procedure completed.

Since its founding in 2012, the Satanic Church has launched campaigns based on the First Amendment's "free exercise" clause in numerous states; seeking to hand out literature in public schools where Bibles are freely distributed in Florida and "plans to plant Baphomet on the lawn of the Oklahoma state Capitol, alongside a monument of the Ten Commandments," claiming the "very un-American mixing of religious beliefs with individuals' civil liberties."

OK, the Satanist Church may be a bit over the top, but I agree with its position that religious dogma does not outweigh scientific fact. Would this be the position that Schaefer is taking on preventing a study concerning the effects of the 72-hour waiting period?
If you believe that the anti-abortion position is not a religious issue, just drive by the Planned Parenthood facility on North Providence and read the placards asking for your prayers.

For those of you who have gotten this far, let me say once again that I am not pro-abortion, but am for a woman's right to choose. The medical decisions of "Mary" and other women in Missouri are theirs alone.

Schaefer is increasingly pandering to the religious-political right of his party to the detriment of the citizens of Missouri. I believe that he will eventually lose his battle with the 21st century reality, that a woman knows her personal medical needs and that religion and politics do not mix.

Demands for 10 percent black faculty at Mizzou would put it above norm for peer universities

Nov. 18, 2015  •  By CAROLYN THOMPSON and GEORGE M. WALSH Associated Press

If the University of Missouri succeeds in meeting a student demand for a faculty that’s 10 percent black in two years, it is likely to be alone among its peers.

No state’s “flagship” public university campus had a black faculty population approaching that level, and only a handful topped even the 5 percent mark, an Associated Press analysis of 2013 federal data found.

The norm on most of the main campuses was a faculty that was between 2 percent and 4 percent black, the data showed.

Universities are well aware that staff and student bodies often don’t match, administrators and experts say, and demonstrations and discussions around the country in recent days have driven home the point.
Fresh from a two-hour “listening session” Friday, University of Massachusetts Senior Vice Provost John McCarthy said students made clear the need for change.

“It was the biggest auditorium we have, and undergraduates of color were standing up and talking about the fact that they need to see more faculty of color in the classroom, they need to see more faculty that look like them, they need to see faculty who are more familiar with their experiences as students of color,” McCarthy said.

It’s the difference between feeling understood and the pressure of being seen as representing a race, students and others said.

“There’s a difference in the learning experience that you have when you’re learning from someone you believe you can identify with more closely,” said Micah Oliver, 21, president of the Black Student Association at the University at Buffalo.

Beyond that, diverse classrooms tend to be more open and innovative, said Kenneth Monteiro, president of the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education and dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University.

“Basically, it’s both ethically right and practically more productive and creative,” he said.

Recent racist incidents, and the perceived lack of response by administrators, led to protests, a student hunger strike and a threatened boycott by the football team at the University of Missouri, where student demands now include a call for increasing the percentage of black faculty to 10 percent, up from the current 3 percent, by the 2017-18 school year.

A group of former minority faculty members sent a letter Monday to UM President Michael Middleton supporting the students. It cited their “experience related to being racial and ethnic minorities on a predominantly white campus.”

Like Missouri, the percentage of black faculty members at the vast majority of main campuses in each state’s public university system was generally well below the percentage of black students enrolled, the AP review found.

At a number of schools, the percentage of black faculty was close to or below half the percentage of black students, notably at schools in the South with both relatively large proportions of black students and faculty. About 7 percent of Mizzou students are black.

The school with the largest percentage of black faculty, the University of Mississippi at 6.29 percent, also had the largest percentage of black students, 15.26 percent. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has a faculty that’s 6 percent black, compared with 8 percent of the student body. The University of Alabama’s faculty is also 6 percent black, but the proportion of black students is at 11.46 percent.

The University of Georgia had the next highest percentage of black faculty at 5.76 percent with a 7.83 percent black enrollment, while the University of South Carolina-Columbia’s faculty was 5.18 black compared with 10.56 percent of the students.

At no other school was the percentage of black faculty above 5 percent.

“Studies show that students normally do better if they’re taught by people that can relate to them, not only economically or socially, but racially because naturally we face similar struggles, being adults, students, staff,” said Deidree Golbourne, 20, an African-American studies major at Buffalo, New York’s flagship university, where 2.5 percent of the faculty and 5.7 percent of the student body are black, according to the data.
Experts say the pool of candidates is traditionally small for positions that often require Ph.Ds. UMass, the State University of New York and others have funded programs meant to boost minority numbers.

“It’s very competitive to get faculty of color simply because a lot of schools want them. There are a lot of programs out there,” McCarthy said.

But the problem also may be in how schools define who is qualified, said Stella Smith, president of the Black Faculty Staff Association at the University of Texas at Austin. She said it may be time “to open up the definition of what is academy worthy and also to understand that there are different ways to be exceptional, so there’s not just this one route to being the best kind of faculty member.”

Monteiro said universities “must first disruptively and intentionally hire a critical mass of faculty and administrators” of color and make diversity an explicit part of strategic plans.

“Universities remain primarily white because they continue to do business as usual as they have done since they were built as intentionally upper-class white, male, elite bastions,” he said. “No need for racist ogres — though they can help — only everyone doing their job within a racist system.”

The disparities were less pronounced when the numbers of all nonwhite faculty were compared with nonwhite students.

The school with the largest percentage of nonwhite faculty, at 38 percent, was the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where 72 percent of the students are also nonwhite. Many students and faculty members are Asian.

The University of California-Berkeley was one of eight main campus public universities with a greater percentage of black faculty members than black students. But the overall percentage of nonwhite staff — 29 percent — at Berkeley compared with a student body that is 53 percent nonwhite. The school has relatively large populations of Asian and Hispanic students.

At South Dakota State University, the percentage of nonwhite faculty outstripped the student body, 13 percent to 9 percent, because of a relatively large number of Asian faculty.

The numbers don’t make for ready role models, said Beth Olivares, dean for diversity initiatives at the University of Rochester.

“At the root of it is not just encouraging but ensuring that high school students and undergraduate students are aware of that as a career path,” Olivares said. “Many students are not.”
If the University of Missouri succeeds in meeting a student demand for a faculty that is 10 percent black, it would likely be alone among state “flagship” public universities. None of those schools has a black faculty rate of at least 7 percent, according to the latest data, although at a dozen of them, the black student population is 7 percent or higher.
On 2 Campuses Where Heads Rolled, Opposition to Protests Reverberates

[Updated (11/17/2015, 3:11 p.m.) with more detail about the opposition at Claremont McKenna.]

Amid national protests of racism on campuses in the past week, three prominent academic leaders have resigned: the University of Missouri system’s president, Timothy M. Wolfe; the Missouri flagship’s chancellor, R. Bowen Loftin; and Claremont McKenna College’s dean of students, Mary Spellman.

On both campuses, protesters are now beginning to feel a backlash.

At Missouri a poll of state residents conducted on Friday and Saturday found that more than half of the respondents disagreed with what the campus’s leading protest group, Concerned Student 1950, had said about racism, and more than 60 percent opposed its actions, the Columbia Daily Tribune reports. Even the football coach, Gary Pinkel, who voiced support for his players’ boycott in support of the protest, fared poorly in the poll, which was conducted by Missouri Scout, a politics blog. Thirty-one percent of respondents disapproved of his support, and nearly half said they had a worse opinion of the team after the protests.

In a written statement on Monday, the interim system president, Mike Middleton, said the system needed to “rebuild trust — trust among all our students, the parents of our students, our faculty and staff, our alumni, and our state leaders.”

At Claremont McKenna the backlash has come from other students. The Los Angeles Times reports an open letter with almost 300 signatures criticized protesters’ use of hunger strikes to drive Ms. Spellman to resign as “extremely inappropriate.” The letter went on: “Mary Spellman is a person, a human being, and you put her in a situation where the dean had to decide to sacrifice her whole career or let you starve. No matter what you think of her, as an administrator of this campus she would do anything to ensure your health and well-being. Your claims of democratic principles through assembly are invalidated by the savagery of your actions.”
The letter, written on behalf of the students by Nathaniel Tsai, a junior, also criticizes protesters’ use of profanity, as well as the college’s vice president for student affairs for standing “idle” as protesters took aim at Ms. Spellman.

The letter wasn’t the first gesture of dissent. Late last week the leadership of The Claremont Independent, a right-leaning student publication, issued a full-throated denunciation of the protests. And this week two students began soliciting letters in support of the ousted dean. In a statement on their website the students said they were gathering the letters to assist in Ms. Spellman’s search for a new job.

Complaints against the dean were broad, but were touched off by an email in which she told a student that the college sought to support students “who don’t fit our CMC mold.”

MISSOURIAN

Former MU faculty highlight need to keep, not just recruit, faculty of color

RUTH SERVEN, 10 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — The little things influenced Alejandro Morales's decision to leave MU.

A mentor who thought he didn't smile enough. A student who, after being confronted for disrupting a class, created a poll to discount his effectiveness as a teacher.

After four years at MU as an assistant professor of counseling psychology in the College of Education, Morales decided to move to California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. He said the atmosphere at MU contributed to his decision to leave.

At Cal Poly, Morales said he feels welcomed by his department and his colleagues. His fellow faculty members may disagree, but they do so respectfully, and take the burden of educating about racism upon themselves.
"Missouri was the only place I've worked where I wasn't able to form friends with the people I worked with," Morales said.

Morales said that on the whole, he was surrounded by good faculty and colleagues, but that the incidents and the wider atmosphere made it difficult to stay. If MU wants to make faculty of color feel safe, he said, things need to change.

After hearing about recent events at MU, including racist incidents and protests by Concerned Student 1950, nine former faculty members drafted a document supporting Concerned Student 1950 and outlining challenges they faced at MU. The document outlines 10 statements to affirm "support for the Concerned Student 1950 and numerous faculty, staff and administrators who still work at the institution and continue to face obstacles associated with race, gender and class," according to the document.

"When you are aware of repeated incidents of racism, or some sort of bigotry, and when you see the administrators responsible as being weak or ineffectual, it doesn't make you confident that things will get better," said Kevin Cokley, a former associate professor of counseling psychology and black studies.

Cokley, now a professor of counseling psychology and black studies at the University of Texas, said his three years at MU weren't negative, but he was disappointed in the overall climate for faculty of color.

"You would think we would be in places where we wouldn't have to worry about safety and respect," Cokley said. "I guess not."

Zakiya Adair, who was an assistant professor of women's and gender studies at MU for five years and is now an assistant professor of women's and gender studies and African American studies at The College of New Jersey, was one of the signers of the document.

She said she read the demands of Concerned Student 1950, one of which requested increasing the representation of black faculty and staff to 10 percent by August 2017, and wanted to support
the students and call attention to the need to retain more faculty of color. Adair said recruitment of faculty of color is only one factor in making MU more inclusive; the university also needs to address retention of those faculty members.

While MU has overall increased the number of black professors in the past 10 years, according to data provided by the Office of Institutional Research, the number of black professors employed has fluctuated during that time.

Adair said students and the public may not be aware of issues that affect retention of faculty of color, and she and other former faculty members wrote the document to explain why they had left MU.

Adair said faculty of color need more institutional support for the types of service they tend to do.

"There's a common experience between all of us of an increased amount of work, whether advising and helping students, or being expected to always be able to speak to issues of race," she said.

The statement outlined dissatisfaction with tokenism, an emphasis on numbers-based diversity instead of inclusion, the dismissal of student harassment of faculty of color, and the burden faculty of color bear to advocate for themselves and the students of color.

Adair said the statement provides historical context for faculty of color's grievances. She hopes it will inform administration as they begin to increase the numbers of faculty of color and address racism on campus.

Morales said he hoped the document would help students and the community understand the prevalence of racism at MU.

"It's seen as a way to bring awareness, not to criticize, but to be a call for action and say that racism affects all of us, not just students," he said.
Cokley said the group who composed the document didn't want to offer specific recommendations, because that was a job best left to the individuals still at MU.

"There are some amazing people and scholars at Mizzou, individuals I have a tremendous amount of respect for," he said. "They're fighting the good fight. I support them, and I want to be used as support in their struggle."

Adair said the statement has been forwarded to some MU departments and to the offices of the chancellor and University of Missouri system president.

In addition to Morales, Cokley and Adair, the letter signers and their relationships to MU are:


Panelists advocate for faculty to do more for marginalized students

MARIAH BRANNAN, 10 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Students, faculty and staff filled a room in Memorial Student Union on Tuesday afternoon for the first of a series of "Teaching in Times of Change" panel discussions.
Noor Azizan-Gardner, MU’s assistant deputy chancellor for diversity, facilitated the panel discussion. She said the panel’s goal was to address issues that faculty and staff believe need to be talked about and taught in the classroom.

MU graduate student Jonathan Butler’s hunger strike, UM System President Tim Wolfe’s resignation and threats to the black community on MU’s campus all led to the initiation of this discussion, Azizan-Gardner said.

"We need to engage with students in a much more responsive way because it has been a challenging, traumatic and historic past few weeks," Azizan-Gardner said.

The panel consisted of five faculty members who shared their experiences in the classroom, as well as their personal experiences with students on campus during the last few weeks, especially students who have felt marginalized.

"At a moment of crisis what comes to the forefront is that faculty, graduate instructors and staff need to already have structures in place and relationships of trust established so that we can meet our students' needs," Elisa Glick, associate professor of English and women's and gender studies said. "We need to work on this from the very first day of class."

Glick shared ways that faculty can help support marginalized students by using global strategies and acknowledging personal biases and different teaching personas.

The discussion also touched on how to address the needs of all marginalized students, such as members of the LGBTQ community, people of color and women. The panel defined and personified the different forms of racism, discussing the role mainstream media and social media played in the interpretation of racism and systemic oppression at MU.

Panelist Amalia Z. Dache-Gerbino, an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, said that as she thought about her experiences as a black Latina, there has always a state of crisis on campus, and not just within the past few weeks.
"As students and faculty of color, we are never safe," Dache-Gerbino said. "Safety is typically about the safety of white students or teaching them about people of color."

Tony Castro, associate professor in the Department of Learning, Teaching and Curriculum, concluded the panel discussion by urging educators to become and stay informed about controversial events on campus and how they affect students.

"We are the gatekeepers of what's acceptable and what's not acceptable," Castro said. "We can't let racism and systematic oppression be acceptable anymore."

Colleges in Missouri Navigate an Uncertain Landscape for Undocumented Students

By Kate Stoltzfus
NOVEMBER 18, 2015

Areli Muñoz-Reyes always hoped to heal people.

Ms. Reyes, a first-year student at St. Louis Community College-Forest Park, was excited to start nursing classes this fall. But after state legislators in Missouri enacted laws this year to prevent undocumented college students like her from using state scholarship money and getting lower in-state tuition rates, Ms. Reyes now pays double what many of her middle- and high-school classmates do for a higher education. Those immigrant students around the state face similar financial constraints.

Tensions over tuition benefits for students like Ms. Reyes — who was brought to the United States illegally as a child — have flared in many states, but the political climate around immigration is especially tense in Missouri. In September the legislature passed a bill that limited eligibility for the state’s A+ scholarship program to U.S. citizens, and the yearly budget bill includes language that bars students with
undocumented immigration status from paying lower in-state tuition rates. Public colleges must now charge such students the highest rate of tuition, a price tag shared with their out-of-state peers at some colleges and international students at others.

Gov. Jay Nixon, a Democrat, vetoed the scholarship bill, calling it "a harsh measure imposed on children who have done nothing wrong," but the legislature, with a Republican majority, overrode him.

Lawmakers in Missouri are "going against the national trend, which is moving towards allowing immigrants greater access to higher education," said Nicholas D. Espíritu, a staff attorney at the National Immigration Law Center.

The state’s total immigrant population is growing, said Vanessa N. Crawford Aragón, executive director of Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates, but that growth has slowed in the past few years, and the undocumented population is fairly small compared with other states. (Missouri has roughly 65,000 such immigrants, according to data from the American Immigration Council.) The small number of such college students, in addition to reflecting population size, could be related to "policies that have kept those students out of schools," said Ms. Crawford Aragón.

In the midst of the political battle, the state’s public colleges have wrestled with questions of how to accommodate the students while dealing with pressure to obey orders from the legislature, which controls their financing. With the academic year well underway, colleges are looking at alternative sources of money and support for their students. Many of them still feel called to help one of the state’s most vulnerable populations — even as their options for doing so may be limited.

*The Wrong Way and the Right Way*

Last month the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri filed three lawsuits, each on behalf of one student, against the University of Missouri Board of Curators, St. Louis Community College, and Metropolitan Community College, in Kansas City, accusing the institutions of improperly inflating tuition rates. Jeffrey A. Mittman, the group’s executive director, asserts that the ban on offering the students in-state tuition rates is not binding because the language is in the preamble — not the main body — of the budget law. Governor Nixon has echoed that argument. Many people in higher education think students like Ms. Reyes should be "treated as part of the Missouri family," Mr. Mittman said, but colleges are unnecessarily charging higher rates to follow the legislature’s instructions.

In the past, the legislature "indirectly sent signals to colleges and universities" about how to charge tuition, said Faith Sandler, executive director of the Scholarship
Foundation of St. Louis, which offers direct assistance to students, including more than 50 children of illegal immigrants. The previous year’s budget law prevented students who lacked "lawful presence" from receiving in-state tuition, but students in the United States illegally were granted temporary legal status in 2012, under an Obama-administration program known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. The previous language left "more room for interpretation on the part of the institutions," Ms. Sandler said. This year’s language made clear that the students, regardless of their lawful presence, should not be charged the lower rates available to Missouri citizens.

Jeffrey L. Pittman, chancellor of St. Louis Community College, said this year’s law gave colleges clear instructions. Public institutions are following them, he said, and are not charging new rates by choice. The state has been "pivoting back and forth in regards to what’s allowed and what’s not" for such students’ access to the A+ scholarship money, he said. Students like Ms. Reyes were eligible for the money until this academic year, and because the legislature overrode the governor’s veto after the academic year was underway, those who qualified will receive funds until the semester’s end. But the preamble of the budget law maintains "that we charge the international rate," Mr. Pittman said.

In 2014, St. Louis Community College considered offering undocumented students in the St. Louis area its district rate, which is lower than the price for in-state and out-of-state students. Its Board of Trustees never approved the idea, but such proposals "generated discomfort" for Rep. Scott M. Fitzpatrick, a Republican who is vice chairman of the Select Committee on Budget, which approved the budget bill and its tuition guidelines. There is "nothing ambiguous" about the law’s language, Mr. Fitzpatrick said. Offering such students the same benefits that U.S. citizens receive sends "a message that it’s more attractive to come here the wrong way than it is the right way," he said.

**A Guessing Game**

Even with the new restrictions in place, college officials are looking for ways to ease the burden on students. Colleges "respect lawmakers and want to follow the direction set for us, but at the same time are trying to find ways to keep college affordable to students living in our state," said Mr. Pittman.

Some colleges are trying to lower such students’ tuition bills with private dollars, often giving first priority to current students. Private funds at the University of Missouri at St. Louis lowered the price of tuition and fees to the in-state rate of $10,065 for its five returning undocumented students. Bob Samples, associate vice chancellor for university communications, said the 20 newly admitted such students
would have paid the $25,512 out-of-state price tag, the highest rate at the university. None of them chose to attend, apparently because of the price, Mr. Samples said.

St. Louis Community College, where Ms. Reyes is enrolled, has $250,000 in private-scholarship money for that purpose.

Ms. Reyes, who arrived in St. Louis from Mexico at age 9, does worry about not having enough money even with her A+ funds this semester. She manages a frozen-yogurt shop to help pay for classes and reapply for outside scholarships annually, turning how she will pay for future courses into a guessing game. But her mind is on completing a degree, she said.

College counselors and staff members are also teaming up with outside organizations that offer "holistic support" colleges often can’t, said Katharine J. Gin, co-founder and executive director of Educators for Fair Consideration, an advocacy group that helps undocumented students pursue higher education and careers. Administrators try to find "individual pathways while not speaking up against the whole system," she said.

Sandra M. Knight, a professor of counseling at St. Louis Community College, has mentored Ms. Reyes and dozens of other students. In each case, she may be one of the only adults on the campus who knows their immigrant status is not documented. "Many constantly come and visit" to "share the stress" of their status, such as financial burdens, taking multiple jobs to pay for tuition, and the difficulties of what is often a private identity, Ms. Knight said. "These kids have been successful mostly on their own, with a little support from people like me."

Unless the pending lawsuit over the tuition policy succeeds and forces change, colleges will continue to work within the law’s parameters to serve immigrant students who now face more-expensive college bills. And Ms. Reyes wants to work through local advocacy to "show how the law affects real humans — to put a face on that law," she said. "It’s not just my story. It’s every other DACA student that’s going through this."
MU Police looking for person who drew swastika with feces

COLUMBIA, Mo. - University of Missouri Police are still looking for the person who drew a swastika symbol made of feces on the wall of a campus residence hall.

MUPD found the swastika on the wall of a bathroom in Gateway Hall early on October 24.

ABC 17 News obtained police records through a Sunshine Law request Tuesday.

Records say peer advisers were completing rounds on the residence hall floors and encountered feces on the wall and on the floor of one of the bathrooms.

MUPD officers responded, and told the PAs to report any racially charged comments or discussion of the incident that were heard.

The door of that bathroom was locked overnight until maintenance could address the situation the next morning. When a student went to use the bathroom in the morning, he told a PA that there was still feces on the door handle, which maintenance said they may have missed due to the mess on the wall and floor.

The incident was logged as a hate crime and is still under investigation.

MISSOURIAN

MU student in Paris, French student at MU reflect on Paris attacks

JANIE BOOTH, 11 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — MU student Katy Langdon said she was heckled Friday night for wearing a German team soccer jersey to the France vs. Germany soccer match in Paris.
But heckling wasn't the only thing she heard in the stands. While she was sitting in the Stade de France, there were two very loud explosions. She assumed that it was just part of the game. Like the rest of the 80,000 spectators, she had no idea that the explosions were part of deliberate attacks on the city.

"I just thought that it was the crowd," Langdon said. "I didn't think it was anything."

The most recent count is that 129 people died and 352 people were wounded in Friday's Paris attacks, which the terrorist group Islamic State is claiming responsibility for, according to the Associated Press.

After the explosions, the soccer match continued, Langdon said in a phone interview Tuesday morning. Attendees in the stadium received messages that there was a shooting elsewhere in the city, but there wasn't any information regarding violence at the stadium, she said.

She didn’t realize that there was any danger until she left the stadium and the crowd started running. At first, Langdon felt panic, but her next thought was how she was going to get herself out of the situation. She and her friends ran from the stadium to the closest train station and returned home.

Langdon is a junior at MU from Springfield, Missouri. She is studying French and is attending school through the MU International Center.

Barbara Lindeman, the director of study abroad at MU, said Langdon is the only MU student in Paris this semester.

After a very quiet weekend, Langdon said the city felt a little more normal by Monday. She went to class at L'Institut Catholique de Paris like any other week, and Parisians were out running daily errands again.

"Seeing how people have reacted is a testament to Parisian culture," Langdon said. "Paris is one of the greatest cities in the world, and I still love it."

Langdon will continue with her program as she planned. She doesn't want the terrorist attack to impact the rest of her study abroad experience. She wants to enjoy the last four weeks of the semester much as possible and doesn't want the attacks to define her time abroad.
"There’s a mentality that it’s insulting to the victims to live in fear, and I am not doing that," Langdon said.

French student at MU reacts to attack

Louise Hemmerlé is a French student studying at MU. She watched the attacks unfold through social media the same way as her American peers did.

“I was in a state of shock for quite a long time,” Hemmerlé said. “Every emotion is multiplied because I am so far away.”

Hemmerlé is from Strasbourg, France, located in the northeastern part of the country. Her family and friends weren’t in Paris, but she was still worried about them, she said.

“When I first heard about the attacks, only 16 people had been killed. Watching the count rise minute by minute was anguishing,” Hemmerlé said.

Hemmerlé said the events have affected her and other French students more than other previous terrorist attacks have. Because the attacks were on her own country, she said she feels emotionally connected. Attacks on other countries don’t affect a person in the same way, she said.

She said she thinks that there is a big difference between this attack and the attack on Charlie Hebdo last January. The attacks on Charlie Hebdo were targeted toward one specific group. But, in Paris, the attacks weren’t based on anything, she said, which created more fear.

The terrorists' goal is to make people not feel safe anywhere, Hemmerlé said.

"I feel disconnected, but I am receiving a lot of support from other students here," Hemmerlé said.
Jefferson City NAACP supports MU protesters

Watch story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=03944c04-c7ba-4ab4-93f1-58d5efa4c22b

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — One of the largest civil rights events in the last decade is how the president of the NAACP Jefferson City chapter describes what is happening on the University of Missouri campus.

Nimrod Chapel, a Jefferson City lawyer and the president of the local NAACP chapter said, "the tremendous thing about these students is that they were able to talk to the public when the university wouldn't listen about everyday discrimination that's been going on in the United States and this state for a very long time,"

In this month alone, a grad student went on a week-long hunger strike, many students protested daily on campus, and the football team boycotted athletic activities, all leading to the resignation of the UM system president and MU chancellor.

A collaborative effort by the group concerned student 1950. And now, after a unanimous vote Monday night, the Jefferson City NAACP is endorsing their support.

"There are resources whether through law enforcement or the court system or non-legal means," Chapel said.

Chapel wants supporters of the movement to understand they have options and the chapter can be a useful tool for them.

"We've got lawyers in the community if lawyers are needed, we've got professionals, we've got counselors, so we want to be a resource for however we can be of assistance," Chapel said.

Chapel said their chapter felt the need to make their statement and said, "those students have showed tremendous courage. We, as adults, who practice civil rights advocacy have not stepped forward into the gap that has been created but are happy to be the backstop to make sure whatever reprisal or repercussion come from their courageous acts don't get born on their shoulders alone."
After several MU students have received threats on campus, the NAACP chapter in Jefferson City has started a safe hotline for anyone who feels threatened.

Nimrod Chapel Jr. is the president of the Jefferson City branch of the NAACP. He said that as the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the country, the NAACP’s main goal is to advocate against inequality and for justice for everyone.

Racial discrimination can take many forms, and the NAACP recognizes that, Chapel said.

"There have been several complaints from several folks asking for us to get involved," Chapel said. "The NAACP felt that needs weren’t being met, and we want to be there to help."

Anyone on the receiving end of racial epithets or any other form of discrimination can call the hotline, 844-622-2743. Callers can leave their contact information on the secure line and as much information as possible about their complaint. An NAACP member will return the call within 24 hours, Chapel said.

If a person is being physically threatened, he or she should call 911 before the hotline, Chapel said.

He said the NAACP has been fielding complaints from people who said they weren’t taken seriously by law enforcement. The NAACP will help callers by appealing to law enforcement and trying to ensure that the complaint is investigated, he said.
"We were encouraged by what was demonstrated by the student activists," Chapel said. "Normally the NAACP is at the forefront of the fight. We weren’t, but we can still offer support to those that have the courage to come forward."

MU has been home to racial protests over the past few months. Graduate student Jonathan Butler went on a hunger strike, with the support of student activist group Concerned Student 1950, until University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe resigned. The former chancellor, R. Bowen Loftin, also stepped aside.

Last week, the MU Police Department announced it wants people who encounter hateful speech to call the department. The department said that instances of hateful and hurtful speech are not crimes, but it would still like to know when they happen.

**Organization puts together action to stand with MU protesters**

COLUMBIA - The Black Liberation Collective organized a national call to action **Wednesday to stand in solidarity with MU's Concerned Student 1950 group.** The collective aims to change higher education policies through education.

More than a dozen universities are taking part in the national call to action titled "Student Blackout." Seven Atlanta-area schools, University of Cal-Berkeley and University of Illinois-Chicago are some of the schools taking part.

The collective hosted a conference call Tuesday to speak with Concerned Student 1950 and action organizers on the various campuses. The Concerned Student 1950 representative encouraged organizers to keep pushing for change.

"It's so important that we're coming together. Keep pushing, stay positive, keep fighting," the representative said.
One college campus organizer said Concerned Student 1950 serves as a model for other college organizations.

"Thank you so much for giving us motivation and inspiration," the organizer said.

Despite the resignations of Tim Wolfe and R. Bowen Loftin, MU protesters are still demanding the university to execute a program to stress awareness and inclusion.

"We demand that the University of Missouri creates and enforces comprehensive racial awareness and inclusion curriculum throughout all campus departments and units, mandatory for all students, faculty, staff and administration" a list of demands from the LBC said.

Concerned Student 1950 will not be having a demonstration as part of the national action.

Politically Speaking: Taking stock at a tumultuous time for the University of Missouri system

By JASON ROSENBAUM, TIM LLOYD & KAMEEL STANLEY - NOV. 18, 2015

Listen to the show: http://cpa.ds.npr.org/kwmu/audio/2015/11/politically-kbia.mp3

On a special edition of the Politically Speaking podcast, St. Louis Public Radio reporters Jason Rosenbaum, Tim Lloyd and Kameel Stanley welcomed three journalists from Columbia-based KBIA to take stock of a series of events that rocked the University of Missouri system.

The national media descended upon Columbia last week after University of Missouri system President Tim Wolfe and University of Missouri-Columbia Chancellor Bowen Loftin resigned. These resignations occurred after a movement arose over how African-Americans were treated on campus – culminating with a seven-day hunger strike by graduate student Jonathan Butler.

But as noted by KBIA news director Ryan Famuliner and reporters Bram Sable-Smith and Rebecca Smith, this isn’t a story that appeared out of nowhere. It was, in many respects, a culmination of years – if not decades –
of racial tensions at the University of Missouri-Columbia and within the city of Columbia.

So now that many in the national media packed up and went on to the next story, we decided it would be instructive to look at the bigger takeaways from past couple of weeks. Here are some key points we hit on during the show:

- Lloyd and Stanley, the hosts of St. Louis Public Radio’s We Live Here podcast, dug deeper into how Mizzou and other higher education institutions have struggled to hire African-American staff and faculty.
- KBIA's journalists expounded upon how Wolfe and Loftin’s downfalls were not necessarily the results of spontaneous demonstrations, but rather a number of controversies that accumulated over the past few months. That includes how Loftin handled graduate student health care and ties with Planned Parenthood.
- The three KBIA journalists also provided their take on how the national media covered the story – and where they may have lost focus.
- Sable-Smith, a Columbia native, noted the racial divides in college town – including how black children are educated. He and the other journalists discussed how African Americans aren’t always at the public policy table when citywide policies are developed.

Student 'safe spaces' reflect idealistic yearning: Cose

Ellis Cose 5:57 p.m. EST November 17, 2015

*Why are we ridiculing students who seek to make the world a better place?*

When people in Paris are dead for attending a rock concert, a soccer match or eating in a restaurant, it seems almost sacrilegious to worry about American students and their
potentially hurt feelings. And the punditocracy has been quick to point that out. Judith Miller was among the bluntest. “Now maybe the whining adolescents at our universities can concentrate on something other than their need for ‘safe’ spaces,” she tweeted. Miller’s was not the last word. New York Times columnist Frank Bruni was among many who criticized his former colleague’s tweet and the “ politicization of tragedy” he felt it represented.

Joel Dreyfuss, an American journalist who has lived in Paris for the past several years, was in the Stade de France when the terrorists struck. When I asked what he made of comments like Miller’s, he replied that it was “silly” to suggest that “every issue should be subordinate to the fight on terror.” Moreover, he added, “I’m not holding my breath that conservatives are going to drop their anti-abortion stance or their efforts to nullify Obamacare to focus on” the Islamic State terrorist group.

I agree with Bruni and Dreyfuss. Miller’s critique reeks of both opportunism and hypocrisy. But to be fair, critics were ridiculing American students well before Friday’s Paris attacks.

In April, after Columbia University students criticized a professor for insensitivity to a sexual assault victim, many outsiders looked on in bewilderment. The professor’s sin was failing to issue a “trigger warning” alerting students that certain pages from Ovid’s Metamorphoses might make for traumatic reading. The purportedly offending passages deal with the abduction of Proserpine (of Persephone) by the god of the underworld and the pursuit of Daphne by Apollo. (In case you’re wondering, Daphne became a laurel tree rather than succumb.) If “the mere discussion of rape causes this student to feel panicked and physically unsafe — then she needs help treating severe post-traumatic stress disorder, not a f---ing trigger warning,” fumed Elizabeth Nolan Brown, a staff editor at Reason.

Similar scorn greeted the decision of students at Mount Holyoke to cancel a production of The Vagina Monologues. The play, complained the students, was “not inclusive enough of various perspectives on race, class, and gender identity.” Instead, the university announced, students would create an alternative production that “will include student-written monologues on womanhood, gender identity, sexuality and shared lived experiences.”

“If we follow Mount Holyoke’s logic,” snapped Lizzie Crocker for The Daily Beast, “colleges should not stage any plays that are exclusive or derogatory in their representation of gender, race, homosexuality, or any other minority group — which would eliminate Shakespeare, Charles Dickens and … Jane Austen.” Monologues author Eve Ensler even got in on the debate, pointing out that her play “never intended to be a play
about what it means to be a woman. It is and always has been a play about what it means to have a vagina.”

Yale also has been the site of student unrest. After its Intercultural Affairs Council advised students not to wear offensive Halloween costumes last month, and after students angrily confronted a faculty member who questioned that advice, *National Review* lambasted “Yale’s idiot children.” The *Review* also took aim at students at the University of Missouri whose protests led to the resignation of university president Tim Wolfe. Wolfe’s crime was responding inadequately to racial incidents. Wolfe’s student detractors, charged the *Review*, were anti-free speech, anti-due process and enemies of the Christian faith. And it was not just conservatives who complained. Conor Friedersdorf, writing in *The Atlantic*, predicted that the Yale students might one day “look back on their behavior with chagrin.”

These boisterous and growing student demands for safe spaces are extremely easy to dismiss and parody for any number of reasons, but primarily because such demands are jarringly discordant with the reality of a world where virtually no place is truly safe. And in this unsafe world, women get raped by soldiers, people get murdered for their caste or ethnicity, and innocents get blown to bits for going out to enjoy a show. So there is something almost inherently absurd in this idea of a space where people are not insulted, excluded, subjected to emotional turmoil or harmed in any way. But does that really make it an aspiration worthy of ridicule? For though this safe space is non-existent in the so-called real world, it is a manifestation of advice commonly given to students, whom we invariably urge to make the world a better place.

That search for a better world can take people to some extreme and weird places, but part of the function of a university is to allow such dreams to be expressed and, ideally, dissected and debated. It is to help students weigh the trade-offs between sometimes competing values. At times, students (and their sympathizers) err on the side of suppression of speech, but students are hardly alone in committing that transgression.

Free speech, we have repeatedly relearned in this country, must constantly be defended and is hardest to honor when we feel threatened by its practice. Our ability to recognize that truth and reaffirm our commitment to free expression is one of the things that make America great. Another is the very thing so many are ridiculing about these idealistic, and often obnoxious, students — which is our ability to inculcate this palpable yearning for a better world, even when experience and common sense tell us we are unlikely to attain it.
Commentary: Mizzou Football And The Power Of The Players


It's accepted that the president of the University of Missouri stepped down in a racial dispute only when the football team threatened not to play a game. The players showed us again — surprise, surprise — how powerful is football, and let's throw in basketball, too, throughout our bastions of higher education.

It would have cost old Mizzou a million-dollar penalty had it forfeited. It would have cost the players next to nothing, because the NCAA rules they must be amateurs and risk serious injury for the love of the game. Ironically, for once, having nothing to gain actually strengthened the players' hand.

The particular racially insensitive issues at Missouri and those that've produced protests at other colleges have nothing to do with sport, but, on the other hand, it's worth noting well over half of the football players who bring in the big money in the big time conferences are African-American. The percentage of minority basketball players is even higher.

FACT CHECK: Fox News analyst exaggerates car incident at Homecoming Parade

ADAM ATON, 12 hrs ago

Says a car driving former University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe "ran through the students, hit one of them" at the MU Homecoming Parade.
COLUMBIA — Concerned Student 1950 has been thrust into the national spotlight after playing a role in ousting the leaders of MU and the University of Missouri System. The activist group, originally made up of 11 black students, drew attention to its cause with protests, a hunger strike by graduate student Jonathan Butler and a boycott by the football team.

But before that, the group started by blocking the university's Homecoming Parade on Oct. 10, linking arms in front of the red convertible carrying then-UM System President Tim Wolfe and delaying the parade for about 10 minutes.

Juan Williams evoked that incident during "The Five" on Fox News Channel, explaining why he thought it was best for Wolfe to resign.

"What happened was the students at some point wanted his attention. They wanted the adult, the man in charge to talk to them, to deal with their dissatisfaction. Apparently a car ran through the students, hit one of them — and that's Butler, apparently."

Did Wolfe's driver mow down the protesters? Not according to the police or video of the scene.

Parade halt

When Concerned Student 1950 blocked Wolfe's car, it did it at a bend in the parade route. The rest of the parade was eventually able to cut through a Domino's Pizza parking lot to circumvent the protesters, but each time Wolfe's driver tried to turn into the parking lot, the protesters rearranged themselves to block the car's path.

(Although 11 students in matching shirts started the protest, some parade spectators joined them in the street and helped block the car.)

It was during this constrained maneuvering that Wolfe's car made contact with Butler.
How hard did it hit him? Neither Butler nor Concerned Student 1950 responded to a request for comment. But he wasn't hospitalized, according to police. Demonstrators' video of the parade shows that Butler remained standing and continued protesting. And video from the Columbia Missourian shows that he continued blocking Wolfe's car until police cleared the street.

MU Police Major Brian Weimer told PolitiFact Missouri it was "incidental contact."

People at the parade also described the contact between Butler and the car as accidental, though they said the driver seemed impatient and was revving his engine.

Butler did file an incident report with MUPD, and Weimer said police "looked at all the video we could find" before closing the case and declining to arrest or cite the driver.

"It was nothing intentional," Weimer said, adding that sometimes cars move a little bit when switching gears, which the driver was doing to try to get around the protesters. The car "wasn't trying to drive over them," he said.

Even if the incident didn't affect Butler's physical well-being, it did emerge as a subplot in the protests that eventually removed Wolfe and then-MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

After the Homecoming Parade, Concerned Student 1950 sent a letter and a list of demands to Wolfe. The page-long letter doesn't mention the car contact. But the first demand included it among the grievances for which they wanted an apology: "We want Tim Wolfe to admit his gross negligence, allowing his driver to hit one of the demonstrators, consenting to the physical violence of bystanders, and lastly refusing to intervene when Columbia Police Department used excessive force with demonstrators."

And in the days after the parade, Butler routinely cited it on Twitter.

Some media outlets, such as Breitbart, have claimed Butler walked into the path of Wolfe's car and made contact with it himself. That website edited the video to show the sequence in slow motion while a narrator asserts that Butler walked into the car. It's clear that Butler was approaching the car before the
contact took place, but it's inconclusive on whether Butler was moving or stationary when the contact occurred.

It is clear, though, that the collision was minor.

Williams didn't respond to a request for comment.

Our ruling

Williams said a car driving Wolfe "ran through the students, hit one of them."

This is an exaggeration of what happened. A group of protesters blocked the path of Wolfe's vehicle during the Oct. 10 Missouri homecoming parade. At some point, Wolfe's vehicle made contact with Butler — but the incident didn't require Butler to receive medical attention, or even stop protesting.

Police reviewed the incident and described it as "incidental contact."

Williams' statement contains an element of truth but ignores critical facts that would give a different impression. We rate it Mostly False.

Columbia's pastors look to add to conversation about racism

ANNE MARIE HANKINS MARLEE ELLISON, 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Pastor Tim LeCroy and a few congregants of Christ Our King Presbyterian Church joined hands at the MU Columns last week to light candles and pray for peace on MU’s campus and in Columbia.
Following the week of unrest on campus, the group's prayer was one of many ways that Columbia's faith leaders are reacting to the week's events and looking to join the city's growing conversation about race.

"The purpose of prayer time is to be focused and centered in the middle of chaos," LeCroy said.

Finding focus can be hard in the midst of confusion, though. Children's pastor Michael Kauffman said the week's events left congregants at CenterPoint Church in north Columbia unsure of how to feel, wondering why the unrest is happening right now.

Even the confusion, though, has sparked an important and necessary conversation about social inequalities, Kauffman said.

“We’re actually equipping trained people to live out their faith specifically when it comes to racial reconciliation, specifically when it comes to income disparity, specifically when it comes to these social matters that divide us,” said CenterPoint's associate pastor, Scott Claybrook.

At MU, the college youth group Veritas changed its sermon plans for its two most recent meetings to focus on the racial conversation.

"Veritas is trying to take a position of sitting, listening and understanding, rather than standing up and claiming to have all the answers to the questions," Co-director Austin Conner said.

Veritas is associated with the Crossing, a church of about 2,100 members in south Columbia. The church aimed Sunday's sermon at racial reconciliation as well.

Johnny Moss, who is an elder at Urban Empowerment, said the church held a special prayer service for college students last week. Pastors, members of the church's prayer team and ministerial staff were there to support the students. Visitors from Rolla and Lincoln University also attended the service to show support for MU.
"Students are in the aftermath of these events, some fought opposition and are scared and fearful," he said. "They needed a place to give frustration and fear to God."

Moss said it is the church’s job to offer love to students and start building relationships throughout the community.

"The church really is an avenue where people can be able to build strong relationships with one another in our own race, and strong relationships with people outside of it," he said. "We are going to keep being here for these students even after the dust settles."

LeCroy said his church began discussing racial injustice in the wake of the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson.

"We need to listen and to work for social justice and peace wherever we live, and I have been reminding (my congregation) of those things," he said.

LeCroy said it is important for churches in the Columbia community to reach out and play a role in what is happening.

"Churches should educate their congregations, preach against hate and show solidarity in public with people who are hurting," he said.

As MU looks toward a future with new leadership, LeCroy plans to keep praying at the columns every day until the tensions die down.

"It's easy to dismiss what is going on on campus as not part of what we're doing," he said. "I think that's a mistake, we're called to love each other and to work with each other."
Interim UM System President Mike Middleton has student support

Fourteen student organizations cited Middleton’s record of public service in a letter written by MU Policy Now.

Kayla Burrell, vice president of the MU Black Pre-Law Student Association, watched Mike Middleton speak during a press conference Nov. 12 in University Hall in which he was announced as UM System interim president. The Board of Curators selected him three days after Tim Wolfe’s resignation.

“(Middleton) was very confident, like he felt like he would be able to make a change,” Burrell said. “Not cocky, but just someone you would trust with your, well I guess, with your UM System.”

Middleton isn’t just the Board of Curators’ choice. Fourteen student organizations, including MUBPLSA, endorsed a letter written by MU Policy Now to the curators supporting Middleton for interim president. Other student organizations that supported Middleton include the Missouri Students Association, Legion of Black Collegians and Graduate Professional Council.

MU Policy Now is a student organization that has existed for just over a week. Member Kenneth Bryant, Jr. said the organization was founded by a group of students who wanted to see measurable progress in the wake of campus unrest.

“(We) wanted to make sure disparities on campus and at the system level would be focused on by policy so that changes can happen by way of institutional reformation rather than just discussion about racial incidents,” Bryant said.

Bryant called Middleton the “unquestioned choice” for students due to his past leadership in academia and the professional world, along with his commitment to diversity in all of his roles.

Middleton was an MU student during the civil rights movement in the 1960s and has worked as a civil rights lawyer in Washington, D.C., with the Department of Justice and Department of Education. He received his bachelor’s degree in 1968 and became the School of Law’s third black graduate in 1971. After 14 years of practicing law, Middleton returned to MU as a tenured law professor before becoming deputy chancellor in 1998.

Now, just months after his retirement on Aug. 31, Middleton is back on campus.
“Not only does he know the experiences that black students are facing now, I still think there is a lot of discrimination he would understand better than his white counterpart,” Burrell said. “He is able to better hear us out and hear where we’re coming from.”

In the Nov. 12 press conference, where he was named interim president, Middleton said he has felt marginalized on the MU campus in each of his roles as a student, an administrator and professor.

“(We have to) understand the ugly, ugly history that permeates everything we do in our institutions in this country,” Middleton said at the press conference. “Once we get the truth on the table, I think we’re poised to reconcile our differences and move forward.”

As interim president, Middleton will only serve in the role until a new president is selected. Burrell said she thinks that’s enough time to get the university back on track.

“Even though he’s only here for a year, this is a stepping stone,” she said. “The university has reached out to someone who can really make a change and try to fix what’s been broken in the UM System.”

GPC President Hallie Thompson said big policy changes take some time, but a strong interim period before the next president is chosen will help the university make progress. She said Middleton’s experience in law and familiarity with “political processes” made him a good candidate.

“The demands from graduate students, Concerned Student 1950 are still out there,” Thompson said. “We want the interim to be strong and make some of these changes.”

She said GPC endorsed Middleton for the reasons laid out in the MU Policy Now’s letter.

“It represents all our viewpoints,” Thompson said.

Bryant said he wasn’t surprised when the Board of Curators announced that Middleton would be serving as interim president. The curators made no mention of MU Policy Now’s letter in their announcement.

“(Middleton)’s outstanding managerial skills and knowledge of the UM System and its four campuses make him the leader we need to advance our university system forward,” Board of Curators chairman Donald Cupps said in a news release.

Burrell said she didn’t recognize Middleton’s name when she first heard about the letter of support. After doing some research, she said she was impressed by his background and felt like he could understand marginalized students on campus better than anyone else.

“All the students just want to feel like they’re a part of a system that wants them to be there,” she said. “The system is broken, and he’ll be able to fix it.”
At Kansas, Student Leaders Take the Blame for Racial-Climate Concerns

By Sarah Brown  NOVEMBER 18, 2015

Three student-government leaders at the University of Kansas at Lawrence face a difficult decision on Wednesday afternoon, one that a number of college administrators nationwide have grappled with in recent weeks as racial tensions have swirled on campuses.

They must decide whether to heed student activists’ calls for them to step down.

The divisions that have emerged at the Kansas flagship came into sharp focus last Wednesday, when the university system’s chancellor, Bernadette Gray-Little, moderated a campuswide forum on race, with 1,000 students, faculty, and staff in attendance. Many students of color described discrimination they said they had experienced, both on and off campus.

At the event, members of an activist group known as Rock Chalk Invisible Hawk suddenly rose up and took the stage to read a list of demands for change. The group then called for the audience to stand in solidarity with students of color and to proclaim that "black lives matter."

Jessie Pringle, the student-body president, and Zach George, the vice president, have faced allegations that they did not stand up right away, though they have challenged that assertion. Neither of them responded to requests from The Chronicle for comment on Tuesday.

The senate’s executive committee saw the two leaders’ alleged indifference as a sign that neither "has the intention of responding to the crisis our black peers face on this campus," according to a statement from its members. The committee approved a no-confidence vote in Ms. Pringle, Mr. George, and Adam Moon, the senate’s chief of staff, on Friday and called for all three to resign by 5 p.m. Wednesday or face impeachment hearings. The three released a statement outlining steps they would take
to make the campus safer and more inclusive, but did not say whether they would step down.

The ultimatum was similar to activists’ demands at the nearby University of Missouri, where protests about the treatment of students of color led to the exit of that institution’s two top officials last week.

But the calls for the student leaders to step down stir broader questions about who should assume responsibility for improving a campus’s climate, and who should take the blame when problems surface. Is it a university system’s president? A campus’s chancellor? Thedean of students? Student-government leaders?

All of those groups have a role to play in creating an inclusive climate, but the turmoil at Kansas shows that demands for change can strain all levels of campus leadership.

Mixed Views on Campus

Not all students at Kansas agree that Ms. Pringle, Mr. George, and Mr. Moon should step down. Rock Chalk Invisible Hawk has expressed its support for the committee’s no-confidence vote. But a petition supporting the student leaders, which had drawn more than 1,000 signatures as of Tuesday night, asserts that forcing the leaders to resign "sets a terrible precedent for future democratic processes."

And the Black Student Union at Kansas has not taken an official stance on the resignation calls, said Chancellor Adams, the group’s vice president, in an interview with The Chronicle.

Mr. Adams, a sophomore who represents the union in the Student Senate, emphasized that the protest group is a separate entity from his organization, though he backed its list of demands. "We believe that there was another way to present those demands to people in positions of authority," he said. "But we do understand that there is a lot of injustice happening around us."

The difference between the union and the protest group, he said, "is that we believe in being respectful."

Kansas leaders have responded to the turmoil with vows to spearhead change. Ms. Gray-Little wrote in a message to the university on Friday that "if there was one thing I took from Wednesday’s forum, it’s that students, faculty, and staff want action, and they want it now."

Jeffrey S. Vitter, the provost and executive vice chancellor, said in a message to the campus on Tuesday that university officials were "assembling a small advisory team of
faculty, students, staff, and administrators" to examine strategies for eliminating racism and improving retention and graduation rates of students of color. The group will outline an action plan by mid-January, Mr. Vitter wrote.

At Kansas, "our students are holding our own students accountable for not fostering this inclusive environment," said Michael A. Chavez, a senior recruitment coordinator in the engineering school who also serves as co-adviser to the university’s Hispanic American Leadership Organization.

That means, Mr. Chavez said, "that we’re getting students to really think critically about the climate on campus here" — especially those who come from more privileged backgrounds, he added.

Students and faculty members have a key responsibility to help foster inclusion in the classroom and elsewhere, said Clarence E. Lang, an associate professor and chair of the department of African and African-American studies.

The Black Student Union's Mr. Adams agreed, stressing that the senate needed to do more to improve the Kansas experience for students of color. "I think it’s the job of the senators to be aware of what’s going on and how things affect students on campus — not just their own groups, but everybody," he said. As a legislative body, he added, the senate represents a clear mechanism for dealing with injustice.

Still, "we have upper-level administrators that have to give leadership on this," Mr. Lang said. "They carry this burden as well."

If Ms. Pringle, Mr. George, and Mr. Moon do not resign, Mr. Adams will be among the students who determine their fate if the senate proceeds with impeachment hearings. He said he would spend the next several days speaking with members of the Black Student Union before deciding where he would stand.

Mr. Chavez said he had witnessed Kansas students, faculty, and staff try to engage the campus community in discussions about race and inclusion for years. He was pleased to see such conversations finally attracting attention. But he said that in conversations students were telling him they felt "tired, and frustrated, and fearful."

"I feel like students who are underrepresented on campus now have a voice," he said. "With that voice, though, comes risk. People of privilege begin to question the validity of that voice, and that’s what frustrates me now."
Kansas official says 'action plan' coming on student demands

BY JOHN HANNA Associated Press

TOPEKA, KAN. - The University of Kansas is creating a team to address demands from student protesters and expects to release an "action plan" by mid-January that will include mandatory diversity training for all students and staff, a top administrator said Tuesday.

Provost Jeffrey Vitter's statement follows demands made last week by the Rock Chalk Invisible Hawk group and acknowledged that offices and groups "across the university" have expressed solidarity for the group's aims. Vitter's statement came four days after Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little issued one saying the university, which has its largest campus in Lawrence, is committed to addressing racism and discrimination.

Leaders of the student group said in an Associated Press interview Monday that they've had numerous meetings with administrators in the past and have been frustrated with what they see as a lack of progress in combatting problems faced by minority and "marginalized" students. The student leaders did not immediately respond Tuesday to email and cellphone messages seeking comment but scheduled a news conference for Wednesday.

Group members took the stage with signs at the end of a forum last week on racism and discrimination moderated by Gray-Little, who is black. Rock Chalk Invisible Hawk's demands include increasing faculty diversity, forming a team of counselors for students of color and requiring "inclusion and belonging" training for all students and staff.
Vitter, who is white, said in his statement that the "action plan" would include the "mandatory education." He also said it would address student retention and graduation rates.

"We are assembling a small advisory team of faculty, students, staff, and administrators," Vitter's statement said. "The group will deliver an action plan by mid-January that addresses challenges put forward by Rock Chalk Invisible Hawk, as well as concerns from others at the forum."

Meanwhile, student leaders who are facing calls for their ouster have outlined 11 proposals for increasing diversity within student government on the Lawrence campus.

**Events on the university's leafy Lawrence campus followed protests at the University of Missouri's flagship campus in Columbia, which led to the resignation of its chancellor and of the president of the university system.**

Invisible Hawk leaders said that while they were inspired by events in Missouri, they're not mimicking their counterparts.

A student government committee is pushing for the resignations or impeachment of Student Body President Jessie Pringle, Vice President Zach George and Chief of Staff Adam Moon, based in part on what members see as an inadequate response to the Invisible Hawk demands.

The leaders' proposals, issued in a joint statement Monday, include increasing the number of student senators from the current 86 to increase the Senate's diversity and creating an election fund to help students who want to run for office. The measures also include raising a student fee to increase diversity programs.

At Wichita State University, President Don Bardo this week named a new assistant for diversity issues. Student groups initially planned protests at a meeting Wednesday of the Kansas Board of Regents, which oversees the state's higher education system but Student Body President Joseph Shepard canceled it Tuesday after a two-hour meeting with Bardo, The Wichita Eagle reported.
Emporia State University announced plans to hold a student forum and campus and community focus-group meetings Thursday to discuss making the institution more inclusive.

#FeesMustFall

In South Africa the struggle for free tuition -- and fundamental university transformation -- continues after massive student protests.

November 18, 2015

By Elizabeth Redden

If last week seemed to be a period of heavy protests on American campuses -- with massive demonstrations about race at the University of Missouri at Columbia and Yale University and rallies calling for free tuition and the cancellation of student debt at campuses across the country -- consider the scene in South Africa in October.

Thousands of South African students joined protests against planned tuition increases, forcing the closure of universities across the nation and succeeding in exacting a pledge from President Jacob Zuma for a zero percent fee increase in 2016. The #FeesMustFall protests lent new urgency to problems of inadequate funding for South Africa’s universities, while raising the prospect of more fundamental transformations of the country’s higher education system.

“Students have found that they have power, and that when they mobilize that power they can achieve results,” said Saleem Badat, a former vice chancellor of Rhodes University -- the equivalent to the president -- and program director for international higher education and strategic projects at the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

“They've learned the very lessons of the antiapartheid movement of the 1970s and ‘80s, the power of mass action. They've given the government and the reigning political party, the ANC, lots to think about, about its own approach and its policies.”

“I think we are in a very exciting time in South Africa, to the extent that this movement does not dissipate, because that could easily happen.”

Badat, a sociologist who wrote a book on black student politics and apartheid in South Africa, noted that the student movement in South Africa is not a homogenous entity and there are many currents and
ideological positions within it. Although students united this fall around the issue of fee increases, Badat recalled that an earlier wave of protests erupted in March at the University of Cape Town. Students protested “institutionalized racism and patriarchy” at the university and called for the removal of a statue of Cecil John Rhodes, the British imperialist and diamond mining magnate who donated the land for the campus. (The statue was removed from the campus in April.)

“They had nothing to do with fees,” Badat said of the protest that took the hashtag #RhodesMustFall as well as the #RhodesSoWhite movement at his former institution. “They had to do with the idea of decolonizing the university and with important issues of curriculum and institutional culture.”

The #RhodesMustFall activists called, among other things, for an increase in the representation of black academics on the University of Cape Town’s campus and the introduction of a curriculum “which critically centers Africa and the subaltern.” The Open Stellenbosch campaign, which describes itself as a “collective of students and staff working to purge the oppressive remnants of apartheid in pursuit of a truly African university,” on Thursday celebrated Stellenbosch University’s decision to adopt English -- and not Afrikaans -- as the primary language of instruction.

Another key issue for student activists across South Africa has been ending the outsourcing of university workers.

#FeesMustFall

The protests over student fees began at the University of the Witwatersrand (known as Wits), in Johannesburg, after the announcement of a planned 10.5 percent fee increase. It spread from there to campuses across the country, culminating in a march on Parliament and the president’s commitment to a zero percent fee increase at universities across the country in 2016. Fees have been rising at the universities, and in some cases exceed 60,000 rand, or about $4,170 -- a figure that may seem small to Americans but is huge for many in South Africa, a country characterized by high income inequality.

The mass demonstrations have since subsided as students take their final exams, though there continue to be pockets of protest. The University of the Western Cape canceled exams last week after protests on campus in which 16 students were arrested.

At Wits, David Dickinson, a professor of sociology, said that things are returning to normal -- “but it’s a new normal. Everything is different and there are flash points that have potential for putting us back into protest mode.” One such flash point could happen in January, when the new academic year begins and students will have to pay up-front fees. If some students can’t afford to register, Dickinson said, that could spark new protests.

Dickinson, who as an elected faculty representative on the university’s governing council had voted against Wits’ proposed 10.5 percent fee increase prior to the start of the protests, explained that the demonstrations weren’t really about freezing tuition. “It was about saying that fees are unaffordable.”

“By voting against the increase, I was voting against a balanced budget,” said Dickinson. “But my argument to council was that we have to make a stand and we have to provoke a fight with the government because the real issue is underfunding for the sector as a whole.”

Adam Habib, the vice chancellor of Wits, said that while enrollment at South African universities has climbed dramatically, the per-student subsidy from government has declined.
“We’ve known this for a while now and there have been some concerns about this. The universities in a desire to maintain the quality of the programs have effectively compensated for this by raising student fees,” said Habib.

“We’ve been saying for a number of years now this is unsustainable and is going to blow.”

Habib, who also chairs the South African vice chancellors’ association, said that university leaders did not initially support the zero percent fee increase demand but swung their support to the students during the height of the October protests. “What the students did in seven days was what we’ve been trying to do for 10 years, which was get the state to rethink its subsidy,” Habib said.

Funding Shortfalls

The government has acknowledged the problem of declining per-student appropriations for South Africa’s higher education system and the increased reliance of universities on student fees, even if a solution isn’t yet in sight. In an Oct. 27 speech to Parliament, the minister of higher education and training, Blade Nzimande, said that “an appropriately funded higher education sector ... would require an additional R19.7 billion [about $1.4 billion] per annum in the baseline for university subsidies,” excluding contributions to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), which is also widely viewed as being undercapitalized. Universities are given a lump sum of NSFAS funds to distribute, and they make awards until they run out: because of the limited funding, some universities note on their websites that students whose families make above a certain income threshold are unlikely to receive NSFAS funding. These advertised thresholds are quite low -- for instance, R160,000 at North-West University (about $11,100).

The protests drew attention to the “missing middle” -- what Fiona Lewis, an independent consultant to NSFAS, described as those students whose families make too much money for them to qualify for NSFAS but too little for them to get a bank loan. “We know that we’re not funding the full range of students who sit in that band of being unable to afford their own higher education,” she said.

The higher education minister, Nzimande, last week announced a probe into possible corruption and maladministration in the allocation of NSFAS loans by universities, as the South African outlet News 24 reported. The financial assistance program also struggles with poor loan repayment rates. The total amount of NSFAS loans recovered actually fell from R638 million in 2010-11 (about $44 million) to about R248 million ($17 million) in 2014-15. This has implications for current students, as Lewis said that money recovered from loans is infused directly into the pool of funds available for scholarships and grants.

Those are all long-term issues related to funding and administration. In the short-term the government has committed to making up slightly more than 80 percent of the estimated R2.3 billion (about $160 million) shortfall caused by the zero percent fee increases for 2016. The remainder of the difference will be absorbed by the universities.

Universities throughout South Africa had been planning on tuition increases in the 10-12 percent range.

‘Free Education in Our Lifetime’

When the zero percent fee increase was announced, students congratulated themselves on winning a battle -- not the war. In a written statement, the Student Representative Council at Wits wrote that the “zero percent fee increment is a short-term victory that we applied a short-term strategy to achieve. We
remain steadfast in our call for free education in our lifetime and we acknowledge that this zero percent increment is not just a step in the right direction but is also a turning point to attaining free education.”

“Although many students celebrated and considered it a victory as it was one of the main goals of the demand, many of us do not consider it a victory,” Sarah Jacobs, a fourth-year undergraduate involved with the #FeesMustFall campaign at the University of the Western Cape, said in an email. “The zero percent increase is only for 2016. Currently, as it stands, with no increase, tertiary education is still not affordable to thousands of students.”

The protests have sparked debate over the ideal of free higher education embraced by many of the student protestors. George Hull, a philosophy lecturer at the University of Cape Town, and a researcher in UCT’s Poverty and Inequality Initiative, said that there are statements in South Africa’s Constitution and in the ANC Freedom Charter, another key document in the country’s history, which could be interpreted as promising free higher education. The Constitution states that “everyone has the right … to further education, which the state, through reasonable measures, must make progressively available and accessible.”

The ANC Freedom Charter says, “Education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all children; higher education and technical training shall be opened to all by means of state allowances and scholarships awarded on the basis of merit.”

“One thing that could be said about free tuition is that it increases social equality, which is the sense of citizens, of students, that they are on equal footing,” said Hull. His own view, though, detailed in an op-ed he wrote for The Conversation, is that free tuition for all “is not the route to social justice,” in that the masses would be taxed to pay for the higher education of a small elite. Hull advocates instead for an improved and vastly expanded income-contingent loan system, open to all, in which students begin paying back their loans only after they earn income above a certain threshold.

“Because higher education is giving graduates such a massive leg up, such a massive competitive advantage, it’s fair for them to make a substantial contribution to the cost of their education, but the challenge is to make that contribution in a way that doesn’t decrease access,” Hull said in an interview.

Nico Cloete, the director of the Centre for Higher Education Trust (CHET) and coordinator of the Higher Education Research and Advocacy Network in Africa, suggested that the experience of free higher education elsewhere in Africa and in Latin America is more relevant than the experience in Finland, Germany and Norway. He argued in a recent University World News op-ed that the story of free higher education in developing countries has been of the poor subsidizing the rich.

“Who got access to the full scholarship flagship universities? The children of the business and political elite who themselves had gone to top schools locally and internationally. A few extraordinarily gifted poor students also gained entrance into fee higher education. The rest, coming from poor schools, ended up (if they were lucky) in low-quality, fee-paying nonuniversity [private] institutions,” Cloete writes.

By contrast, Cloete writes, “What is easy and what is morally defensible is free higher education for the very poor — for example, an annual income below R120,000” (about $8,340).

The government has articulated its support for the “progressive realization of free higher education for the poor, up to the undergraduate level.” Zikisa Maqubela, the outgoing Student Representative Council
president at Rhodes University, said a problem with free higher education just for the poor is defining who’s poor.

“The goal should be free education for all. If the government has to introduce an education tax, so be it,” said Maqubela, who added that there’s no reason such a tax couldn’t serve redistributive ends in taxing the wealthy at higher rates.

“I am of the view that to aid our economy and to create more productive citizens, we have to spend more on education,” Maqubela said. “The move should be toward free education for all. There must be no student left behind.”

Blackout demonstration at Dartmouth results in controversy, confusion

By Alexandra Samuels, The University of Texas at Austin November 17, 2015 2:30 pm

On Nov. 12, a group of Black Lives Matter protesters participated in a Blackout demonstration at Dartmouth University. According to the student newspaper, The Dartmouth, the peaceful demonstration began outdoors with many students, faculty and community members showing their support for those at University of Missouri, Yale University and the larger Black Lives Matter movement.

“It’s about all people coming together — not just the people of color coming together — everyone coming together, to address the serious issue of racism that’s still prevalent in our society,” assembly president Frank Cunningham ’16 told the newspaper.

After the official protest ended, however, the student newspaper reports that some students independently wanted to continue the protest by moving through campus and ended up in the school’s library. Demonstrators were reportedly calling out students for “not standing up and joining the protest or not wearing black.”

One student said he was concerned the library protest would turn violent, while another called Safety and Security because he was annoyed by the disruption, The Dartmouth reports.
According to an editorial piece published by the *Dartmouth Review*, an independent campus newspaper, the library protestors shouted racial slurs and curse words.

One of the protestors involved later published an online essay about the incident. According to the essay, while the group aimed to protest “racist incidents and (stand) in solidarity with students who do not feel safe on their college campuses” by dressing in all black, he said their efforts took an unexpected turn at the library.

“I am a proud supporter of the Black Lives Matter movement, but I was ashamed at what the protest turned into,” Charlie Lundquist wrote. “From what I witnessed, a small number of the protestors resorted to aggressive verbal harassment. I didn’t see any physical aggression.”

According to Lundquist, a large majority of the protestors did not harass other students but are now being blamed for the “aggressive” actions of the small minority at the library.

Many on Facebook are asking for the students on video to be expelled or punished.

Despite what has been rumored, *The Dartmouth* reports the school has found no evidence of violence at the protests.

---

**NYU community gathers for Blackout event**

*By Kylee Madison Borger, NYU Shanghai* November 17, 2015 3:00 pm

November has seen protests on college campuses across the country — most notably at the University of Missouri and at Yale — to protest institutional racism and the lack of a safe place on campus for students of color.

In response to these protests, on Monday, Nov. 16 the Black Students Union (BSU) at NYU organized a “Blackout.” Earlier in the day, BSU encouraged students to walk out of class at noon.
This walkout would happen simultaneously with similar demonstrations at schools across the country, according to the Facebook event.

All day, NYU students wore black in solidarity with the students of color who continue to feel marginalized on their university campuses across the U.S.

Students gathered at 6:15pm at the NYU Kimmel Center for University Life, holding signs reading “We will not be silenced!” and “I stand with Mizzou,” filling the stairs and the balcony of the center.

The rally started out with a moment of silence to reflect on racism faced by students of color. Students then stood at a podium to share their experiences with racism at NYU in the form of speeches, poetry and spoken word. Students also made statements on the current climate of students of color at NYU and across the nation.

Brea Adaku Childs, the treasurer for BSU, shared the opportunities students have to report issues racism on campus. Childs remarked, “this is not common knowledge, but you can actually report when you have microaggressions or people stereotype you” to the Office of Public Safety.

Students made suggestions for updating diversity policies for the university — including eliminating criminal history screenings in the admissions process and making STEM a more inclusive field — by writing their proposals on a large sheet of paper.

According to BSU President, Ari Andrews, there are three layers to the Blackout demonstration. First, to show solidarity with each other. Second, to educate the student body through the rally and other public events. Finally, to further policy by providing students the opportunity to propose further diversity policies at NYU.

Senior Anjana Sreedhar sympathizes with the students at the University of Missouri and Yale, describing what racism looks like at NYU — “the racism that we see at NYU is much more insidious and harder to read”.

According to an email sent to students at the university, NYU administration have organized a “University-wide conversation focusing on racial diversity and inclusiveness in university life and in our broader culture.” The event is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 18.
Occidental College students occupy administration building with list of demands

By Caleb Diehl, Lewis & Clark College November 17, 2015 3:58 pm

After days of on-campus protests, students at Occidental college occupied an administrative building, eating delivery pizza and huddling in sleeping bags. If their demands are not met by Friday, they will call for President Jonathan Veitch’s resignation, according to the LA Times.

That scenario seems likely.

“We simply can’t meet every demand on that list,” President Veitch told students on Nov. 12. “But I can tell you that I will honor the conversation. I do not cling to this job. I’m happy to resign.”

The 14 demands include the creation of a fully-funded black studies program, an increase tenured faculty of color by 20% and more diversity training for faculty and students.

The actions follow a flurry of student protests nationwide, including at Ithaca College and Yale University, sparked by protests that forced the president and chancellor at the University of Missouri to resign. Last week, the dean of students at Claremont McKenna stepped down after a campus protests and hunger strikes.

Besides the 14 demands, Oxy’s student-run Black Liberation Front offered “15 reasons to impeach Veitch.” The list alleges that Veitch turned his back and walked away after a student spoke out against racism and rape culture on campus. Under his presidency, the demands say, the percentage of students of color dropped from 50% to 37%, and Oxy dropped from No. 1 in campus ethnic diversity among liberal arts colleges in the 1998 US News & World Report rankings to No. 13 in the most recent ranking.
Oxy’s faculty and administration have proven receptive to student action by allowing students to sleep in the building.

“We’re not going to shut anything down,” Marty Sharky, the school’s vice president of communications, told the Los Angeles Times. “They’ve been conscientious and respectful. They’ll be able to stay 24 hours a day.”

“We’re occupying all the hallways,” a student told LA Weekly. “The staff is just walking over students.”

**MISSOURIAN**

**GUEST COMMENTARY: Stop being a hashtag, be a human being**

CHARLES HUTCHISON, 19 hrs ago

Last week’s events featured some of the most tumultuous in the history of Columbia, Missouri: Death threats were issued; bricks were thrown through windows; a racist cult rallied at Speaker’s circle; the KKK marched on campus; dorms were being evacuated — nobody was safe. Yet, I was able to enjoy a quiet walk home on a beautiful fall night. How can this be?? How in the world could I find serenity amidst chaos? Because none of these things happened.

Yik-Yak. Erodr. Twitter. Facebook. I’m probably missing at least five more. According to these social media outlets, our campus was ground zero. Yes, someone decided to make some sort of asinine anonymous threat, stating “Some of you are alright. Don’t go to campus tomorrow.” In light of what the events our community has endured over the past week, this statement was absolutely tasteless at best, and at worse a declaration that the safety of our campus was indeed in doubt. However, according to an e-mail sent by the dean of the college in which I am a student, the police have identified the source of that threat and did not consider it credible. OK then, move on with my night.
But what about the cult that was at Speakers Circle? Someone was there. Someone witnessed it. Someone tweeted about it. Weird. What my friend saw first-hand was one white male shouting about what he sees as violations of our First Amendment rights. According to my friend — who told me about this before the tweets came out — the man’s language was profane and his tone was provocative. He most likely offended more than one person who was watching him. That’s OK. That’s his right. That doesn’t make him a cult.

But what about the KKK on campus? Erroneously reported on Facebook by a member of the student leadership, who later issued a kind of “oops, sorry guys!” What about the bricks through the window? Didn’t happen. The rumor mill got so bad that a friend of mine who lives in Colorado called me to make sure I was OK, asking me if we were evacuating campus. Well, if they did they forgot to evacuate the libraries. As far as I can ascertain, the only accurate thing “tweeted” last night was, “at this point I feel like I could make Twitter believe that Bigfoot is on Mizzou’s campus. #Mizzou.”

Our insatiable thirst for social media is threatening our civilization. There truly is a frenzy of instant gratification that has devolved us as a community. Somehow we were able to artificially construct a crisis that culminated in #prayformizzou as a trending topic on social media sites. That is embarrassing. The foulest part, to me, is that this is not even the worst thing our community has done on social media this week.

This week I looked on as a group of students took up a cause which was rooted in something that they truly believed in. Honestly, good for those students. What happened next, in my mind, is even more egregious than some constructed campus crisis. People who knew nothing of the situation that was going on other than a hashtag decided that this was a cause that had to succeed in order to fix racial discrimination. Op-ed’s began showing up, many of which said things like: “if you don’t understand, then you’re ignorant;” or “If you don’t support this movement, you need to check your privilege;” or “you need to choose which side of history you want to be on.”

To me, ignorance is making an uninformed reactionary decision based upon what is popular and sounds good, then shoving it in everyone’s face and telling those who aren’t comfortable with it that they are wrong. Check your privilege? Face it, we are student’s at the flagship university of
the UM system, we are all privileged to be here, and we should all be privileged to be in a community that allows us to say how we feel without being ridiculed or demeaned because it might be different. And, honestly, the side of history I want to be on is the side that was not willing to look at this movement and seriously believe that we are making strides toward inclusion.

There is clearly a need for a more tolerant Mizzou. That cannot and should not be disputed. But, how can the root of the problem be solved through one dimensional change? How can we begin to heal as a community by belittling the opinions of those with whom we are supposed to call fellow students? How can something that is supposed to result in a more tolerant campus be predicated on the intolerance of others? It absolutely cannot.

It absolutely cannot.

Here is a novel thought: talk to someone who doesn’t think like you do. Form your opinion based on facts rather than emotions. Be willing to stretch your comfort zone. Do not simply accept other people’s ideas as your own.

Stop being a hashtag, be a human being.

Charles Hutchison is a graduate student at MU.

Mizzou student protesters view life through filter of race

Nov. 18, 2015

It was reported a few days ago that a group of black students at Mizzou demanded their fellow white protesters leave their self-labeled private space. Another demand was for President Timothy M. Wolfe to acknowledge his white privilege before resigning. We have also seen the proponents of the Black Lives Matter movement become angry when people counter with a more universal concept of All Lives Matter.
The conclusion is obvious: Race is the filter through which these students view life in America. These students view themselves primarily as black citizens in America instead of simply American citizens. The distinction is critical: One view creates angry victims, while the other creates hope and belief in opportunities.

Until this changes, nothing will change.

Bernard Bahn • St. Louis County

Wrongful death suit filed in car accident that killed mother, son

MADELINE MCCLAIN, 9 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — A man has sued a Columbia woman in the 13th Circuit Court of Boone County for allegedly speeding through an intersection and causing the crash that killed his wife and son.

The wrongful death suit filed by Shaokai Jiang names Sophia Mosby, 30 at the time of the accident, for the death of Jiang's wife, Ping Gui, 48, and son Jeffrey Jiang, 9.

No criminal charges were filed after the crash. The Boone County Prosecuting Attorney's office has not decided whether to file charges, but assistant prosecutor Jessica Caldera said the case is under review.

The suit involves a crash that occurred on Sept. 19 on Scott Boulevard at its intersection with Smith Drive. Mosby, driving a Ford Taurus, "T-boned" a Nissan Altima being driven by Shaokai Jiang's surviving son, Brian Jiang, 15. Gui and Jeffrey Jiang were passengers.

Shaokai Jiang's petition alleges that Brian's light was a flashing yellow arrow as he turned left at the intersection and that Mosby's light was yellow when she approached the intersection. Instead of yielding to the light, the petition alleges Mosby drove 65 mph — 20 mph over the posted speed limit.
The suit, filed by Columbia attorney Aaron Widel Smith, alleges Mosby "intentionally, carelessly, and negligently 'sped up to make the light.'"

Gui died Sept. 19 of injuries from the accident, and her son Jeffrey died two days later, according to previous Missourian reporting.

Smith could not be reached for comment Tuesday afternoon.

Shaokai Jiang's suit asks that Mosby pay for monetary losses, funeral costs and the loss of his wife and son's companionship, among other damages.

**Philip Peters, an MU law professor, said that plaintiffs file wrongful death suits for reasons including to collect damages or to bring a grievance to the public's attention.**

**If there is a conviction in a criminal case, it can help in a civil suit, but the reverse is not always true, Peters said. He explained that the burden of proof in a civil wrongful death action is lower than the state's burden in a criminal case. As a result, a favorable civil judgment for a plaintiff does not necessarily help the plaintiff in a criminal case.**