Mizzou facing image crisis after racial issues, upheaval

November 21, 2015 11:12 am  •  By SUMMER BALLENTINE

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — With changes afoot, the University of Missouri is facing an image crisis after days of protests over concerns about the administration's handling of racial issues and subsequent leadership resignations.

Upset and embarrassed, confused graduates are calling the alumni association to vent and ask questions about what's happened. State lawmakers who represent Columbia say state funding for the university likely will be under closer scrutiny this year. Worried parents have told the school they're concerned about their sons and daughters.

University of Missouri spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken says there's no denying that the school went through "a really unsettling time — and it's probably going to be somewhat unsettling for a while."

As the school deals with its tarnished reputation, the University of Missouri System has hired the son of U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt as a lobbyist, and about 20,000 newly accepted students who would start in the fall have been sent letters assuring them that campus is safe.

Banken said the focus has turned to communicating what steps are being taken to address student concerns, including the development of diversity training for administrators, faculty and students and the new administrative position of vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity.

"Yes, we do care about the image, that's important," Banken said. "But more importantly it's doing what needs to be done, and doing the right thing and then talking about it openly. I think then as a result of that, our image will improve."

Tensions at Mizzou came to a head earlier this month in response to numerous reports of racist incidents and administrators' perceived lack of response. A graduate student launched a hunger strike, and the football team threatened a boycott. Students camped in tents by Traditions Plaza — at the heart of campus — for days, calling for System President Tim Wolfe to step down or be removed from office.

Wolfe and Columbia campus Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced their resignations Nov. 9.

"My entire staff was doing nothing but answering the phone all day," Banken said.
Lawmakers are bracing for the fallout during the 2016 session, which begins in January. Columbia Republicans Sen. Kurt Schaefer, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Rep. Caleb Rowden both say funding for the university likely will face greater scrutiny.

Schaefer said in an earlier interview with The Associated Press that his job to push for the university's interests among his colleagues "has gotten a lot harder after the events of the last week."

"We're all pretty disappointed in how this makes our state and our flagship university look," said state Rep. Scott Fitzpatrick, a Shell Knob Republican and vice chairman of the House Budget Committee, which determines state funding for public higher education institutions.

The heavy media coverage left an imprint on the minds of alumni, too, to the point that about 25 members left the Mizzou Alumni Association, Executive Director Todd McCubbin said. He tells graduates who call and are grappling with what has happened that, "Mizzou is not what they've been seeing on the news."

"But it's also not sunny and 75 (degrees) on the Quad every day," he said. "We're somewhere in the middle."

Ryan Rink, who graduated from Mizzou in 1995 and was in Columbia on Friday for a reunion, said he hopes what's happened at the university can motivate other schools to change.

"This is a bigger problem than just Mizzou," Rink said.

Other universities — such as Yale, where students protested following a professor's response to a university email warning about racially insensitive Halloween costumes — also are dealing with racial issues, Banken said. She said the school also is "gratified" by marches and rallies at other universities to show unity with the Columbia cause, she said.

"We don't mind being the center of attention for a while," Banken said, "if it leads to something better."

We Live Here: Why wasn't race a priority before things unraveled at Mizzou?

By KAMEEL STANLEY & TIM LLOYD : NOV. 23

Listen to the podcast about the recent events at Mizzou:
http://cpa.ds.npr.org/kwmu/audio/2015/11/pc_19_mizzou_0.mp3

This week's show started with a simple question we could not get out of our heads as we followed the recent shakeups at Mizzou.

We're referring to, of course, the wave of protests over racial incidents on MU's campus and subsequent resignation of Tim Wolfe, who on Nov. 9 stepped down from
his post as university system president following a student’s hunger strike and the threat of a boycott by the football team.

One of the flash points this fall was a confrontation Wolfe had with black students outside a fundraiser in Kansas City.

The students asked Wolfe to define “systematic oppression.” He stumbled through the answer, and resigned three days later.

We couldn’t help wondering:

Why was it so hard for Wolfe -- the president of a top tier university system -- to answer that question? Hadn’t anyone asked him about race and race relations before he took the job?

In this week’s show, we went in search of answers.

The first thing we learned?

Race relations were an afterthought during Wolfe’s selection process. In fact, it never came up, according to a person who interviewed Wolfe four years ago.

Wayne Goode, who was on the board of curators at the time, said officials assumed the businessman was attuned to race relations and would be adept at handling them.

Race wasn't part of the equation, despite the fact that generations of black students have been targets of discrimination on Mizzou's campus.

Most recently, black students -- including the student body president -- reported being called racial slurs. Someone, using human feces, drew a swastika on a bathroom wall.

Incidents like these are nothing new, according to several black alumni we interviewed.

Shawn Taylor, who went to Mizzou in the 1980s, said the recent events there unlocked painful memories of her own college experience.

She and other alums said their time at MU was smattered with instances of racism that often garnered an apathetic response from those in charge.

Saint Louis University history professor Stefan Bradley, who got his Ph.D from Mizzou, said it’s almost seems “unconscionable” that diversity issues weren’t a big part of the conversation given this history.

Experts say this points to a larger problem with higher education systems in general.
Raymond Cotton, a Washington D.C. lawyer who negotiates contracts between college presidents and university boards, said officials are usually looking for someone who can raise money.

Issues like diversity and race aren’t normally top of mind in leadership searches, he said.

But that may be changing because of what happened at Mizzou, Bradley and Cotton said.

Since Wolfe’s resignation from the UM system, there’s been a wave of activism about race on college campuses around the country.

Interim Chief of Diversity Looks for Path Forward at U. of Missouri

NOVEMBER 23, 2015

High Expectations

When Chuck Henson learned that the University of Missouri at Columbia — roiled by recent protests and racial tensions — was looking for an interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity, and equity, to start as soon as possible, he immediately volunteered.

Mr. Henson, who started in the role on November 10, saw his new job as an opportunity to serve the university after a series of racially charged incidents touched off a wave of anger among minority students and their supporters. The university’s two top administrators had resigned the previous day after protests and a hunger strike intensified calls for them to step down.

The new position, however, had "been in the works for months," Mr. Henson said, in a conference call with reporters two days after he assumed his new post. He is taking a temporary leave from his position as a professor and associate dean for academic affairs and trial practice in Missouri’s School of Law.
It would be difficult, he said, to balance his top priority — taking time to listen to the concerns of the campus community — with satisfying student protesters’ demands for rapid reforms on the campus. Students who say "we want change and we want change now" respect completely the passion behind that statement and the frustration within that statement and, frankly, the pain that is embedded within that statement," Mr. Henson said.

He said he met with a number of students soon after his appointment and told them, "With the title of interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity, and equity, I was not endowed with a magic wand."

Still, he emphasized that he was committed to bridging the rifts that had permeated the institution, while upholding free-speech rights. "This is a university," he said. "Ideas, even ones that are disfavored, have their space, and we recognize that that is the case."

He mentioned two specific goals: improving communication across the campus after any threat of violence, and working with professors to accommodate students who had been affected by the traumatic events this fall and would soon be facing final exams.

Would he be interested in assuming the role permanently? He wasn’t sure. "I can already see that the expenditure of physical and emotional energy is going to be massive," he said. For now, his eye is not on the future.

"I was walking back to my truck this morning," Mr. Henson said. He paused. "I could feel my heart breaking from the pain and suffering that everyone in our community is going through. My plan is to spend myself completely in building relationships and seeing that we move forward together." — Sarah Brown

A Gain in Visibility

When Richard L. Phillips, an assistant professor of classics at Virginia Tech, tells students he’s studying invisibility in ancient texts, they all have the same question: Does it work?

"Sometimes students get confused and say, ‘Well, Dr. Phillips, you practice magic,’ " he says. "I remember trying to convince one first-year class that I wasn’t Dumbledore."

Experiencing a magical moment of his own recently, Mr. Phillips became one of 16 new faculty members appointed this fall in Virginia Tech’s College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. He had taught at the university as an instructor or visiting
assistant professor for 11 years, after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2002.

On Mr. Phillips’s road to tenure, he applied for tenure-track positions two other times and repeatedly filled short-term roles at Virginia Tech and other universities. He says he was lucky to have colleagues who did not "exploit" him as an instructor, but rather gave him space to do the scholarship necessary to become a competitive candidate, including writing a book, *In Pursuit of Invisibility: Ritual Texts From Late Roman Egypt*.

"You’re not evaluated in publishing as an instructor, but if something opens up and you don’t have publications, you’re dead in the water," he says. The university’s support for instructors entails "even things like conference funds," he says, "which was a whole difference-maker. Without that, I couldn’t compete at the same level."

As unorthodox as "magic" or "invisibility" may sound, Mr. Phillips’s scholarship is part of a growing field. Articles on classic texts dealing with magic — including topics like love potions or rituals related to divination — have increased in the past 20 years since key texts were translated into English, Mr. Phillips says.

Andrew S. Becker, an associate professor of classics who was on the hiring committee, says Mr. Phillips was able to turn "what could be a really arcane subject" into something that could spark the interest of students and the public.

As a teacher of mythology, Greek, and Latin, Mr. Phillips has found that studying rituals allows him to frame the ancient world in a modern way. Through such practices, "you have people trying to get control of the events around their lives," he says. "There’s a side to that that students relate to because they have the same anxieties."

At the same time, he says, studying magic and invisibility "opens up the world of imagination." — Jenny Rogers

**Caddying for Success**

The country club was 20 minutes away from the homeless shelter.

Jacob Mosley, who grew up in an assortment of apartments and friends’ houses and homeless shelters in Michigan, was interested in taking up golf caddying. He was 14, and he figured it could be a good way to make some money.
Soon after he started caddying, he heard about the Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship, a full-tuition award for caddies with high grades, a good caddying record, and demonstrated financial need. That was how he would pay for college, he decided.

Mr. Mosley’s mother, a single parent, "showed so much resilience and perseverance through our situation, and that just rubbed off onto me," he says. "I wanted to take the burden off her."

For more than two years, he carried the caddie manual in his back pocket. He studied at lunch and at football practice.

He applied for the scholarship during his senior year of high school. In the spring, his application was rejected. "I was about a 3.1, 3.2 student. They were looking for the 3.5s," he says. "I was devastated."

He enrolled in Michigan State University using student loans, made the dean’s list, and reapplied for the scholarship during his freshman year. This time he succeeded.

Now he lives in the Michigan State Evans Scholarship House, along with 75 other scholarship recipients. The house is owned by the Western Golf Association’s Evans Scholars Foundation, which sponsors the scholarship.

The association awards scholarships to students who attend certain universities, mainly in the Midwest and Northwest. Fourteen universities have Scholarship Houses. On campuses without them, the students live together in a residence hall. This year 870 recipients are enrolled at 19 colleges.

**James Torres**, president of the Scholarship House at Michigan State, makes sure new arrivals feel welcome on campus, and holds a celebration when they get through their first semester. As students move into professional jobs later, the feeling of community remains.

"There are so many times you go to an interview and they say, Oh, you’re an Evans Scholar. So-and-so in another department is an Evans Scholar, too," Mr. Torres says. "That opens up a lot of doors."

Mr. Mosley, now a senior studying marketing, hopes to pursue a career at a marketing agency and eventually wants to help provide houses for homeless families. — *Ellen Wexler*
Medical Dean to Resign

Jeffrey S. Flier, dean of Harvard Medical School since 2007, says he will step down on July 31. He plans to return to the faculty after a year’s sabbatical.

During his tenure, Dr. Flier, an endocrinologist, oversaw the redesign of the curriculum, shut down the school’s New England Primate Research Center after reports of unnecessary deaths of monkeys, strengthened industry support for research, and began a $750-million capital campaign.

Obituary Past Creighton Chief Dies

The Rev. John P. Schlegel, who led two Jesuit universities, died in Omaha on November 15, after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He was 72.

From 1991 to 2000, he was president of the University of San Francisco. He then led Creighton University, in Omaha, for 11 years.

He is credited with increasing enrollment and undertaking successful fund-raising campaigns at the two universities.

This year, in recognition of his commitment to helping the homeless, Creighton renamed a campus program the John P. Schlegel, SJ, Center for Service and Justice.

Read more about people in Gazette on Page A29 or on Twitter at @ruthehammond. Submit news releases to people@chronicle.com.

‘The Michael Brown shooting changed my life’

COLUMBIA, Mo. — About 30 black football players crowded into the multipurpose room at the University of Missouri’s Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center. Before them sat a frail Jonathan Butler who, five days into a hunger strike, could barely lift his head.

Butler was protesting a string of racial incidents that had stirred discontent among black students already agitated and organized because of the unrest in nearby Ferguson last year.
Like many big-time college athletes, football players at Mizzou largely occupy their own orbit, with separate dorms and tight training schedules that pull them away from the concerns of the broader student body.

But things are different in a post-Ferguson world.

If change was coming to Mizzou — a campus still haunted by its segregated past, where nearly every black student seems to know someone who has been subjected to blatant racism — the football players wanted to play a role.

“I got the text message that the football players wanted to meet and I ran to get there,” said Reuben Faloughi, a Mizzou graduate student who had played college ball and who provided a key link between the athletes and the activists.

At the Nov. 7 meeting, Butler said that racial slights on campus seemed unending. Years ago, someone had scrawled the n-word on his dormitory door. Then there was the time a couple of drunk students spread hundreds of cotton balls on the lawn of the black culture center, sending an unmistakable message at a university that admitted its first African American student in 1950 — more than a century after its founding.

“I just explained that, through my undergrad career and now as a graduate student, nothing has changed,” Butler said. “They were really touched by that story, and my commitment to this, and they got on board.”

Butler was seeking the resignation of university president Tim Wolfe, who he felt had been dismissive of black students’ concerns. The players agreed to help: They would not practice or play until Wolfe stepped down.

As the meeting ended, the players gathered for a group picture. Later that evening, a single tweet containing that picture would upend the university.

Thirty-six hours later, President Wolfe was out.

What began as a last-ditch personal protest had become one of recent history’s most significant victories of student activism. But even as Missouri protesters celebrated, the upheaval morphed into a Rorschach test that reflects the complex state of American race relations.

To some, the protests were an overreaction to a series of unrelated racial incidents that the university could have done little to prevent and was under no obligation to curtail. As they saw it, Mizzou long ago outgrew its racist heritage: Eight percent of Mizzou undergrads are black, as is the student-body president.

To the protesters, any growth at Mizzou had been obscured by an unending skein of slights and insults that left black students often feeling like unwanted outsiders at their own school. In the days after Wolfe’s resignation, a drunk white man appeared on campus, screaming at black students; online message boards filled with violent threats, prompting hundreds to skip classes in fear; and someone spray-painted out the word “black” on the sign outside the black culture center.
“It’s been a long boil,” said Scott Brooks, a Mizzou sociology professor. “Students felt like they weren’t being heard and the university wasn’t taking them seriously.”

The turmoil at Mizzou represented something else, too: the next chapter in the still-accumulating legacy of Ferguson. When Butler stepped to a rally microphone after ending his hunger strike, he made it clear that the latest burst of black activism had its roots in August 2014.

Wolfe’s downfall, he said, “was ignited with three . . . black women who started MU for Mike Brown.”

On the front line

Michael Brown, a black teenager, was shot to death by a white police officer in Ferguson, a suburb of St. Louis. Though the shooting was ultimately found to be legally justified, local officials released few details in the days that followed his death, and the teen’s body was allowed to lie on the asphalt for more than four hours. During those first heated weeks, many believed the later-discredited stories of several eyewitnesses, who said that Brown had his hands up in surrender when the officer opened fire.

As protests erupted, Naomi Daugherty, Ashley Bland and Kailynd Beck, three University of Missouri seniors, gathered in Daugherty’s campus apartment and watched their Twitter and Instagram feeds flood with photos shot by friends of the spot where Brown was killed and the demonstrations that followed.

“A lot of my people were literally on the ground where it happened,” said Beck, who like many black students at Mizzou grew up in St. Louis. “So I said: Why don’t we start something together?”

The women set up “MU for Mike Brown” accounts on Twitter and Facebook, then an e-mail address. Within an hour, more than 60 students had sent messages asking to join.

That fall, as students returned to campus, the group caught fire. And the lack of an official statement from university officials about Brown’s death stirred the discord.

“The biggest point of anger last year was that, when Ferguson occurred, prior to us even starting classes, our administration was silent,” said Brenda Smith Lezama, then a junior at Mizzou and now the student body’s vice president. “There has not been a time since Ferguson that activism hasn’t been at the forefront of our university. It never stopped after Ferguson.”

MU for Mike Brown soon was hosting rallies, demonstrations and weekly planning sessions. Two “die-in” protests drew hundreds of participants. Many students traveled to Ferguson, an hour and a half east, to protest there.

“The Michael Brown shooting changed my life,” said Faloughi, who had arrived at Mizzou the previous fall for graduate school.

As an undergrad at the University of Georgia, Faloughi had been a linebacker on the football team, which left him neither time nor inclination to take part in student protests. Freed of his athletic obligations, Faloughi said he was exposed to “my first bout in activism.”

“I had never in my life been around something so powerful.”
Meanwhile, the university, like the country as a whole, was bitterly divided over Ferguson. A grand jury declined to indict officer Darren Wilson in Brown’s death. The decision — later supported by a Justice Department probe that found Brown had attacked Wilson — sparked a new round of riots in Ferguson.

Those tensions reverberated at Mizzou. Not long after the grand jury’s decision, a popular nightclub gave out wristbands that read: “Hands up, pants up.” Managers said it was a play on their dress code, but activists saw it as mocking a popular Ferguson protest chant. After 90 students showed up at the nightclub, blocking traffic and chanting, managers apologized in a Facebook post.

Online, dozens of students took to YikYak, an anonymous message board app, to denounce the protesters. “They were calling us monkeys and n----s,” Bland said. “It was blatant. It wasn’t even hidden racism.”

A disappointed leader

As Ferguson boiled, Mizzou’s nearly 30,000 undergraduates elected a black student to serve as student government president. Payton Head ran on a platform that emphasized inclusion.

Ever since he had arrived from Chicago, Head had loved his school. But he was disconcerted by stories from other black students, tales of being confronted by drunk men with Confederate flags, of showing up at fraternity parties to find that “only white girls” were welcome that night.

During Head’s sophomore year, while he was walking through Greektown, a stretch of fraternity and sorority houses near campus, a group of white kids sitting in the back of a pickup truck began screaming the n-word at him.

“At that moment, I didn’t know what to do,” Head said. “My high school was like 87 percent black. I didn’t know how to deal with racism blatantly being thrown in my face.”

Many black students here say they have walked a similar path, from skepticism about racism on campus to outrage. For biology major Taylor Free, 18, it came when she noticed that white students and black students were treated differently at her on-campus job. Her white co-workers, she perceived, got better shifts and promotions. When the protests began, a manager told her black co-workers that their jobs weren’t safe.

“I didn’t see it. Until I did,” Free said.

Discord on campus flared anew this fall, when Head was walking with a friend late one night in September to a cookie shop in downtown Columbia. Again, white men in a pickup truck drove up yelling racial slurs.

“What made me most angry about that situation was the fact that I had been working on inclusion initiatives this entire year,” Head said. “I’m getting to the end of my time in office, and I’m still seeing the same things.”
Head wrote an impassioned post about the incident on Facebook, which attracted media coverage — but no response from university administrators for six days.

By then, activists decided they had had enough.

A group of students decided to confront Wolfe and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin at the homecoming parade. Protesters linked arms and surrounded Wolfe’s red convertible.

Wolfe ignored them.

The activists assumed that Wolfe would reach out later to smooth things over. When he did not, Head called Wolfe’s office himself.

But Head, too, got no response.

Rebirth of activism

Over the years, black activists at Missouri had tried, without much luck, to mobilize students. In 2004, it was over a story in a student newspaper that admonished black students to “stay in their little worlds.” In 2007, it was over a neo-Nazi protest in downtown Columbia. In 2010, there was the cotton ball incident. In 2011, someone painted the n-word on a campus statue.

Once before, activists had approached the athletic teams for help, seeking support to defeat a 2008 state ballot initiative that would have ended affirmative action.

“The response was lacklustre,” recalled Anthony Martin, a Mizzou grad. “There just wasn’t, at that time, a lot of camaraderie between student organizations and athletes.”

As they still awaited a response from Wolfe, the current activists began a new round of protests — including Butler’s hunger strike.

And this time, things were different: The football team signed on. Like other students across campus, they, too, had been touched by the upheaval in Ferguson and the wave of activism that had swallowed their campus. The activists won.

It remains to be seen what their victory will yield. The core protest group, known as Concerned Student 1950, has demanded that administrators recruit more minority students and faculty, and that more be done to make black students feel comfortable and safe on campus.

On Nov. 12, the university named a black interim president, Michael A. Middleton, who helped found the Legion of Black Collegians as a student at Mizzou. In 1969, the group drafted a list of demands to make the university more welcoming. For 46 years, Middleton said, he has kept a copy on his desk, checking off items as time has gone by.
“We’ve made progress, and we will continue to make progress,” Middleton told reporters. “This problem is centuries old, and this problem is going to take years to solve — if it can be solved.”

A boycott's birth: How the Missouri race protests began

Nov. 22
By ERRIN HAINES WHACK and KYLE HIGHTOWER

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — On the day he met with black players for the University of Missouri's football team, graduate student Jonathan Butler hadn't eaten for six days.

The players wanted to know why. Butler told them: The school's president, Tim Wolfe, had repeatedly ignored concerns of black students. He'd rather starve than live with an alma mater that condoned racism.

Usually a world away from the center of campus at the athletic complex, the players were surprised and angry. They decided to launch a protest of their own: They wouldn't practice or play until Wolfe resigned or was removed. Until the fellow student they had only just met could eat again.

The team surrounded him and linked arms in solidarity. They snapped a photo: Thirty black men standing with another too frail to stand on his own.

"They were literally holding me up," Butler said.

The image, tweeted on a Saturday night, did in 48 hours what student activists hadn't been able to in several weeks and what black students before them hadn't been able to do for decades. It put a national spotlight on black students' experiences at predominantly white college campuses, touching off demonstrations around the country. By Monday, Wolfe was gone.

It was a moment pulled off by two groups of students whose paths, before that week, had rarely crossed.

"A lot of times, we're not a part of normal campus life," said defensive back Anthony Sherrils. "When it comes down to black, white, whatever the nationality is — we're all together as one."
The roots of the protest began decades ago, when the University of Missouri, founded in 1839, enrolled its first black student in 1950. The first black varsity athlete enrolled in 1956.

Those who came behind them have been fighting for equality ever since. The current activist group, Concerned Student 1950, is named for the admission milestone.

In 1968, the Legion of Black Collegians — the black student government — began. Missouri's interim president, Michael Middleton, is a Legion founder said to keep in his desk a list of demands the group presented to the school in 1969. Among them: increased hiring of black faculty and increased enrollment of black students, concerns that echo today.

While they worked, the athletic department was growing as more black students enrolled. Today, about 7 percent of the 35,000 students at the state's flagship school are black. That figure is much different on its sports teams: the revenue-generating men's football and basketball teams are nearly 63 percent black. Missouri has grown into a national power on the football field, securing an invite into the Southeastern Conference, the premier league in college sports.

Butler first saw and experienced racial tension at Mizzou as an undergraduate. In 2008, he said someone wrote the N-word on his dorm door. In 2010, white students scattered cotton balls onto the grounds of the black culture center.

"Things were continuing to be swept under the rug ... to the point where there's so much under there, you trip over it," Butler said.

When protests erupted in nearby Ferguson, Missouri, last year after the death of Michael Brown, Missouri students — including Butler and other members of Concerned Student 1950 — got involved to protest disparate treatment of minority communities by police.

Butler saw himself in Brown, the unarmed black teenager killed by a white officer whose death sparked unrest in cities across the country. When he returned to Missouri this fall, Butler was looking for a way to channel his feelings into action.

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The new school year brought fresh insults. The black student president was called the N-word. A swastika was scrawled in feces on a dorm bathroom door.

At the beginning of the semester, Butler said the group tried reaching out to various administration officials, recounting to them their experiences as black students, sharing books, YouTube videos and articles about white privilege.

No response.

Next, the group decided they would hold a demonstration during homecoming. It turned out to be a showdown between the students — known as the "Original 11" or "Brave 11" around campus — and Wolfe.

"It was super intense," said DeShaunya Ware, a senior at Missouri. "(Wolfe) didn't stop the spectators or the police from ... physically intervening. They used the Mizzou chant to drain out our voices."

Concerned Student 1950 immediately called for a meeting. They sat down with Wolfe more than two weeks later and listed their demands: for Wolfe to respond to their actions, for him to acknowledge the existence of racism on the campus and to tell them whether he had a plan.
"We asked him direct questions: 'Do you care about black students? What do you think about our demands?'' Butler recalled.

Again, they said, no response.

Butler was desperate. Since the homecoming clash, he'd been mulling the idea of a hunger strike to get his point across. He studied examples of nonviolent civil disobedience. He consulted a doctor, a pastor.

After the meeting, his mind was made up.

Did he think he might die? "I was prepared to do so," he said.

He told the rest of members of Concerned Student 1950 hours before his strike began. Though they feared for his health, they vowed to support him. On Nov. 2, Butler stopped eating.

He made his protest public, setting up a tent on "The Quad" in the heart of campus.

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Mizzou sophomore wide receiver J'Mon Moore was driving on campus Nov. 4 when he passed near The Quad.

Moore parked his car, and got out to mingle with protesters. He found his way to Butler, who had only seen Moore playing football on television.

"I had never met him," Moore said. "I just saw someone in need and wanted to help."

When Moore got home, he told his roommate, Sherrils, about what he had seen. There were texts, and phone calls. Another conversation with sophomore defensive lineman Charles Harris and senior co-captain Ian Simon.

Two days later, the group reached out to the Original 11 and said they wanted to meet.

For about an hour, the players and the protesters talked. Butler ran down how Wolfe failed to respond to incidents involving black students at Missouri.

The players responded with surprise "like, 'Wow, we really didn't know this was happening,'" Butler said. "And then also just being upset because of the shared identity of being black ... They still face racism, but they face it in a different way."

"They've been told they're not supposed to speak on things like this, but they couldn't just sit back and not let anything happen," said Ayanna Poole, a senior and another member of the Original 11.

The team huddled and came back with a decision. We're going to support you, they told Butler. They met with their coach, Gary Pinkel. Some in tears, they shared their plans.

The boycott would have meant more than embarrassment for Mizzou. The team was scheduled to play a high-profile game in Arrowhead Stadium — home of the Kansas City Chiefs — the following weekend. Not playing would have cost the school at least $1 million.

The players' scholarships could have been in jeopardy. They knew that. They were willing to take the chance.

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Though black players initiated the boycott, they were soon joined by the rest of the team — many of them players and coaches who remembered embracing former teammate Michael Sam, who told his team at the start
of the 2013 season that he was gay. His teammates kept that secret until he was ready to come out after the season.

Senior center Evan Boehm, who is white, said on a radio show appearance last week that it was initially tough to understand the situation. That's mainly because players are sheltered and "don't realize there's bigger issues out there on campus that are happening."

"When my brothers came and they gave me a call Saturday night and they let me know what was going on, I told them 'I respect you guys and I'm backing you guys 100 percent,'" Boehm said. "I saw this Mizzou Tigers team do the same thing that we kind of did for Michael Sam for JB."

The players' parents were learning about the protest on social media. The players had kept their intentions a tight secret before the tweet that started the protest. Calls flew from parent to parent. When Simon's mother finally talked to him, she was moved.

"Racism is a harsh word. It cuts like a knife. I told him that I've always believed if you feel what you're doing is right, you stand up for what you believe," Daphne Simon said.

There would be naysayers, she told her son. That is OK, she assured him.

"I want him to realize it is going to be tough. And it is. Nobody likes turns like this, but like I told him the truth is hard for everyone, and it will take time."

The boycott grew. On Sunday, another photo of the football team landed on Twitter. This time it was a picture of the entire team, tweeted by their coach.

"Coach Pinkel, he made a statement and said that he supported us," Sherrils said. "That's the only thing we needed."

As news of their boycott was spreading, Butler was growing weaker. The governor issued a statement saying concerns at Missouri had to be addressed. The attorney general called for a task force. The higher education leader in the state House said that Wolfe "can no longer effectively lead." And Sen. Claire McCaskill, contacted by Butler's family, reached out to university leaders.

That night, Wolfe issued a statement and said the students' demands were being included in a campus diversity strategy. It was clear, he said, change was needed.

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The news rippled across the campus the next morning. Wolfe was stepping down. Butler being interviewed when he heard.

"My body was so weak. I almost fainted. I started crying," he said.

His parents took him to the hospital, where over the course of several days, he would eat via IV and taste juice and applesauce to slowly regain his strength. Later that day, Moore, Simon and Harris read a statement on The Quad to tell the student body that their boycott was ending, too.

"It's not about us, we just wanted to use our platform to take a stance for a fellow concerned student on an issue, especially being as though a black man's life was on the line," Simon said.

"Through this experience, we've really begun to bridge that gap between student and athlete ... by connecting with the community and realizing the bigger picture."
The players returned to the practice field, readying to play Brigham Young. And at the end of the week, there was a somber announcement: Their coach, who had been diagnosed with lymphoma, was leaving at the end of the season.

"That shows how strong of a man Coach Pinkel is," Simon said. "To carry that weight all season, to have that boycott happen and for him to drop the (retirement bomb) ... that's not easy to do."

Missouri, which entered Saturday's game with a 4-5 record, defeated BYU 20-16.

The football team has one more regular-season game to play, and maybe a bowl, before the season ends. Butler plans to finish his graduate degree in May and continue his work as an activist.

Last week, as he recovered, players checked in on Butler's progress, making sure that he was eating.

Concerned Student 1950 is still calling for a more diverse student body and faculty, as well as mandatory diversity training for current and future students, and an increased presence in the school's governing structure.

The football team isn't sure it is done. Now that they've discovered their collective voice, they're trying to figure out where they fit in the debate on campus.

"There's a lot that we just found out on the fly. That shouldn't really happen," Simon said. "So we're bridging the gap, there's just a lot more that needs to be done."

For now, they are content with a place in history.

The Surprising Obstacle Mizzou and Yale Face in Increasing Diversity

Student protestors are demanding more diverse faculty and staff.

Last week, the president of the University of Missouri resigned amid student protests that he had not done enough to address racist incidents on campus. At Yale University, hundreds of students are protesting the university administration’s failure to create a welcoming and safe environment for minority students. Similar protests are erupting across the country at institutions, such as Claremont McKenna College, Wellesley University, and Ithaca College.

Students want answers, and one common solution that student protestors are asking for is to increase the diversity of their faculties by hiring more women and minority professors. In deciding whether to accede
to these demands, the relevant university administrators will face a crucial test of their integrity and their commitment to the rule of law; specifically, their commitment to ensure that their institution does not violate the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

To understand why, you must ignore anything you have heard about the Supreme Court’s decision in Grutter v. Bollinger, which held that the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment allows public universities to consider an applicant’s race in their admission decisions. That decision is irrelevant to the question of whether universities can consider race and gender in deciding whom to hire as faculty. Employment decisions are governed by the Civil Rights Act, which applies to both public and private universities.

The Civil Rights Act permits universities to undertake strenuous affirmative action to assemble the most diverse pool of applicants possible. They may specifically recruit African-Americans, women, and other minorities to apply for faculty positions. But once the applicant pool has been assembled and the selection process has begun — once the search committee begins compiling its list of candidates for further consideration — deciding whom to put on the short list for on-campus interviews, and ultimately, whom to hire — the Civil Rights Act prohibits basing any decision on the candidate’s race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

Although the student demonstrators are unlikely to be aware of this aspect of the Civil Rights Act, university administrators certainly are. Their integrity is on the line in how they respond to students.

Will they truthfully tell the student protestors that the law does not permit the university to simply go out and hire minority faculty — that the Civil Rights Act prohibits them from making such race-based hiring decisions?

Will they attempt to fudge the matter by making a commitment to employ every available legal means to increase the diversity of their faculty? If so, will they explain to students that because almost every university already does this, such a promise does not commit the university to doing anything new?

Or will they go ahead and make a promise to hire more minority faculty without mentioning the restrictions of the Civil Rights Act? If so, and if they intend to keep that promise, then it is not the administrators’ integrity that is in question, but their commitment to the rule of law.

Most university administrators know that the legal limitations on diversity hiring can be easily circumvented. Faculty search committees are composed, not of employment lawyers, but of ordinary professors who are unfamiliar with the workings of the Civil Rights Act. Most of these professors believe that there is nothing legally wrong with giving preference to women and minorities in the selection process. Many universities exploit this ignorance of the law by generating memoranda governing faculty hiring that studiously refrain from acquainting the members of search committees with the legal restrictions of the Civil Rights Act, while exhorting them to use their utmost efforts to advance the goal of achieving a diverse faculty.

When the Civil Right Act was first passed, bigoted employers removed the “whites only” requirement from their job ads, but continued to give hiring preference to whites over African-Americans. They simply indulged their racial preferences covertly rather than overtly. The bigoted employers’ response to the Civil Rights Act was to go on acting in the way that they believed to be right regardless of the law. Present day universities frequently employ the same tactic to achieve what they consider to be the more desirable goal of diversity.
Should they? Increasing the diversity of a university’s faculty is a laudable end, but circumventing the law to achieve it on the ground that the end justifies the means sets a troubling precedent. At the University of Missouri, student demonstrators used force and the threat of force to prevent journalists from exercising their First Amendment rights on public property. At Yale, student demonstrators shouted obscenities and spat upon professors and others who disagreed with their position. If the end really does justify the means, what grounds are there for condemning such actions?

Universities are educational institutions. The way their administrators respond to the demand to hire more minority faculty will teach important lessons about both what it means to act with integrity and the importance of the rule of law. It will be interesting to see what those lessons are.

*John Hasnas is a professor of ethics at Georgetown University’s McDonough School of Business.*

A Look Inside Mizzou’s Crucible of Race

I grew up white in Mississippi where my ancestors first arrived to a crucible of race in the early 19th Century. My ancestors owned slaves. My father’s Main Street Service Station had three restrooms: Gentlemen, Ladies and Colored. After college, I left Mississippi and wended my way around America as a journalist.

**Now, I teach at the University of Missouri, and I chair the Race Relations Committee of the Faculty Council on University Policy.**

Mike Middleton, a descendant of slaves, grew up black in Mississippi. His ancestor was among the first African Americans to become lawyers during Reconstruction. After Middleton earned his undergraduate and law degrees at the University of Missouri, he worked for the U.S. Justice Department. Later, he returned to his beloved Mizzou, first to teach, then to serve as Deputy Chancellor.

Now Middleton is the interim president of the University of Missouri System with its four campuses. He was selected after one of the most difficult weeks since the school’s 1839 founding as the first public university west of the Mississippi.

Middleton serves on the race relations committee with me and 10 other faculty, students and staff. We, along with many others, are searching for ways to resolve misunderstandings and fear about race in a place still known as Little Dixie, once a junction point in the Civil War. We’re south of the Grits Line of Interstate 70, 100-plus miles from Ferguson, Missouri. You already know versions of that story.

Our group was formed earlier this year, prompted by a plea for help from former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin after he held the first in a series of listening sessions devoted to the events in Ferguson.
No one has been shot or killed here on campus. But, as with many other places in America and the world, there is an ongoing murder of our collective spirit when we fail to take the time to listen to one another’s soul-breaking stories about race, ethnicity and culture.

“I’m already getting emails calling me a racist,” Middleton said. “How am I a racist because I am concerned about students who are being called names? We never talk, respect the legitimacy of each other’s viewpoints. Everything is a harsh sound bite or slogan. We’re not listening, not talking honestly, not respecting each other. We need to slow down and think, and be rational intelligent human beings and try to resolve this problem. Let’s be truthful. Let’s be real.”

Since May, often two hours a week every week, our committee has sought to have conversations that must be had. Our sessions are closed to ensure frankness.

More than one of us is a big-hearted, white conservative, evangelistic Christian. That includes an agricultural economist, originally from New Mexico. A young black kick boxer comes from Chicago. Already he has defied the black male odds by being alive. (He is not in jail but headed to graduation.) An atheist, Latina endocrinologist is from Bogota, Colombia.

There’s a business professor and former executive who has been stopped “driving while black” more than a few times near St. Louis. There’s an African American child psychiatrist from Kansas City, a white and Christian mathematician from Britain whose Jewish grandparents survived the Holocaust, a white teacher of teachers, a fescue expert who is white and was born in the same Mississippi hospital as I, and a Puerto Rican from New Jersey, the first in her family to go to college—and complete her master’s.

Among our number also is graduate student Jonathan Butler, an African American who went on a hunger strike that toppled the university’s two leaders. Daily during his strike, his social media posts quoted the Bible. His actions were independent of our group. Not all of us supported his life-and-death strategy. To a person, though, we supported him. Many prayed for him; all of us were relieved when he ate once again.

Weekly in our group, we have asked questions such as these: If you deny that racism is an intractable problem in America, are you a racist? If you use a bullhorn to yell to a university system president who hasn’t responded to your entreaties, are you hateful? Delusional? A crybully?

Most recently, we’ve asked: Can we agree to stay around the table, to stay in the room, to have the difficult conversations?

Each school day, I walk past gray stone columns with bas-relief images of two of the university’s founders, James Rollins and John Lathrop, white slaveholders who were visionaries about the transformative role of higher education in America. As I look at the bronzed visages of the dead, bearded white men, I ponder this:

If we cannot find a way to write a script for others to have these conversations at Mizzou, will we continue to see that white pickup truck, parading around town and shouting as loud as any bullhorn, with its unfurled, large American flag and Confederate flag? And will the bullhorns of demanding students continue to blare?

_Berkley Hudson is associate professor at the Missouri School of Journalism._
See How 4 Photojournalism Students Covered the Missouri Campus Protests


After several weeks of covering student protests at the University of Missouri, graduate photojournalism student Justin L. Stewart, 25, paused to reflect on his work. He had been photographing the unrest spurred by the university’s handling of several racially-charged incidents on campus for the official student newspaper, The Columbia Missourian, but he was concerned that, as the story continued to grow, people were “becoming numb,” he says, to the repetitive coverage of the same protesters.

“I was trying to kind of figure out a better way to tell the story and the way to approach the group about it,” Stewart tells TIME. “But it was also difficult because the group had always been a little standoffish toward media.”

The student protests started in late September, leading to the formation of the Concerned Student 1950 group, which led the charge, and culminating with the resignation of the university’s President Timothy Wolfe on Nov. 9. Wolfe’s resignation was further fueled by an announcement the preceding weekend that 32 black football players would not participate in team activities until the president was removed.

Stewart, who is a white male, spent weeks gaining people’s respect and trust, one at a time, to get access to the core group of students leading the protests, including Jonathan Butler, who had gone on a hunger strike. “Ever since Ferguson, [people] just don’t trust the media,” he says. “And I think that’s really important to this group — to get things right. And so I really tried to do that.”

While Stewart was able to incrementally gain trust and access, he was not immune to the protesters’ aversion to media that escalated following Wolfe’s resignation, best exemplified by the creation of a “no media safe space” to prevent reporters from photographing and interviewing protesters. Stewart said he was “negatively affected when the whole media closure started happening.”

Senior photojournalism student Katie Hogsett, 21, first covered the campus unrest at an October homecoming parade, on an assignment for the student newspaper. The parade was heavily delayed, due to a student blockade of Wolfe’s vehicle in the procession. Hogsett says she was startled by how the administration, as well as onlookers, were reacting to the protesters. “I watched a lot of mothers with their kids get in the protestors’ faces and say things like: ‘Way to ruin it for the children, and why can’t you guys go somewhere else?’” she recalls. “Then I heard some other people say some pretty blatantly racist comments under their breath. I was really caught off guard. At that moment a light went on in my head—get evidence, get evidence.”
That's when Hogsett truly realized how important this story had become, and was struck with empathy for her classmates. “As a student — and just as a person— I was shocked and just couldn’t imagine being in their shoes,” she says.

One challenge that these photojournalism students met while covering the Concerned Student 1950 group—outside of balancing their coverage with attending class (coverage often won out, with the general support of faculty) — was gathering basic reporting on their subjects. Senior photojournalism student Ellise Verheyen, 21, says that while the group was not necessarily against the media, it was not eager to share names, working instead as “a collective” voice. And while you could detect “stress and anger” on campus, Verheyen says that the overall feeling was not negative. “The community and the support on campus was outstanding,” she tells TIME. “They all kind of came together.”

On Nov. 7, Verheyen followed a mock tour organized by protesters to speak of their daily experiences as black students on campus. “It was a really, really emotional thing,” she recalls. “I think that was the first time that I realized how much pain people [were feeling].”

For Sarah Bell, another senior photojournalism major, the protests really became an important, national story when word of Butler’s hunger strike reached the newsroom. “We all just sunk in our chairs and could see this is a bigger deal than we thought it was,” she says. “As a white student I definitely didn’t think about this problem all the time. But I have friends who are marginalized on campus I’ve heard stories about it, so I always knew that had existed on Mizzou campus but not nearly to the extent that I’ve learned in the last three weeks or so.”

There’s no doubt in Bell’s mind that she has chosen the right path, saying the coverage over the last few weeks “solidified my desire to be a photojournalist.” Bell, who like her classmates chose to pursue the story over class on many occasions, says she learned more in the last month than in her “entire career at Mizzou.”

### Univ. of Missouri student groups have first meeting with Board of Curators since protests began

*By Jillian Deutsch November 20, 2015 9:51 pm*

After a turbulent few weeks at the University of Missouri, which resulted in the resignation of top administrators and sparked student protests on campuses nationwide, student groups
had their first chance to voice issues and demands to the University of Missouri System Board of Curators at a “listening session” Friday.

A total of 13 groups — mostly consisting of graduate students — attended the two-hour meeting. Specific demands ranged from increasing minority student retention to providing child care services, but the most common demand was for “shared governance” with the board of curators.

In a room that was only half full, students also took time to express anger over both the format — Donald Cupps, chairman of the board, began the by saying they would only listen and not address comments — and the scheduling of the session on the cusp of Thanksgiving break.

Cupps apologized for the poor timing, saying it was the soonest all the curators were available. “I did not realize that — that shows you how old I am,” said Cupps, who said that the break began on the Wednesday before the holiday when he was in college.

Curator Phil Snowden said that it was unfortunate that the meeting happened when it did, but “to push it off any longer would be a mistake.”

This did little assuage the groups’ dissatisfaction.

Timothy Love, a member of the English Graduate Student Association, asked, “Why in the hell” the curators chose to have the meeting on the eve of the break. “I wonder if this will lead to results.”

Another member of the group told the curators, “Enough with your well-timed gestures. … We want you to begin an authentic dialogue.”

“This does not allow for discussion about how to create a shared governance,” said Shelby Parnell, one of the original members of Concerned Student 1950. “The time for students, staff and faculty to have a voice in who governs us is now. And as the Board of Curators at the University of Missouri, it’s your job to adhere to the needs of your constituents.”

While a few of the groups — which also included MU Policy Now, Four Directions: Indigenous Peoples and Allies, and Racism Lives Here — listed specific demands, others spoke about personal experiences, in addition to continuing the dialogue.

Connor Lewis from the Forum on Graduate Student Rights expressed plans for graduate students to unionize. He urged the curators to consider how they’ll react when this happens in the near future.
“We’re willing to do our end,” he said. “We’re hoping the university is willing to do theirs.”

Students also spoke about their distrust of the administration.

Kristofferson Culmer from the Forum on Grad Rights said there was a “trust deficit” between students and the administration. “Students do not trust they’ll act in their best interest.”

RELATED: Student protests continue almost two weeks after U. of Missouri resignations

After the meeting, Chuck Henson, the interim vice chancellor of diversity, told USA TODAY College that he felt hopeful.

“This is the journey of a thousand miles,” Henson said. “And we’ve taken more than a number of steps so far.”

Henson said administrators are already working to address students’ demands, which will “soon be revealed.”

The next time the curators meet is on Dec. 10 and 11 at the University of Missouri – St. Louis.

University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe and the chancellor of the flagship campus, R. Bowen Loftin, resigned on Nov. 9 in the face of growing protests by African-American students, the threat of a walkout by faculty and a strike by football players who said they had done too little to combat racism on campus.

The protests have sparked nationwide campus rallies and sit-ins as students show solidarity with those at Mizzou and address their own claims of systematic racism at their schools.

Jillian Deutsch is a student at the University of Missouri and a member of the USA TODAY College contributor network.
Missouri students want to help pick new university leaders

BY SUMMER BALLENTINE Associated Press

COLUMBIA, MO. - Some University of Missouri students told the system's governing board Friday that they want to play a part in deciding who will be the next chancellor at the flagship campus in Columbia and the next president of the university system, and said the school needs more faculty of color.

The Board of Curators meeting was the first open for student input since protests over the administration's handling of racial issues and the subsequent resignations of Columbia campus Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and system President Tim Wolfe. The upheaval shook the campus and brought the university into the national spotlight.

Shelbey Parnell, one of the organizers of the Concerned Student 1950 group that camped out for days on campus in protest of Wolfe, said students, faculty and staff should have a role in choosing Wolfe and Loftin's successors. Parnell said members of the system's other campuses also need a voice in picking leaders.

She added that "implementation is worth more than advertisement ploys."

The board announced the meeting Thursday and asked for student input, saying board members wanted to hear about their experiences. Several students criticized the meeting's timing, saying it was overdue and scheduled too close to Thanksgiving break, which begins Saturday.

"You should have had this meeting a long time ago," said Timothy Love, a graduate fellow in the English department. He added that he's interested in discussions "that end in effective results."

Chairman Donald Cupps said Friday was the first day board members could meet and that he had not realized the timing of the university break. He said the board has received requests the past few weeks from students wanting to address its members, and the meeting was the result of that.

Other suggestions from students centered on the need for more students of color and the treatment of graduate students. Requests from members of some
graduate student organizations included higher stipends, affordable housing, paternity and maternity leave, and adequate health care.

UM Board hears about race, grad student issues from students

November 21, 2015 8:00 am  •  By Alex Stuckey

COLUMBIA • When Teah Hairston was growing up, her mother was addicted to crack, her brother was in a gang and her family was homeless.

Now, she’s a graduate student at Mizzou studying sociology. But she says she often feels like an impostor on campus — something she says other black students can relate to.

Part of the problem, she said Friday at a University of Missouri Board of Curators meeting, is that there are few black students and faculty on campus. The black voice is missing from classes: You have to take a black studies class to hear that voice, she told the board.

“I know I’m black, I’m unapologetically black and the problem is I have to choose to be black or be educated: I can’t be both,” she said.

Hairston, a member of the Sociology Graduate Student Group, was one of more than a dozen students who voiced their grievances — and potential solutions — in regard to race and graduate student issues Friday.

The board called the meeting almost two weeks after Timothy M. Wolfe resigned his post as president of the University of Missouri system amid criticism of his handling of a series of racist incidents. His resignation came after one student embarked on a hunger strike and some Mizzou football players pledged not to play again until Wolfe resigned or was fired.

Michael Middleton took on the position of interim president and promised to discuss tough issues with students. He most recently has been a deputy chancellor emeritus and professor emeritus of law at the university.

Board members silently listened Friday to student groups for more than two hours but made no decisions. Students raised concerns that the meeting was held on short notice right before Thanksgiving break, when many students had already left campus.

Board chairman Donald Cupps said Friday was the first available date for the hearing.

Students pressed the curators for shared governance, an increase in minority faculty and diversity training. Graduate students also came out in force, decrying what they said was low pay and a lack of affordable child care, housing and insurance.

Shortly before the start of the school year, the university stripped graduate students of their health insurance subsidies and scaled back their tuition waivers. Mizzou administrators have since reversed those moves.
Aashish Jagini, a member of the Graduate Professional Council, said the lack of affordable child care, insurance and housing made graduate students’ time in school more difficult.

“I work 30 hours a week, along with the 16 credits I take,” Jagini said. “I am happy and proud to do this, but for us to be able to do this we need a few things from the university.”

Timothy Love, a member of the English Graduate Student Association, said requiring diversity courses for faculty as well as students was incredibly important.

“Many students go through four years of college not being taught why underprivileged, under-represented groups need scholarships, help finding employment and need protection from racism,” Love said. “The vast majority of students will receive a BA without knowing the definition of systematic oppression.”

But who could blame them, he said, when the former system president didn’t even know that definition?

He was referring to an incident this fall, when students confronted Wolfe and asked for his definition of systematic oppression.

“Systematic oppression is because you don’t believe that you have the equal opportunity for success,” Wolfe replied.

Wolfe’s answer, which was captured on video and shared on social media, was widely panned as students accused him of suggesting that oppression exists only in their minds.

Also on Friday, several student groups, including Concerned Student 1950, again expressed their desire to have a say in who will be named the next system president.

Cupps said the board would probably discuss these comments at a later date.

Student groups along with members of Concerned Student 1950 meet with UM Board of Curators

Columbia, MO — The Concerned Student 1950 group was among those scheduled to present their demands and concerns to the University of Missouri System Board of Curators.

Concerned Student 1950 is the organization behind the hunger strike that brought national attention to the racial tension on the University of Missouri campus.

Both students and faculty came out for the meeting to voice their concerns.

Groups such as Concerned Student 1950 had the chance to speak directly with the Board of Curators.

Maxwell Little, who is a member of Concerned Student 1950, said they requested a private meeting with the board for today, but he said the meeting got misinterpreted into a public meeting.

"But at the same time we think it is great that our voices are being heard," Little said. "But we specifically requested a meeting with the Board of Curators and they responded that they would meet with us privately to discuss the rest of our demandswe are still waiting on that."

The meeting comes after the Concerned Student 1950 group camped out on the Carnahan Quad for over a week.

They have a list of eight demands.

The first was for UM System President Tim Wolfe to recognize oppression in the UM system and for him to resign.

They also want the university to create and enforce mandatory racial awareness and inclusion curriculum.

Another demand is to increase black faculty by ten percent and they want a 10-year plan to sustain diversity curriculum.

Little said, "We were talking about the selection of our next system's president and our chancellor our voices wanna be heard in that and we believe all four campuses voices should be heard in that selection process."

Members and other students at the meeting said shared governance is essential.

Little also criticized the timing of the meeting, just before the Thanksgiving break.

Members of Concerned Student 1950 said their main goal is for all marginalized students to be accepted on campus.

Little also said the UM System, students and faculty need to come together to discuss the concerns so they can be put into policy.
Students speak their minds at UM System Board of Curators forum

KASIA KOVACS, Nov 20, 2015

Correction
MU Policy Now member Alex Howe spoke about "existing governance structures" in his comments to the Board of Curators. The wording of that phrase was incorrect in an earlier version of this story.

COLUMBIA — A day after the University of Missouri System Board of Curators called an unusual listening session, asking to hear the concerns of MU student groups, several students — sometimes curt, sometimes fervent — stepped up to a microphone to tell the curators their stories and advocate for their causes.

Students of color, international students and graduate students gathered Friday in the Reynolds Alumni Center for the curators meeting. They spoke about students’ lack of trust in the administration, the devaluation of graduate students, prioritizing shared governance, racial tension and a feeling of isolation that many students of color feel at MU.

The meeting began at 3:30 p.m. before MU began its Thanksgiving break. Although groups were told that they would be allotted 20 minutes to address the curators, speakers were asked at the meeting to limit their speeches to 10 minutes. Thirteen groups ended up speaking.

One common theme in students’ statements was a need for shared governance in the university’s administration.

"Our aim is to empower shared governance mechanisms," said Alex Howe, a student with MU Policy Now.
He continued, "We as students are serious about coalition building. We are serious about collaboration … What we’ve seen in a time of crisis like this is a need for nimbleness in response … Existing governance structures don’t necessarily lend themselves to the nimbleness that is needed in times like this."

Student groups suggested policy changes, including making several alterations with the university’s policies regarding graduate students.

"As graduate students, we’re on the front lines of recruitment, of education and research at this institution," said Luke Russell, who addressed the curators on behalf of the Human Development and Family Science Graduate Student Association. "Yet repeatedly over the past two and a half years, we’ve seen our positions devalued and under appreciated by our administration."

Russell spoke about the university’s abrupt decisions to cancel health insurance subsidies and tuition waivers for some students, two of several catalysts that prompted graduate student activism and the creation of the graduate student labor union this semester.

Students of color were also heavily represented, with some asking for substantive mandatory diversity courses and a campus hate crime policy, among other requests.

"I have a severe case of impostor syndrome," said Teah Hairston, of the Sociology Graduate Student Group. "I automatically feel like this is not a place where I’m supposed to be … I’m not speaking to or representative of all black students here at Mizzou, but I think that many black students can relate to my position."

Hairston is one of seven black graduate students in MU’s sociology department, and there are three black faculty members in the department, Hairston said.

She expressed concern about being considered the "token" black students in her classes. In addition, she, along with many other speakers, argued for increasing the number of students and faculty of color.
But not all speakers were of one mind. Maria Raquel Juarez, a Hispanic graduate student and representative of the abortion opponent group Mizzou Students for Life, spoke against setting race quotas for faculty and students.

"I understand the statistics of minority students," she said. "I haven’t had a Mexican teacher for, well, the past 15 years I’ve been in school. But I refuse to discredit my professors or friends by claiming that I would have excelled more if there were more Mexicans in class. I just ask that you are aware of the realistic consequences of diversity initiatives that deliberately seek to increase populations based solely on race. Because while we may gain a sense of community, we lose the ability to defend our qualifications with certainty."

Several speakers criticized the curators for scheduling the meeting on the eve of Thanksgiving break, a time when many students had already left Columbia. The meeting scheduling was illustrative of the administration’s weak communication with students and, consequently, students’ lack of trust in the administration, students said.

"It is still somewhat befuddling that only Mizzou students received this invitation to speak to the Board of Curators less than 24 hours before the meeting," said Shelbey Parnell, who spoke on behalf of Concerned Student 1950.

Donald Cupps, Board of Curators chairman, said that he didn't realize this Friday was right before Thanksgiving break. He also said Friday was the first available date when all curators were available. However, one curator, David Steward, did not participate in the meeting.

Curators Cupps, Pamela Quigg Henrickson, Phillip Snowden and John Phillips attended the meeting in person; curators Maurice Graham, Yvonne Sparks and David Steelman and student representative Tracy Mulderig participated by conference call.

Also present were UM System General Counsel Steve Owens, interim UM System President Michael Middleton, interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley and Chuck Henson, interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity.
The listening session followed a tumultuous semester at MU. UM System President Tim Wolfe resigned earlier in this month after Jonathan Butler, an MU graduate student, embarked on a hunger strike seeking Wolfe's ouster. Soon after, MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced that he would be transitioning from chancellor to an administrative research position at the university.

According to Snowden, no other listening sessions are scheduled for the three other UM System campuses at this time.

Students voice concerns during UM curators meeting

By Megan Favignano

Saturday, November 21, 2015 at 12:00 am

University of Missouri students continued to call for shared governance and diversity curriculum during a meeting Friday. They also requested a say in who will lead the Columbia campus and the UM System.

The UM System Board of Curators held the listening session Friday afternoon with 14 student groups at MU. Each group had about 10 minutes to address the curators.

Shelbey Parnell, a student with Concerned Student 1950, thanked the curators for holding the listening session. The group of student activists, named for the first year a black student was enrolled at MU, spurred former UM System President Tim Wolfe’s resignation and has requested a private audience with the board. Parnell said the group still would like that individual meeting.

“There is still much work to be done in terms of accomplishing the demands,” she said. “Though Tim Wolfe has now resigned, our set of demands still has not been completely met. There is still a current demand for shared governance in terms of selecting those who rule our campus and our system.”

Faculty, staff and students should have a voice in who governs them, Parnell said.

Wolfe resigned Nov. 9 after weeks of protests over the racial climate at MU. MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin resigned the same day because of reported distrust and animosity among faculty members.

Timothy Love, a graduate student at MU, asked the curators what student actions most motivated Wolfe’s resignation.
“Is this what we’ve come to? Do students have to starve for eight days to get an intellectual response from you concerning racism on campus?” Love asked. “Do athletes have to put their scholarships on the line for you to realize that racism permeates the fabric of administrative intolerance?”

Love said educating faculty, curators and administration about diversity and inclusion is as important as educating students.

Members of MU Policy Now, a group of graduate and professional students committed to developing and implementing university policy, said they sent the board a letter with potential solutions that focused on student conduct and transparency.

Alex Howe, a graduate student with the group, said the university needs to empower existing shared governance mechanisms.

“The reasons that so many ad hoc organizations have formed recently ... is that we have found ourselves in a bit of a state of crisis,” Howe said. “And in times of crisis, existing hierarchies ... flatten and everybody becomes very uncertain, very unsure of what they’re supposed to do.”

Howe said students are serious about building coalitions, collaborating and getting all of their concerns addressed. Every concern students brought to the board, he said, are shared by many students.

One student group called for an increase in the American Indian population on campus and said they want to see an American Indian culture center created at MU.

UM Board of Curators Chairman Donald Cupps said Friday’s meeting was designed for the curators to listen. The board would discuss student concerns with MU administrators and then would decide how to respond, Cupps said.

Interim UM System President Mike Middleton, interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley and interim Vice Chancellor for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Chuck Henson attended the listening session. All curators were present in person or via phone, except for recently appointed Curator Yvonne Sparks.

Cupps said the curators have received numerous requests from students to set up individual meetings, which is why the board decided to hold the session.

Multiple student groups expressed disappointment Friday that they only had a 24-hour notice of the session. Students said they did not appreciate that the curators planned the session for the Friday afternoon before Thanksgiving break.

Cupps said the curators chose Friday afternoon because it was the earliest time the entire board was able to meet. Next week is Thanksgiving, he said, and the weekend after is the board’s regular meeting at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.
Union organizers share experiences with MU students

By Megan Favignano

Friday, November 20, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Unions helped graduate students get and keep better benefits at their schools, representatives of graduate student unions from Florida State University and Illinois State University on Thursday told University of Missouri students contemplating a union here.

Eric Scott, a member of the Coalition of Graduate Workers — the group pursuing a union on the MU campus — said the input was vital for MU graduate students to hear as they consider a union.

The Coalition of Graduate Workers “can’t say definitively ‘this is what it’s like to work under a unionized campus,’ and our guests were able to give us that perspective,” Scott said of the meeting at Tate Hall. “It makes me feel good about what we’re working for. If we can get the kind of results that they’ve had, then I’m going to be really proud of what we’re doing.”

Martin Bremer, a doctoral student at Florida State University and executive vice president of the student union there, said stipends for graduate assistants have increased during his four years there. Graduate assistants receive a stipend and typically a tuition waiver in exchange for their work teaching and conducting research at their university.

Bremer said the union has developed a good working relationship with administrators.

“We have a productive health relationship with them, and it’s not typically adversarial,” Bremer said. “It’s really cool that we have human resources calling us and saying this may be coming down the pipes. ... And they really want to help us out, too.”

MU graduate students started considering unionizing after the university told graduate assistants in August it could no longer subsidize health insurance premiums because of a recent IRS interpretation of health care law.

That decision was later rescinded pending review, but sparked the creation of the Forum on Graduate Rights, a student group that is not affiliated with the university. The Forum on Graduate Rights has spent the semester advocating for better graduate employee benefits.
Connor Lewis, with the Coalition of Graduate Workers, said MU students often ask if a union will lead to decreased pay for certain departments. He said the union would not bring its membership a contract with decreased pay because union leadership would not expect members to vote for that.

The Illinois State University union’s president, John Flowers, said the union’s executive committee “takes on the pulse of the membership” as it works with administration.

ISU students’ main messages to MU graduate student employees was to make graduate student benefits a priority.

Students with the Coalition of Graduate Workers are collecting student signatures, which are needed to hold a union vote. The group partnered with a large teaching union — the National Education Association. The graduate employee unions at FSU and ISU also are associated with the National Education Association, a union Scott said has a strong record of lobbying legislators.

The Forum on Graduate Rights on Thursday published an updated list of demands, including a guarantee that every graduate student employee will be paid a livable wage and receive a fully subsidized health care plan, a guarantee that officials will create policies to increase faculty and student diversity and that families will be better supported with an early childhood education program and paternity and maternity leave for graduate students.

In a statement, the Forum on Graduate Rights said it refined its demands from a previous version created earlier this semester in response to new information.

Mizzou students putting pressure on university to continue relationship with Planned Parenthood

Nov. 23  •  By Koran Addo

When the University of Missouri Board of Curators abruptly dismissed R. Bowen Loftin as University of Missouri-Columbia chancellor on Nov. 9, some Mizzou students and abortion-rights supporters saw an opportunity to try to reverse a controversial university decision.

They have begun a campaign seeking to pressure Mizzou Interim Chancellor Hank Foley to reconsider Loftin’s decision to eliminate a category of clinical privilege at the university’s hospital that is likely to end the ability of women to get abortions in Columbia after the end of this month.

Planned Parenthood’s physician uses, and legally needs, that privilege to be able to provide medically induced abortions. The doctor’s permissions — known as “refer and follow” privileges — officially expire on Dec. 1.

The decision in September to end the doctor’s privileges was seen by some on campus as Loftin caving to political pressure from conservative members of Missouri’s Legislature amid the national controversy over the nonprofit’s alleged handling of fetal tissue.
Now Foley finds himself squarely between an energized student activist community that has the potential to shine a national spotlight on his decision making, and a conservative Missouri Legislature that controls the university’s funding. Mizzou’s media relations department did not respond to requests to speak to Foley.

For more than a week, students have taken to Twitter with the #FixItFoley campaign designed to pressure Foley into restoring physician Colleen McNicholas’ hospital privileges.

“What Planned Parenthood does is critically important,” said Jordan Hoyt, a graduate student in MU’s School of Public Health. “Abortion is a critical part of it. It’s a legal service and it needs to be safe and accessible.”

In addition to the campaign, a group calling itself Mizzou for Planned Parenthood has started a broader social media campaign with a Facebook page that shares stories from students and former students about Planned Parenthood’s importance.

In one post, Mizzou law student Jessica Miller wrote a letter to Foley sharing her experiences suffering from polycystic ovarian syndrome, a medical condition that causes prolonged menstrual cycles and other complications.

Miller said one of the first things she did upon moving to Columbia was to go to Planned Parenthood to get a birth control shot that helps prevent extended menstrual cycles.

“I want you to know that, if I were to become pregnant, my syndrome leaves me with a greater risk of having an ectopic pregnancy which would then put my life in danger,” she wrote. “That’s why knowing that there’s a Planned Parenthood in my community that could provide me with all the services I might need, including abortion, is critical to my health.”

But state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, said the matter comes down to state statute.

He cites what’s known as “Chapter 188,” the section in state law that says Missouri grants “the right of life to all humans, born and unborn, and to regulate abortion to the full extent permitted by the Constitution of the United States, decisions of the United States Supreme Court, and federal statutes.” Schaefer, who is running for Missouri attorney general next year, said he’s heard from several groups including students who are opposed to Mizzou having any connection to Planned Parenthood.

“The law is pretty clear, Chapter 188 prohibits state money to aid or support abortion,” he said. “If the university would choose not to comply with state law, I believe the Legislature’s response would be very strong.”

Abortion-rights advocates don’t read the law that simply. Granting privileges to a doctor does not constitute spending state money in support of abortion, they argue.

In addition to the social media campaign, Mizzou for Planned Parenthood has also delivered to Foley a petition with more than 2,500 signatures calling on him to renew contracts with Planned Parenthood.

The group has further garnered support in the form of a resolution from different Mizzou student governing bodies including the MU Graduate Professional Council. Meanwhile, anti-abortion group 40 Days for Life and others, have begun a separate campaign — delivering nearly 1,200 letters — urging the university to distance itself from Planned Parenthood at all costs.

Whether Foley will be swayed by either campaign remains unclear.
Conservative news site editor challenges student actions at MU

By Megan Favignano

Friday, November 20, 2015 at 2:00 pm

**Ben Shapiro, Breitbart News senior editor-at-large and DailyWire.com editor-in-chief, started his lecture at the University of Missouri on Thursday by saying he doesn’t care about feelings, he only cares about facts.** Life, he said, isn’t about feeling comfortable.

“Racism exists,” Shapiro said during his talk. “If you can’t show systematic racism at Mizzou you instead rely on stupid garbage like white privilege and microaggressions to help you create a safe space. Grow up, gang. You’re not doing yourselves, the school or the country any good at all with this sort of nonsense. You’re making actual racism and aggression more common.”

Mizzou College Republicans and the Young America’s Foundation, a conservative outreach not-for-profit, hosted Shapiro, with the latter group paying for the majority of the event’s cost. Ellis Auditorium, with a capacity of 243, was filled for the talk, which presented a counterargument to protests against racism that have drawn international attention to MU.

UM System President Tim Wolfe resigned last week after weeks of demands from student protesters. Students calling themselves and their movement Concerned Student 1950 criticized Wolfe for not adequately addressing incidents of racism on campus, though other issues had also plagued university leadership.

With a campus as large as MU, which had about 35,000 students enrolled this semester, racist incidents are likely to occur, Shapiro said.

“Individuals do bad things, and it’s not always the fault of the people in charge,” he said.

Members of Concerned Student 1950 did not attend or protest Shapiro’s talk, even when some people who attended the event tweeted Shapiro’s remarks using the Concerned Student 1950 hashtag and asking where they were.

DeShaunya Ware, a student with Concerned Student 1950, said the group had not discussed protesting or making any statements regarding Shapiro’s comments.

Skyler Roundtree, MU junior and president of Mizzou College Republicans, said Shapiro’s talk was about how people are sacrificing their traditions and morals to be politically correct.
“Right now, we have this situation on campus where a lot of people are afraid to speak up. A lot of people who don’t agree with the whole way the Concerned Student 1950 ‘movement was being ran were afraid to say something against that,” Roundtree said.

Students with Mizzou College Republicans attended a Young America’s Foundation conference last weekend, where Shapiro spoke, and asked him to visit campus.

The Young America’s Foundation paid Shapiro’s flight and hotel costs. The organization also paid a company to stream online video of the event — which attracted more than 50,000 total views throughout Shapiro’s talk, said Luke Livingston with Ground Floor Video.

University of Missouri police staffed two officers during the event and escorted Shapiro to his car afterward. Aside from racism and MU, Shapiro also discussed topics including abortion, presidential candidates and gun rights.

The message resonated with Megan Baker, a black University of Central Missouri student who was raised in a white family and attended Shapiro’s lecture. Baker said a student organization on her campus told her she wasn’t “black enough” to join their group.

“Why is it OK for me to be told that I’m not black enough for black organizations on campus, but by God if a white group were to say that to me I could call it racism?” Baker said. “But because it’s a black group saying that to me, it’s OK? It’s not OK.”

Media coverage of MU, Shapiro said, makes Concerned Student 1950 appear to be a victim on campus.

“The only innocent person who was victimized was Tim Wolfe. He was a white guy who lost his job for being a white guy,” Shapiro said.

MU selects interim vice chancellor of marketing and communications

Saturday, November 21, 2015 at 12:00 am

**University of Missouri Interim Chancellor Hank Foley on Friday named Jennifer Hollingshead interim vice chancellor of marketing and communications at MU.**

Most recently, Hollingshead worked as marketing manager for MU Health Care. She previously served as the chief communications officer for the UM System, where she started working in 2007. Hollingshead has past experience in marketing and communications at Columbia College and Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance.
Hollingshead replaces Ellen de Graffenreid, who left the university Monday. MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said personnel privacy rules prohibit her from commenting on de Graffenreid’s reason for leaving.

Interim vice chancellor for marketing and communications announced Friday

KAHLIE KILCHER, Nov 20, 2015

COLUMBIA — Jennifer Hollingshead was named interim vice chancellor for marketing and communications at MU on Friday.

According to a news release, her previous position was marketing manager for MU Health Care.

Hollingshead graduated from MU in 1997 with bachelor's degrees in journalism and sociology. She earned her master's degree from Columbia College in 2006.

In 2007, she joined the university system and eventually became chief communications officer, according to the release.

"Please join me in congratulating Jennifer Hollingshead on this very important and crucial role at our university," Interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley said in the release. "We’re looking forward to working with her as we continue to make Mizzou an inclusive and welcoming community for everyone who teaches, works and studies here."
UM, labor union hope to find 'common ground' in federal mediation

By Megan Favignano

Saturday, November 21, 2015 at 12:00 am

The University of Missouri System and LiUNA Laborers’ Local 773 — a labor union that represents service, maintenance and custodial employees at MU, the University of Missouri-Kansas City and MU Health Care — hope to find common ground as they move into federal mediation, officials with both groups said.

The two have been in a labor dispute since the UM System implemented its most recent contract offer after union members voted against the contract in September. The contract changes workers’ pay to a merit-based system instead of one based on seniority.

UM spokeswoman Kelly Peery Wiemann said the university and the union remained at an impasse but that they agreed to move into federal mediation “in hopes of identifying some common ground.”

Regina Guevara, field representative with LiUNA, said the union has similar hopes.

“The university has agreed to go to federal mediation services to try to meet a middle ground over the merit pay issue,” Guevara said in an email. “Our goal is to renew trust and build a community of respect for one another.”

Guevara said three union representatives and six stewards met with interim UM System President Mike Middleton and his administrative staff. The meeting initially was set up between the union and former UM President Tim Wolfe. Wolfe resigned last week after weeks of student protests over the racial climate at MU. About 20 members of the union showed up at Wolfe’s office last month demanding he meet with them to discuss their concerns.

Union workers worry a merit-based pay system will allow supervisors to show favoritism, Guevara said. With a merit-based system, pay increases are tied to subjective employee evaluations. LiUNA represents 422 union workers at University Hospital, 154 at UMKC and 781 at MU.

The details and timing of the mediation are still being discussed, Wiemann said. Guevara said the union plans to continue its community awareness campaign, which includes a billboard she expects to go up in Columbia after Thanksgiving.

Guevara said the union also is working to create a website to increase awareness of the union’s concerns.
Several MU union employees and graduate students held union signs and handed out fliers to football fans before a Nov. 5 game, aiming to draw attention to the labor dispute.

COLUMBIA — The Mizzou Alumni Association has decided to form a Black Alumni Network after a statement of support for student activists that also called for a black alumni chapter was signed by more than 1,000 alumni within 24 hours of its release on Nov. 8.

Mizzou Alumni Association Executive Director Todd McCubbin said the decision to form a Black Alumni Network was easy.

"It all kind of worked together, and we’re looking forward to engage and involve those folks in Mizzou."

The network was formed a day after the resignations of UM System President Tim Wolfe and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

The statement issued by the alumni said that "despite efforts by many Black alumni, the Mizzou Alumni Association ("MAA") has not yet given us the opportunity to formally organize."

Erika Harrison was one of the statement's authors. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in 2008 and a law degree in 2011. She contacted McCubbin about an official black alumni chapter on Oct. 6 after seeing a Twitter post from the alumni association with a Homecoming banner. The photo featured only white people.
"The signatures that were added to the petition I think did send a clear message that a black alumni organization is very important for the university as a whole," said Harold Bell, who holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and master's degree in public administration.

Bell said that while black alumni have organized events for the past two years, there wasn't an official network through the alumni association.

Harrison said the statement showed resounding support for a black alumni chapter. She thought they would only receive about 100 signatures, but they got that many within an hour of the statement's publication on Facebook.

"We didn't have a means of reaching out to the students, and they didn’t have a means of reaching out to us because there wasn't an official group to reach out to," Harrison said. "And we think that could have been beneficial at some point. They could have utilized some of the skill sets that we gave."

The network had 500 people sign up in less than a day, McCubbin said, adding that Harrison, Bell and the other volunteers put in a lot of work.

"They're great, and they're excited about being involved, and we're looking forward to working with them," McCubbin said.

McCubbin said the association did have a Black Alumni Organization that formed in 1979, but it had lost volunteer involvement. Bell said the volunteers and the alumni association are reinstating and repurposing what the old organization did to fit with the today's culture.

**MISSOURIAN**

The life of today's black athlete, and how it influenced a movement at MU

AARON REISS, JACOB BOGAGE, Nov 20, 2015
COLUMBIA — Anthony Sherrils volunteered first.

He and hundreds of fellow Missouri student-athletes had just sat through a panel hosted by Men4Men, a Missouri athletics initiative that holds one event per semester. All male Tiger athletes are required to attend. The event took place in the lounge area of club seating at Memorial Stadium, where fans pay big to watch guys like Sherrils play. But this event wasn’t for fans. It was for athletes to listen and learn and discuss their feelings. The topic of the panel, as it was advertised on a flier handed out to the athletes: Why are race and racism so hard to discuss?

When the time came for an open discussion among athletes, Sherrils spoke for about five minutes, according to another Missouri athlete at the meeting who remembers Sherrils telling his peers that he felt steered toward an easier degree because he’s a black student-athlete. His comments kicked off a discussion that, at times, became contentious. An hour into the discussion, Missouri football’s strength coach, Pat Ivey, told the athletes they were having a good conversation. Ivey told them to take action.

“That’s where it first came to our mind, some of the things that were going on.”

Sherrils and his roommate, wide receiver J’Mon Moore, went home that night and talked about the culture at MU, according to Sherrils. They considered becoming more involved with the general student body. “That’s where it first came to our mind, some of the things that were going on,” Moore said. “There was kind of a snowball effect after that.”

That was Oct. 26. Nine days later, on Nov. 4, Moore was driving his car past picturesque Mel Carnahan Quadrangle when a small village of tents and nearby signs piqued his interest. So he parked his car. He walked to the tents and read the signs about a hunger strike. He met a graduate student named Jonathan Butler, who, as part of the student activist group Concerned Student 1950, refused to eat until then University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe resigned.

“That’s when I really got concerned,” Moore said of the first time he met Butler. The wide receiver said he made “some promises” to the man on the hunger strike.
And three days later, he and 29 other black Missouri football players announced over Twitter that they were boycotting all football activities until the president resigned. A local story became a national one, and by now you probably know how it played out. Missouri coach Gary Pinkel tweeted a photo that Sunday showing the Tigers — both black and white — in solidarity. Wolfe resigned Monday. And Butler ate. The Tigers resumed football activities after missing only one practice and then beat Brigham Young in Kansas City a week after announcing their boycott.

Through it all, the power of today’s black student-athlete emerged. Black athletes constitute much of the rosters in the revenue college sports, football and basketball, and their actions carry serious weight.

Still, they exist in a separate orbit from other students. Their experiences — both as being black and as athletes — differentiate their lifestyles. It’s these differences that have made black athletes influential but often unwilling candidates to show defiance. Until now. The Tigers risked their status as Southeastern Conference football players and threatened forfeiting a game.

Why now?

On the day Wolfe resigned and the football boycott ended, athletics director Mack Rhoades met with Missouri student-athletes from multiple sports at Hearnes Center. Athletes asked questions about the boycott. Defensive end Charles Harris answered some of them, according to an athlete at the meeting. Earlier that day, Harris stood on the south quadrangle in front of the Concerned Student 1950 encampment and said what the Tigers had done was a testament to the power all student-athletes hold. At Hearnes, a female golfer asked Harris why the players needed to get rid of Wolfe — who was, if nothing else, a casualty to the athletics department’s message that the boycott would continue until Butler ate.

The athlete at the meeting remembers Harris saying the boycott wasn’t about Wolfe, it was about addressing a systemic issue. The athlete remembers Harris' next comment vividly: “If you cut the head off,” Harris told his fellow student-athletes, “the whole dragon will fall.”

'You feel like a foreigner, an alien on campus'
The assignment seemed simple. Inoffensive. Scott Brooks told his introduction to black studies class to go to Memorial Student Union, a hub for campus activity, and observe. Take notes of what’s going on around you, the way people interact.

Brooks is an associate professor of sociology at MU. He also is black. This assignment came during the Fall 2012 semester, his first at the university. He had two football players in his class, and when he sent his students out for the exercise, the players — including one whom Brooks said most people on campus would recognize — sat next to each other in one spot of the student union. Brooks could sense they were reluctant to truly put themselves out there.

After the observation period ended, Brooks huddled with his class. “Man, I didn’t like this,” the recognizable player said. “You had us go in there, and we look like a bunch of inner city kids from the Y on a field trip.” He told Brooks students looked at him and his teammate uncomfortably. Some moved their tables and bags away from the pair. It didn’t matter that the players wore their team’s logo; students in Memorial Student Union treated them like other black students.

“You had us go in there, and we look like a bunch of inner city kids from the Y on a field trip.”

“Don’t you find it interesting that you’re being cheered by 50,000 plus, (and) here we are today and you feel like a foreigner, an alien on campus?” Brooks asked the player. “You got a slice of life of what a regular black student goes through, and now you’re offended? You’ve had this privileged status.”

There are markers that separate black athletes from other black students. Official team gear. Backpacks with name tags. Access to resources — such as a weight room and cafeteria at the Mizzou Athletics Training Complex — other students don’t get to use. And often that’s enough to create a significant difference between the experience of black athletes and nonathletes on campus. The disgruntled football player in Brooks’ class typically didn’t go to the student union because it wasn’t part of his routine as an athlete. When he left his element, he became exposed to the realities of black students.
The seeming lack of awareness to this reality, or general lack of exposure to it, is athletic privilege. It’s not that black athletes don’t encounter racism — they just don’t encounter it as “intensely,” Brooks said. Football players also experience hero worship, which makes it easier to deal with racial slights or micro-aggressions. When a store employee not-so-discreetly checks on a black athlete in an aisle or when someone makes a racial slur, these actions aren't enough to prompt activism, typically. Black student-athletes tend to care more about protecting their "most salient identity" — their athlete identity, Brooks said.

Brooks and Harry Edwards, a University of California-Berkeley sociologist who’s one of the first to study the sociology of sport, said black athletes experience two realities. A mostly white crowd of 70,000 at Memorial Stadium might revere a black man for catching a touchdown on a Saturday. A cop might pull over that same black man on Sunday for a phony reason while he’s driving down Providence Road. The bubble around athletes is not all-encompassing, Edwards said.

Moore said 95 percent of the student-athlete's time is spent on football. It's an environment filled with athletic privilege. Also, causing a stir and drawing attention to yourself takes courage — the courage to jeopardize what means most to many big-time athletes: winning games and getting noticed by professional scouts.

But something gave the Tigers an itch.

When captain Ian Simon delivered a statement on behalf of his teammates the day Wolfe resigned, he showed an awareness of his athlete privilege. “Though we don't experience everything the general student body does, and our struggles may look different at times,” he said, “we are all Concerned Student 1950.”

'Athletes are growing into their voice and into the power'

When Missouri football players refused to take the field, they began a new chapter in athletic activism, one that emphasizes the power athletes — and black athletes in particular — hold in the sporting world.
Missouri’s brief boycott is the latest and perhaps most forceful example of athlete activism in recent years.

Athlete activism

The Miami Heat posed wearing hoods after Florida teenager Trayvon Martin was shot and killed while wearing a hooded sweatshirt in 2012. The Los Angeles Clippers refused to wear the team’s warm-up shirts after team owner Donald Sterling made racist comments caught on audiotape in 2014. St. Louis Rams players took the field with their hands in the air to signify “Hands up, don’t shoot,” after the death of Ferguson teen Michael Brown earlier that year.

Those actions have drawn attention to the topic of racism, but they haven’t resulted in measurable change.

Missouri’s players, according to people who study athletics and organized labor, upped the ante for coming generations of athletes because the Tigers’ boycott transcended symbolism. It provided an ultimatum and backed administrators into a corner. It’s a lesson in leverage other teams can follow.

Missouri athletes, without the formal ties of organized labor, harnessed a union’s power when they threatened a boycott, said Kain Colter, a former Northwestern quarterback who led his football team’s unsuccessful push for unionization in 2014.

“When you have a bunch of the black athletes stand up for something and threatening to boycott,” he said, “it really can take a big hit.”

At Missouri, the Concerned Student 1950 group, which began with 11 black students, demonstrated on behalf of graduate students’ rights and the university's severed ties to Planned Parenthood. It fought anti-Semitism after someone drew a swastika with human feces on a dormitory bathroom wall. Jonathan Butler started his hunger strike. Concerned Student 1950 slowly gained recognition and support, and once the football team joined the cause, it reached a new level of empowerment.
Suddenly, when the football team boycotted, the stakes rose. On the line for MU was lost ticket sales, concession and merchandise sales, a possible $1 million cancellation fee owed to BYU and, most importantly, a reputation.

Now that college sports are so high-profile and lucrative, players have the ability to generate waves. In 1970, a group of black football players at Syracuse University — known as the Syracuse Eight — boycotted for equal treatment from the coaching staff. The result of that boycott was the university admitting the players had reason to gripe. But not much changed.

Activism in athletics is nothing new, of course. Jackie Robinson broke baseball’s color barrier in 1947. Muhammad Ali crusaded for civil rights inside and outside the ring. At the 1968 Olympics, American track stars Tommie Smith and John Carlos extended gloved fists into the air on the medal podium in solidarity with the civil rights movement. Black football players from Wyoming in 1969 were kicked off of the team for asking to wear black armbands during a game against BYU — a form a protest against The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ then-policy preventing black men from being priests.

“You have to do something. You didn’t want it. You didn’t call for it. But it is such a profound moment that you must take action — and that’s what we did.”

“There’s a time in everybody’s life … where you are faced with something so monumental that you cannot do nothing,” said Mel Hamilton, a member of the Wyoming Black 14. “You have to do something. You didn’t want it. You didn’t call for it. But it is such a profound moment that you must take action — and that’s what we did.”

These moments in the larger civil rights movement provided mentors for modern athletic activists such as LeBron James or Kain Colter or Missouri’s J’Mon Moore. The atmosphere for activists today appears far more receptive.

“I think this is a new age,” said Ellen Staurowsky, a professor of sports management at Drexel University in Philadelphia. “Athletes are growing into their voice and into the power that they have available to mobilize in ways that help their communities.”
A half-century ago, the NCAA enacted legislation that helped police athletes amid social unrest. In 1967, it passed an act that allowed for an athletic scholarship to be taken away if a player quit the team. In 1973, in response to the introduction of women’s sports as part of Title IX, the number of football scholarships was capped for the first time, and scholarships were limited to one year.

Leverage was in the schools’ hands, so athletes were quiet for a while. They played by the rules of the NCAA and its powerful institutions. Even if those rules made life uncomfortable.

'That's the way most athletes deal with it. We stick with our athlete group' Keyon Dooling didn’t have white friends. He barely knew white people. More than 80 percent of the residents in his ZIP code within Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is black, according to U.S. Census figures.

In his junior year at Fort Lauderdale High School, someone shouted the N-word at him from the window of a moving car.

A day before he left for college at MU, where he became a star basketball player, police at a shopping mall accused him and some friends of trespassing and stealing. When a friend argued with the officers, Dooling says, they beat up the group and threw them out of the mall.

Then in 1998, he came to Columbia, a city that was roughly 80 percent white. Instead of trying to meet new people when he arrived at college, Dooling retreated to the athletic bubble. He roomed with a basketball teammate, and he only left the dorm to go to class in the mornings or to Hearnes Center in the afternoon for practice and training. He stayed there to do his homework, receive medical treatment and watch film. Then he went home.

Dooling didn’t hang around the general campus. Too many white faces, or, more accurately, too few faces that looked like his own.
“I isolated,” said Dooling, who later enjoyed a 13-year NBA career. “That’s the way most athletes deal with it. We stick with our athlete group. We miss out on those relationships with the business people and other friends and people that can help us get to the next level because we don’t want to deal with all that.

“It’s not until we finish playing and the athlete career is over that we realize how disconnected we are.”

After a year of college, he finally developed relationships with his white teammates. He says now they changed his life. He started eating team dinners with them and going out with them on the weekends. He met their friends and families and introduced them to his. Some freshmen come to college knowing a university is a place for cultural exchange, to challenge preconceived notions of race, religion, social class and more. Dooling didn’t take part in that until late in his sophomore year.

Then he left for the NBA.

By the time he was ready to see outside the athletic bubble, the college sports world had “cycled him out,” he said.

Dooling’s experiences are typical for athletes.

“What coaches have done is to deem everything that is outside of football and athletics as a distraction,” said James Satterfield Jr., a Clemson University professor who studies race and sport. “So in a sense, what has happened is your athletic life has become your social life.”

College sports shouldn’t be that way, said Dooling, who now works for the NBA advising current players on finances, mental health and life after the game. Sports are about inclusion, he said, and they breed great leaders because of qualities inherent to the game. It makes sense that athletes are progressive and forward-looking, that they wield social power and can command the winds of change. That’s hard to do in college, though, with such a thick barrier between athlete and student-athlete.
Slowly, athletes are beginning to realize their own power and influence. And they’re getting more protection; conferences and schools are shifting back to four-year scholarships.

The gain in power, experts say, coincides with the rise of social media — something that wasn’t around in Dooling’s days. Players might live in a bubble, but that bubble, thanks to social media, is somewhat plugged into the outside world.

Consider how Missouri’s black football players first announced their boycott: on Twitter.

'In a very, very regulated environment, (social media) provides that one potential window into the outside world'

Social media now keeps players more aware of their campus surroundings. It makes athletes more accessible than ever before. It pokes holes through the barriers that athletics departments erect to separate athletes from “distractions.”

“There’s other ways that you’re harvesting and collecting information,” Staurowsky, the Drexel professor, said. “In a very, very regulated environment, (social media) provides that one potential window into the outside world.”

Many Missouri football players are active on social media, which allows them a view of MU and Columbia, even if they don’t experience it close up.

That’s how the football team and Concerned Student 1950 united.

After Moore met with Jonathan Butler and other protest group leaders, Concerned Student 1950 received even more exposure on Twitter.

Tweets mentioning the group’s hashtag reached 5.5 million users’ timelines through the duration of the seven-day hunger strike, according to data from the online service Hashtracking. Butler gained 10,000 followers on Twitter.
While football players convened to decide whether to boycott, their social media profiles were flooded with messages in support of Concerned Student 1950, players said.

And on Nov. 7, when black players announced their strike, they did so by tweeting out a photo and brief message, which is telling, academics say, because the players used the medium of communication that best connects both the athletics’ universe and the students’ world.

'We have a big journey ahead of us'

The Missouri vs. BYU game was significant for its surrounding story lines. Missouri’s 20-16 win over BYU in Kansas City happened a day after Pinkel announced that he has a form of lymphoma cancer and he will retire after the season. And it was seven days after the Missouri team announced its boycott.

The Tigers played and snapped a four-game losing streak. They mobbed their coach during a postgame interview. The stadium chanted his name. The 63-year-old Pinkel couldn’t help but smile and dance.

After the game, there were still questions about the brief protest.

"It’s about bringing awareness to a cause that has plagued our country."

“It’s not really about power,” Missouri defensive end Walter Brady said. “It’s about bringing awareness to a cause that has plagued our country. We were able to make some changes, as far as society goes, we have a great deal, a big journey ahead of us.”

Multiple Tigers said they now feel more connected to the general student body after the boycott. Simon said he and teammates must continue to bridge the gap.

Simon, Sherrils, Harris and Moore all plan to remain involved with Concerned Student 1950. Their focus has returned to football, they said, but they’re willing to help as they can. They’ll use their platform when needed and stay informed of campus issues.
That’s the next step, said Edwards, the sociology professor at California-Berkeley: Black athletes assimilate more and more into the black student body rather than simply helicoptering into an issue. They become part of a movement. They broker power and demand a meeting with a university president if they wish.

“It’s inescapable,” Edwards said, “and everyone is going to have to make the adjustment.”

What happened on campus this month might be the start.

“We just weren’t aware of a lot of the things that were going on,” Moore, speaking after the BYU game, said about the Tigers’ response to Missouri’s race issues. “Once we got aware, we just stood for it. We had a belief. We came together as a team and made that belief stronger.”

The wide receiver stepped off the media room podium, off his platform. Back to the locker room. Back to football.

With football, black athletes are powerful. Without football, maybe even more so.

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Policing free speech at the University of Missouri

By NOAH FELDMAN

Sunday, November 22, 2015 at 12:00 am

At the embattled University of Missouri, where the president and chancellor have stepped down, university police sent students an email urging them to call and report if they “witness incidents of hateful and/or hurtful speech.” The email urged witnesses to provide descriptions of the speakers and, if safe, snap pictures of them with their phones.

The First Amendment applies at a state university campus, and those who speak hatefully or hurtfully can’t be criminally punished. But they can be penalized or expelled if they create an environment that’s hostile on the basis of race or sex. There’s a serious tension between these interests, and the Missouri
email raises a pressing question: Does the use of campus police to enforce anti-discrimination advance the goal of knowledge or detract from it?

The legal issues follow from those I wrote about in March when the University of Oklahoma expelled two fraternity members for leading a racist chant. On the one hand is the First Amendment, which guarantees free speech against state actors like a public university. On the other hand are federal laws that, as interpreted by the Department of Education, require the university to ensure it isn’t a racially or sexually hostile educational environment. In practice, that certainly requires regulating some harassing, discriminatory speech.

Reconciling the tension between these laws isn’t easy. The prevailing theory that allows the government to outlaw discriminatory speech acts is that the government isn’t actually prohibiting speech. It’s prohibiting a course of conduct, namely discrimination. Discrimination can be accomplished by a range of means, one of which is speech.

There’s not much case law to clarify the right way for courts to think about this analysis. At one time, campus anti-discrimination provisions would have only had to satisfy “intermediate scrutiny,” meaning that any rule must serve an important government interest and use means substantially related to achieving it. The reasoning would have been that these laws are aimed at conduct and burden speech only incidentally.

But in a hugely important 2010 case, Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project, the U.S. Supreme Court said it would apply “more rigorous scrutiny” to laws that are aimed at conduct but are applied to speech. Arguably this special standard should be applied to campus regulations that punish racist or sexist speech. The government’s interest would have to be more significant and the means more closely tailored to achieving it.

The courts will no doubt have to address these issues. Until they do, the current practice on many public university campuses will no doubt be to enforce anti-discrimination regulation rigorously.

That brings us to the question of whether the campus police are the right people to do that job. One of the issues that drove the protests at Missouri was a student leader’s description of having been assailed with racial epithets while walking across campus.

No doubt the decision by the police to enforce a nonhostile educational environment is intended to send students the message that the university takes such hostile speech acts seriously and will deal with them rigorously. This intention can only be described as laudable.

Nevertheless, there’s surely reason for some concern about the use of campus police, who are state actors at a public university, to enforce regulations that directly affect speech. A spokesman for the University of Missouri police told Reason.com that the police can’t arrest anyone for discriminatory speech but can “take reports for violations of rules and regulations.” The campus police are employees of the university.

That distinction is legally correct but might be confusing to a student accosted by uniformed officers. In general, campus police have the power to make arrests, at least while on campus. In this sense they are real police — genuine agents of state power.

Given this unique status of campus police, it’s hard to avoid the conclusion that the approach described in the email might chill some legitimate free speech.
Imagine, if you will, student protesters who are in support of the university administrators who have resigned. Imagine that, at an on-campus protest, they say things that are “hateful and/or hurtful” to students of color. Following the guidance of the police email, other students are encouraged to take pictures of the protesters and report them to the campus police. The campus police then arrive to investigate and take reports to see if the speech has created a hostile educational environment.

In this scenario, the protesters might very plausibly decide they should shut up and shut down. The fact that their words would almost certainly be protected political speech under the First Amendment might be of secondary importance to them, concerned as they might be about approaching campus police. This hypothetical would represent a pretty clear example of chilling — which is a real First Amendment concern.

The University of Missouri has a responsibility under the law to keep its educational environment nonhostile. But if it insists on using police to achieve that goal, it should be extremely careful to respect free-speech rights in the process. The university should specifically train officers in respecting free speech, announce its policies and be transparent about the training to the campus community.

Noah Feldman, a Bloomberg View columnist, is a professor of constitutional and international law at Harvard.

Safe spaces for hypocrisy: The dangerous sensitivity double-standards at play on America's college campuses

Student activists recently staged protests at Dartmouth University library, both to demonstrate against the vandalism of a Black Lives Matter display, and to show solidarity with similar initiatives held on various college campuses.

Activists verbally harassed onlookers, shouting racially charged epithets and expletive-laden slogans at students who were trying to study. And while Dartmouth administrators have dismissed reports of physical violence, there is no doubt that the tone of protests on college campuses has grown increasingly vitriolic. Two weeks ago, for example, protesters allegedly spat on attendees of an event at Yale held to highlight the importance of free speech.

One of the central demands repeated by protesters at campuses across the country has been for university administrators to transform campuses into “safe spaces,” where students are protected not only from
physical violence but also from ideas that they find threatening or offensive. However, the “safe spaces” envisioned by these protesters seem to matter only when the interests of those who share their political persuasions are affected.

There has been conspicuously little attention paid to incidents of anti-Semitism reported, for example, at Hunter College, where students supportive of Israel were chased away from a rally blaming high tuition fees on “Zionist administrators,” and where protestors shouted “Zionists out of CUNY” (the City University of New York), by which they meant Jews.

At Vassar, Jewish students have repeatedly stated that they feel forced to self-censor pro-Israel views out of fear of retribution from peers and faculty alike. This year in a survey at Vassar, students responded that it was best not to advertise that you were Jewish on campus. At UC-Berkeley and the University of Texas, Jewish students have been frightened by shouts of “Long live the Intifada.” The Intifada they were referencing involved the stabbing of Jews.

Where are the cries for safe spaces for Jewish students faced with such blatant intimidation?

Instead, “safe spaces” rhetoric has been used by students to insulate themselves from ideas that they deem offensive. Last spring at Columbia, the Multicultural Affairs Advisory Board objected to the inclusion of material by the Roman Poet Ovid on the ground that “like so many texts in the Western Canon, it contains triggering and offensive material that marginalizes student identities in the classroom.” Last month, an event hosted by a student-group at Williams College called Uncomfortable Learning, was cancelled due to security concerns when protestors subjected organizers to severe online abuse.

Most recently, “safe spaces” activists demanded that a Yale residential hall administrator resign for daring to suggest that banning certain Halloween costumes might raise a freedom of speech issue, and that the university should not act as a heavy-handed censor.

At Smith, meanwhile, students successfully pushed administrators to ban reporters from covering a protest, unless they expressed support for the Black Lives Matters agenda.

The hypocrisy of protestors demanding protection from potentially offensive ideas while simultaneously insulting and harassing people who fail to demonstrate adequate levels of enthusiasm for their agenda should be obvious to all. But too few university administrators and faculty call out these hypocritical students for their double standard.

Let’s be clear: All students should be made to feel physically safe on campus. They should also be protected from verbal abuse. Colleges should attempt to foster an inclusive and tolerant environment that allows individuals of varied backgrounds to feel comfortable discussing a wide range of intellectual, social and political topics.

As such, school administrators should condemn racist incidents, such as those that occurred at the University of Missouri. They should address allegations of anti-Semitic abuse at places like CUNY and Vassar with equal seriousness.

Students subjected to abuse or intimidation should be offered support services, and that may even entail setting aside “safe spaces” where they can find peace and quiet, access peer support groups and counseling services.
However, such safe spaces must not be extended to campuses as a whole. Classrooms in particular must not become intellectually sterile environments, where ideas are subjected to censorship based on the fact that they make some students feel uncomfortable. To the contrary, universities should foster discussions of controversial ideas, subversive ideas, ideas that provoke and challenge students to question their beliefs and preconceptions. That process is central to learning and intellectual progress more generally. Safe spaces rhetoric must not be allowed to undermine it.

Dershowitz is a professor emeritus at Harvard Law School and is author of “Abraham: The World's First (But Certainly Not Last) Jewish Lawyer”

College presidents defend importance of free speech

Nov. 22 • By MICHAEL MELIA

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — As debates about race and other social issues flare on campuses, college presidents are increasingly intervening to draw a line when cultural sensitivity conflicts with freedom of speech.

At schools including Yale, Williams College and Wesleyan University, leaders have in recent weeks taken steps to assert the importance of the free expression of ideas, even those that some might find objectionable.

School presidents reject critics' portrayals of today's college students as coddled and overprotected, but some say students arrive in need of help learning to engage others with contrary opinions. In their responses to barriers that go up around some discussions, they say they strive to keep conversations going, often reminding students that a commitment to free speech is part of building an inclusive campus.

At Williams, a liberal arts school in western Massachusetts, President Adam Falk expressed frustration when a student group last month canceled a speaking invitation for writer Suzanne Venker, a critic of feminism. Picking up on a theme from a convocation address earlier in the semester, he wrote to the campus community that learning cannot occur without exposure to a wide range of ideas.

"I think that our students, probably more so than previous generations, come to college having been marinated in a media environment that does not foster productive conservation across disagreements," Falk said in an interview. "That means it is even more important that colleges find ways to work with students to teach them that and to model that for them."

A recent wave of campus protests nationwide has brought new attention to the issue, with some civil liberties advocates fretting that it will erode free speech. The protests, including those that led to the
Ouster of the University of Missouri's president, also have added to the pressure on presidents to be responsive to students' demands.

But institution leaders say it is nothing new for them to navigate First Amendment conflicts, with more cropping up with this generation in particular on campuses that are generally far more diverse than their communities at home.

Wesleyan's president, Michael Roth, wrote a piece defending free speech in September after the student government moved to cut funding for the student newspaper over an op-ed piece on the Black Lives Matter movement. In an interview, he said the fact that some do not value free speech above all things is not a sign of a problem, but rather reflects one of many continuing debates on a diverse campus.

"As a president, I think it's pretty simple," Roth said. "You want to keep the conversation going so that you can learn from other people's views, but you also want to make sure you're learning and not just spinning your wheels."

Still, Roth said he was asked this week by students how he could defend both the student newspaper and students protesting racism.

A similar debate has played out at Brown University, where President Christina Paxson criticized the student newspaper over columns that the editors themselves deemed racist after they were published. While some faculty members said the administration's actions suggested it wants student editors to suppress all opinion pieces that could be deemed offensive, others have argued that calling out racism does not encroach upon freedom of speech.

At Yale, the question of speech loomed over protests by students calling for a more inclusive campus after some seized on a residential college administrator's defense of stereotypical Halloween attire such as Native American headpieces. Yale President Peter Salovey promised changes this week but insisted the university's work does not conflict with its commitment to free speech, which he said is "unshakeable."

Falk said all college presidents are seeking the best strategies to keep people on campus engaging with each other productively.

"Any gathering of college presidents, no matter what the topic, turns into a conversation about these issues," he said.

GUEST COMMENTARY: Law v. ethics: Journalists often face difficult decisions

SANDY DAVIDSON, Nov 22, 2015
In many situations, the law gives journalists a green light for reporting news, but ethics might flash a red light. The First Amendment gives journalists room to exercise freedom of ethical choice.

Getting the story is not the sole goal for ethical journalists. A get-the-story-at-any-cost journalist arguably falls into the same moral category as the ambulance-chasing lawyer. Thoughtful journalists may sometimes choose restraint. But journalists must often weigh a multitude of factors.

Here are a few examples where law says to journalists, “Yes, you may,” but ethics might say, “No, you really shouldn’t.”

Naming rape victims: Twice, in 1975 and 1989, the U.S. Supreme Court decided cases where state laws said media cannot legally name rape victims. Both times the Court said media can name them.

Covering court cases: Anything said in open court may be repeated by the media. In cases of incest, for example, media can both use graphic testimony by victims and name defendants. Some local media used to do both, but now local newspapers have chosen not to name such defendants if that in effect identifies their victims.

Using pictures of dead bodies: In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court let stand Kentucky’s ruling that the Louisville Courier-Journal did not violate privacy law by publishing a picture of Ricky Barger’s body. Barger died when a former employee of the press building adjacent to the newspaper barged in and opened fire with an AK-47. Eight people died, and another dozen were wounded. In the picture, Barger lay with his back across the press, his shirt open and bullet wounds visible on his stomach. His family sued. Kentucky ruled that though the picture might be “highly offensive to a reasonable person,” it was of “legitimate public concern.” In short, the picture was newsworthy, and the newspaper had a legal right to publish it.

Although newspapers can legally run even graphic pictures of dead bodies, many do not because of self-imposed ethical restraints.
What about taking pictures of Concerned Student 1950? Video shows a young man on Nov. 9 telling photographer Tim Tai that Tai has no right to take pictures of the students and their supporters.

Tai replies that he has a First Amendment right.

Tai was correct. The doctrine is called “standing in.” The journalist — or anybody else — may photograph anything that is out there in public that anybody else who happened to be there might see. People do not have a “reasonable expectation of privacy” when they are out in the public for others to see. So, if one is on a public street or sidewalk or in a public park or on Francis Quadrangle or Carnahan Quadrangle, one is fair game for photographers.

On the other hand, if someone makes an effort to create a zone of privacy, then that person sometimes does achieve a reasonable expectation of privacy. If a person pitches a tent in a public park or on Carnahan Quadrangle and then closes the tent flap, that person has created a barrier that others cannot see through without physically intruding — without opening the flap. Now the person in the tent is shielded from the view of somebody passing by and has some privacy from intrusion into seclusion.

Law recognizes that people can elevate their reasonable expectation of privacy. For example, federal wiretap law gives less protection to people making calls on cellphones, which use broadcast technology, than to people making calls on land lines.

In 1993, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decided United States v. Gooch, a criminal case about whether police needed a search warrant to search a tent pitched on public property. The court said: “We have already established that a person can have an objectively reasonable expectation of privacy in a tent on private property. ... This reasonable expectation is not destroyed when a person's tent is pitched instead on a public campground where one is legally permitted to camp.”

But anybody peeking out of or standing outside the tent, say, in a circle, has no reasonable expectation of privacy — at least from a legal perspective.
Now let’s change the viewpoint from a legal to a moral perspective. Although a demand of privacy in a public space such as Carnahan Quadrangle cannot be legally enforced, journalists can exercise restraint. Perhaps photojournalists should consider these questions:

- Am I intruding when other people want to be left alone?
- Should I give them space they desire?

Sometimes the answers may be “yes,” sometimes “no.” Journalists balance competing interests. Informing the public about newsworthy events and documenting history are noble goals. Are these goals important enough to ignore wishes to be let alone expressed by people the journalists want to cover?

Most photojournalists probably would take the pictures on Carnahan Quadrangle. If they fail to do so, the moment is lost. The public loses. History loses. Some degree of intrusion is necessary if the picture is to be taken.

If civil rights marchers crossing the bridge in Selma, Alabama, had shouted for photographers to quit taking pictures, would the photographers have done so? Think of the history lost if the photographers acquiesced. What happened on Carnahan Quadrangle is also historic.

The demand for privacy by the students and their supporters may well have stemmed from a distrust of the media — distrust based in part on past experiences where the media spun the story in ways the participants did not like. It can be hard to re-establish trust if that trust bond has been broken, and establishing trust sometimes takes more time than a photographer has.

Another consideration is whether there is any other way to capture the moment that will be less intrusive. What about taking a long-distance shot? Would the pictures be as good?

A solution that will suit both sides, photographers and protesters alike, seems unlikely in this scenario.
The law backs photographers’ rights. If one creates an historical moment in a public space, photojournalists arguably not only have a right but, from their perspective, a duty to document it.

Sandy Davidson is a professor at the Missouri School of Journalism and a Curators' Teaching Professor at MU. She also is an adjunct professor in the MU School of Law.

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**NOVEMBER 20, 2015**

College defends decision to restrict media at student sit-in

BY COLLIN BINKLEY Associated Press

BOSTON - Smith College on Friday defended its decision to ban media from a recent student sit-in unless reporters declared solidarity with the protesters.

The Northampton, Massachusetts, college said in a statement it wasn't notified in advance of the students' request. The demonstration, held at Smith's campus center, joined dozens across the U.S. calling for better treatment of minority students.

Staff members at the private women's school "were forced to make a decision in the moment," the statement said.

"On balance, as strongly as the college prefers to err on the side of a campus open to media, the students' opposition to it at their own event — which they had created and were hosting — was honored," according to the statement from Smith, a private, liberal-arts college of about 3,000 students.

The decision added fuel to a debate about the relationship between protesters and the media. Activists at other campuses have also
created "safe spaces" away from the media recently. In one case this month, protesters at the University of Missouri pushed journalists away from a public area of campus.

At Smith, one student told MassLive.com on Wednesday that "by taking a neutral stance, journalists and media are being complacent in our fight." The student, Alyssa Mata-Flores, a senior who helped organize the protest, didn't respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press.

In its statement, the college said it doesn't support restrictions on the media and that it doesn't ban media from public events. College spokeswoman Stacey Schmeidel said that, to her knowledge, no limits of that kind had ever been imposed on journalists at a student-run event at Smith.

Still, Schmeidel wouldn't say whether the college will continue to honor similar requests from students.

"I can't speak for what students might request in the future," she said in an email. "Like many colleges and universities, Smith plans to review its media access policies."

College defends decision to restrict media at student sit-in

November 20, 2015 3:18 pm  •  By COLLIN BINKLEY

BOSTON (AP) — Smith College is defending its decision to restrict media from a recent student sit-in unless reporters declared solidarity with the protesters.

A statement from the Northampton, Massachusetts, private women's college says organizers of the Wednesday protest asked on short notice to keep reporters out unless they expressed solidarity with the students. The protesters joined others across the country demonstrating in support of black students.
The college says it prefers to open its campus to media but honored the request because students organized the event. It says it doesn't ban media from public events, but a spokeswoman won't say if it will honor similar requests in the future.

Protesters at the University of Missouri and other schools have similarly tried to block media from recent events.

Columbia Fire Department responses to chemical spill on MU campus


COLUMBIA, Mo. — UPDATE: Christian Basi with MU says the chemistry building has been cleared and people are allowed back in.

This incident started when students were doing an experiment and a small amount of Phosphorus-32 was spilled.

The students initiated their safety protocols after the spill. The environmental, health and safety group cleaned up the spill.

ORIGINAL STORY: Emergency personnel are responding to a hazmat situation in the Chemistry Building on the University of Missouri campus.

According to University spokesman Christian Basi, there was a chemical spill in the building, but he wasn't sure what it was.

Basi said he wasn't aware of any injuries due to the spill, but the building was evacuated.

KRCG 13 has a crew on the way to the scene.
Small chemical spill temporarily closes MU building

Sunday, November 22, 2015 at 12:00 am

University of Missouri Environmental Health and Safety personnel on Saturday morning temporarily evacuated MU’s chemistry building after a small chemical spill.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said researchers in the building were conducting an experiment when they spilled a small amount of phosphorous-32, a radioactive isotope.

“They immediately instituted safety protocol and contacted the Environmental Health and Safety office on campus,” Basi said.

The Environmental Health and Safety crew closed off the room and evacuated the building, Basi said. He was not sure how many people were in the building at the time but said fewer than four people were involved in the experiment that created the spill.

Within two hours, the spill had been cleaned up and the building was safe for people to re-enter, Basi said.

Columbia Fire Department Responds to Chemical Spill at MU

JUSTIN L. STEWART, Nov 21, 2015

The Columbia Fire Department and Environmental Health and Safety team responded to a chemical spill of the radioactive chemical Phosphorus-32 at MU’s Chemistry building.

Christian Basi, spokesperson for the MU News Bureau, said that no one was injured in the spill and that proper safety protocols were followed immediately after. Basi said the chemical is commonly used to track chemical reactions, and the spill happened during an experiment. The building was evacuated in the morning, and Basi said they expected to have it cleared by about 1
p.m. Basi was unsure how many people were in the building when the spill happened or at what time it occurred.

Kansas professor on leave after using racial slur in class

November 21, 2015 1:27 pm

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — A white University of Kansas professor is on paid leave after using a racial slur during a class discussion about race.

The school told Andrea Quenette, an assistant professor of communication studies, on Friday that five people had filed a discrimination complaint against her, she told the Lawrence Journal-World (http://bit.ly/1SbhBhY). She requested a leave of absence, and the university says she will have to stay off campus during the administrative leave until the investigation is complete.

Students began complaining about Quenette after she used the racial slur during a Nov. 12 class for graduate students who teach undergraduate classes. The class met the day after a contentious university-wide forum on race and discrimination moderated by Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little.

The forum followed days of protests at the University of Missouri over concerns about the administration’s handling of racial issues and the subsequent resignations of the system president and chancellor of the Columbia campus.

Quenette, who is 33 and has been teaching at the university for two years, said that diversity in the classroom was on the syllabus, and a student asked how they could talk about race issues in their own classes. The conversation then shifted to how the university should address racial problems.

She said she pointed out that racist incidents on other campuses, including the University of Missouri's Columbia campus, have been very visible, and used the slur when comparing the University of Kansas to the other incidents. Quenette said she could have apologized "in the moment" if anyone had responded, but no one did, so she continued the discussion.

But Amy Schumacher, a first-year doctoral student who was in the class of nine white students and one black student, said most "just shut down" after Quenette's using the slur. Schumacher said she believes Quenette "actively violated policies" during the discussion, hurt students' feelings — including the one black student, who left "devastated" — and has a previous history of being unsympathetic to students.
Quenette is relieved of all teaching and service responsibilities, university spokesman Joe Monaco said. He said administrative leaves are often used "to address substantial disruptions to the learning environment or concerns about individuals' welfare" while investigations are underway.

Quenette said she hopes to secure an attorney to represent her.

She also said she believes academic freedom protects her comments and that they were not discriminatory.

"I didn't intend to offend anyone," she said. "I didn't intend to hurt anyone. I didn't direct my words at any individual or group of people."

A Class Implodes Over Race

Kansas professor is on leave after students complain over her use of n-word and her statements on retention. Situation is latest to raise issues of racial sensitivity and academic freedom.

November 23, 2015

By Scott Jaschik

Several administrators have lost their jobs in the last month amid campus protests over issues of race. Now a faculty member at the University of Kansas finds her job status uncertain after five graduate students filed complaints against her and organized a public campaign for her to be fired -- over comments she made in discussing recent campus protests.

The faculty member is Andrea M. Quenette, assistant professor of communication studies, who is now -- at her own request -- on paid leave, pending an investigation.

There is some dispute over exactly what she said in a course for graduate students about teaching undergraduates, but the discussion was about the recent protest movement of black students at Kansas and elsewhere.

An open letter calling for Quenette's dismissal says that she said: "As a white woman I just never have seen the racism. ... It's not like I see 'nigger' spray painted on walls. ..." Via email Quenette said that she did use the slur, but did so
in comparing the University of Kansas to the University of Missouri, where many students reported seeing and hearing the word -- and citing that as an example of the discrimination they face. Quenette stressed that she never directed the word at anyone and used it as an example of a slur, not to hurt anyone.

Quenette also raised questions about a complaint made by many black students at Kansas: that the discrimination they face is one reason why their graduation rates lag those of other groups. (According to the latest Education Department data, the six-year graduation rates at Kansas are 64 percent for Asian students, 61 percent for white students, 53 percent for Latino students and 45 percent for black students.)

While the exact phrasing is in dispute, Quenette and her critics agree that she questioned the discrimination explanation for the graduation rate variance, and said that academic preparedness might also be a cause.

Reaction to the class session was intense and immediate. Five students filed complaints with the university, charging Quenette with creating a hostile environment.

The students and others drafted an open letter detailing their view of what happened, as well as concerns that the students said they had prior to the recent class session that set off the controversy.

Here’s how the aftermath of the use of the n-word was described: "As you can imagine, this utterance caused shock and disbelief. Her comments that followed were even more disparaging as they articulated not only her lack of awareness of racial discrimination and violence on this campus and elsewhere but an active denial of institutional, structural and individual racism. This denial perpetuates racism in and of itself. After Ph.D. student Ian Beier presented strong evidence about low retention and graduation rates among black students as being related to racism and a lack of institutional support, Dr. Quenette responded with, 'Those students are not leaving school because they are physically threatened everyday but because of academic performance.' This statement reinforces several negative ideas: that violence against students of color is only physical, that students of color are less academically inclined and able, and that structural and institutional cultures, policies and support systems have no role in shaping academic outcomes. Dr. Quenette’s discourse was uncomfortable, unhelpful and blatantly discriminatory."

The letter goes on to say: "Dr. Quenette indicated that because she has not experienced or witnessed discrimination, it is not happening at KU. She asked for more evidence, and was dismissive of the multiple examples provided. These comments demonstrate not only an unwillingness to accept evidence contrary to her own ideas and experiences but also exemplify the dismissal and questioning of minority students’ experiences that has reinforced the very structural discrimination they seek to destroy by speaking up. These comments betray a lack of empathy and care for students of color who are facing academic struggles, which is particularly troubling for our incoming cohort of graduate teaching assistants as we are crafting our own teaching pedagogy."
Furthermore, it denies the necessity for social and academic institutional programs in support of disenfranchised students."

Quenette’s conduct was particularly troublesome, the letter said, because she was training graduate students to teach. "The goal of the course is to produce practitioners, so by imbuing racist language, remarks and viewpoints into the pedagogy her students were meant to replicate, Dr. Quenette was training us to perpetrate acts and ideas violating the policies of the university," the graduate students wrote.

"Therefore, her speech is not protected by the First Amendment and employer discipline for her remarks is not only legal, but necessary based on her breach of contract. We want to be absolutely clear that we will not attend this class, we will not accept being graded by Dr. Quenette … and we will not feel safe to learn and grow as teachers and scholars while under the supervision of Dr. Quenette."

The open letter's headline makes clear the students’ desired outcome: "An Open Letter Calling for the Termination of Dr. Andrea Quenette for Racial Discrimination."

Critics of Quenette followed with a Twitter hashtag#FireAndreaQuenette, although many of those posting there are defending her comments as free expression covered by academic freedom. Twitter is also being used to promote a crowd-funding campaign to help her with expected legal expenses. As of Sunday afternoon, $2,878 had been raised, with many people posting notes that Quenette's academic freedom should protect her rights to offer the opinions she shared in the class.

In an email interview, Quenette said she requested the leave because "I felt uncomfortable coming to campus and concerned about what people might say or do to me while in the department." (According to a university spokesman, the leave means that she is relieved of all teaching and service responsibilities and is to remain off campus while the situation is investigated.)

"I believe academic freedom is an important issue in this situation," Quenette said. "This topic was already the focus of the readings in class for this day, and issues of race and discrimination are current issues our campus is focusing on. I did not call anyone this word, nor did I use it to refer to any individual or group. Rather, I was retelling a factual example about an issue elsewhere."

She added, "Later in the discussion we discussed low graduation rates for African-American students at KU. I was trying to point out that there are a number of factors that contribute to graduate rate statistics for all students, among them varying levels of academic preparedness. The university needs to identify ways to provide additional academic support for students who may need greater resources to be successful. I believe it is well within the purview of my job to discuss these issues and indeed, it was related to the focus of the class for the day. My words were not intended to hurt anyone but rather to make a larger point that the solutions to race and diversity issues on our campus must directly address the specific problems our campus faces."
Asked if she had anything to add, Quenette said, "Classrooms should be spaces for everyone to discuss issues openly and honestly, to make mistakes, to learn and to grow."

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**Jefferson Is Next Target**

At University of Missouri and William & Mary, some place notes on statues honoring the author of Declaration of Independence, calling him a rapist and a racist.

November 23, 2015

By

**Scott Jaschik**

In the last week, Princeton University students who object to having Woodrow Wilson's name on an academic unit and a residential college occupied the president's office and left only when promised that the university would review its use of the Wilson name. The students pointed out that Wilson was a racist who, as president of the United States, had federal government agencies segregated, reversing progress toward civil rights for black people. Many observers have wondered which historical figure honored on American campuses would next capture critical attention.

The answer appears to be Thomas Jefferson. At both the University of Missouri at Columbia and the College of William & Mary, critics have been placing yellow sticky notes on Jefferson statues, labeling him -- among other things -- "rapist" and "racist."

Once again, students are raising the question of whether men seen as heroes in American history were decidedly unheroic when it came to issues of race -- and black students are demanding that colleges consider the impact of various honors for people whom they do not consider heroes. While Princeton has said it is considering the issue of the Wilson name, which could well remain, the student protest movement has led to widespread discussion of Wilson's record on race, which even fans of his idealistic internationalist vision admit was horrible. Publications such as Vox and Salon are
running articles detailing just how bad Wilson was with regard to issues of race -- and giving prominence to a part of the historical record many have never considered.

How will colleges respond to questions about the prominent place some institutions give Jefferson?

At William & Mary, Jefferson's alma mater, the notes on the statue just appeared, without an individual or group claiming responsibility or formally asking for the statue to be removed. Officials have noted that the protest has not actually damaged the statue, so they are not treating the incident like vandalism.

"A university setting is the very place where civil conversations about difficult and important issues should occur. Nondestructive sticky notes are a form of expression compatible with our tradition of free expression," said a spokesperson via email.

Students have been debating the issues raised by the notes on social media and in columns in the student paper.

At Missouri, the Jefferson statue became an issue last month as tensions were rising over a range of issues raised by black students, who cited incidents of racial harassment as well as campus culture issues, such as the prominence given to a Jefferson statue.

A petition is circulating calling for the statue to be removed. The petition notes the history of Jefferson's involvement with slavery. "Thomas Jefferson's statue sends a clear nonverbal message that his values and beliefs are supported by the University of Missouri. Jefferson's statue perpetuates a sexist-racist atmosphere that continues to reside on campus," the petition says.

College Republicans countered with a #standwithJeffersonhashtag on Twitter, demanding that the statue remain in place. Defenders of the statue have also draped an American flag around it (at right) for events at the site of the monument.

As Missouri and William & Mary are dealing with statues, there are of course institutions where Jefferson has an even greater presence. While black students at the University of Virginia, like their counterparts on many other campuses, have been pushing a range of issues, there has not been a public debate on Jefferson's role on campus, in light of the recent discussions elsewhere.

The conservative blogosphere has widely mocked the student campaigns against honors for various historic figures, including Jefferson.

The Scholarly View

Scholars of Jefferson and his record on race and slavery have been watching the debate with great interest. There is no consensus among researchers on whether
Jefferson's accomplishments (the Declaration of Independence and his advocacy for religious toleration, among others) are outweighed by a record on race and slavery that many argue wasn't just bad, but was bad even for his time. Scholars have a range of views on whether Jefferson statues and other honors should be reconsidered, but they generally agree that the public doesn't know enough about Jefferson's poor record on issues of race.

Paul Finkelman, author of Slavery and the Founders: Race and Liberty in the Age of Jefferson (Routledge), said that he couldn't judge how colleges should deal with Jefferson statues, but he said the history is clear.

"I don't think you go around honoring people for behavior that was truly awful, and Jefferson's relationship with slavery and race was truly awful, even from his own times," Finkelman said. "This is not looking back from now," he stressed.

Finkelman, a senior fellow at the University of Pennsylvania Program on Democracy, Citizenship and Constitutionalism and the Ariel F. Sallows Visiting Professor of Human Rights Law at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law, compared Jefferson to George Washington.

"George Washington ceased using white overseers to manage his plantations before he became president," and gave the positions to slaves "as a prelude to emancipating them in his will," Finkelman said. Jefferson never took such a step. "Washington famously said that he did not take men to the market like cattle, but Jefferson sold nearly 100 slaves in the 1790s," Finkelman said.

Henry Wiencek, author of Master of the Mountain: Thomas Jefferson and His Slaves (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), said via email that his approach to the issue of statues and other honors for Jefferson (as well as Wilson and others) would be based on a Jefferson quote: "The earth belongs to the living."

Explained Wiencek: "If the rising generation finds the actions of these men to be repugnant, then the new generation has the right to demand the removal of memorials to them. There should be informed and reasoned discussion and debate -- universities are the ideal forum. Let the defenders of the memorials make their case on behalf of the enslavers."

Annette Gordon-Reed, a professor of history and the Charles Warren Professor of American Legal History at Harvard Law School, is the author of two books -- Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy (University of Virginia Press) and The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family (W. W. Norton) -- that have criticized previous generations of scholars for ignoring evidence or downplaying the story of Jefferson's relationship with one of his slaves.

Via email, Gordon-Reed said that she didn't think Jefferson statues should be taken down. Further, she said it is important to distinguish Jefferson (whatever his record on
slavery) from figures associated with the Confederacy or Jim Crow, for whom there may not be any reason for honors on campuses to continue.

"I understand why some people think his statues should be removed, but not all controversial figures of the past are created equal," Gordon-Reed said. "I think Jefferson’s contributions to the history of the United States outweigh the problems people have with aspects of his life. He is just too much a part of the American story … to pretend that he was not there. This conversation about statues and symbols really got going with calls to take symbols and figures from the Confederacy out of the public sphere. Then it shifted to every famous person who was an enslaver and/or white supremacist, basically letting the Confederates off the hook. That's a lot of people to be disappeared. There is every difference in the world between being one of the founders of the United States and being a part of group of people who fought to destroy the United States."

She added: "It’s a line-drawing function, but we draw lines all the time. Statues and buildings for Jefferson Davis and John C. Calhoun? No. Statues and buildings for Thomas Jefferson? Yes, but with interpretation and conversations about all the meanings of his life and influences -- good and bad. The words of the Declaration of Independence that blacks have made use of over the years and Monticello, his home, a slave plantation that has now become a site for substantive discussions about race and slavery, exist together as a part of our history, just as he was. He drafted the declaration, he was a president, he founded a university, he championed religious freedom. The best of his ideals continue to influence and move people. The statues should be a stimulus for considering all these matters at William & Mary and the University of Missouri."

The Chronicle of Higher Education

3 Colleges Wrestle With Iconic Leaders' Racial Legacies

By Ellen Wexler

NOVEMBER 20, 2015
Nassau Hall was closing for the night, but the students stayed. Around 40 of them spent Wednesday night in the building, sitting in the office of Christopher L. Eisgruber, Princeton University’s president. Outside, more students camped in tents.

Among other things, the protesters wanted Woodrow Wilson’s name removed from buildings on the campus. Wilson served as Princeton’s president from 1902 to 1910 — just two years before he was elected president of the United States — and the protesters said he left a racist legacy. But today his name and image are ubiquitous on the campus.

"He did his part for white supremacy," said Nell I. Painter, a professor emerita of American history at Princeton. "There’s no question about that. But he was also president of the United States and president of Princeton."

At colleges with long histories, famous figures like Wilson are ingrained in campus culture. Their stories are part of institutional memory, passed on through marketing materials and campus tour guides, and revered by generations of alumni. When more than one college claims a famed leader, rivalries develop.

But when the historical figures’ beliefs and policies clash with modern understandings of civil rights, students may question those associations. Now, amid nationwide protests over racial inequality, student protesters are demanding that their colleges cut ties with iconic leaders.

Here is how the issues are playing out on three campuses.

**Protests Over ‘Lord Jeff’ at Amherst**

At Amherst College, someone used to wear a Lord Jeffery Amherst costume — an oversize head, a tricornered hat — and run up and down the sidelines at football games.

Lord Jeffery Amherst, for whom the Massachusetts college and its town are named, is known colloquially as Lord Jeff. He became the college’s unofficial mascot around 1906, when a student in the Glee Club wrote a song about him.

But earlier this month, students staged a sit-in at the library and presented the college’s president with a list of demands. Among them: that the president, Carolyn A. (Biddy) Martin, release a statement condemning Lord Jeff, and that she encourage the Amherst community to stop using his name and image.
Lord Jeffery Amherst was an 18th-century British military commander who led efforts to quell Native Americans during colonial times. Historians believe he planned to give them blankets that were contaminated with smallpox.

Several days later, Amherst faculty members took an unofficial vote. They decided unanimously to drop the mascot.

"He planned to commit genocide," said Francis G. Couvares, a professor of history and American studies at Amherst. "There’s been a lot of feeling over the last few years that he’s got to go."

Mr. Couvares has been pushing for Lord Jeff’s removal for some time. A few years ago, a committee on athletics decided that Lord Jeff was no longer an appropriate representation of the college.

After that, the issue continued to be debated quietly. At a reunion event, a group of older alumni argued with Mr. Couvares. But most students and faculty members backed the change, he said.

The mascot is unofficial — students can still use the name or sing the song — but Mr. Couvares thinks mostly older alumni will resist the change. For them, the mascot was an integral part of campus culture. Men’s sports teams would call themselves the Lord Jeffs, while the women’s teams called themselves the Lady Jeffs.

"There used to be the singing of the song at alumni events — and that will probably still go on amongst those who were here decades ago," Mr. Couvares said. "But the Glee Club’s not going to sing it anymore, I would guess."

**Jefferson’s Legacy at William & Mary**

Back in 2012, on the 250th anniversary of Thomas Jefferson’s graduation from the College of William & Mary, hundreds of students gathered around the college’s Jefferson statue to celebrate.

The students were told that the statues could be awakened on important anniversaries by "honoring their legacies." An actor dressed as Jefferson soon appeared on the scene.

This month protesters covered the statue of Jefferson with sticky notes. Each note bore a message, including "slave owner," "racist," and "he knew it was wrong."

Jefferson is known as the founder of the University of Virginia, but he is also a big part of William & Mary’s institutional identity. In addition to the statue, there’s also
Jefferson Hall, the Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award, and the Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy.

The sticky notes echoed a similar protest at the University of Missouri at Columbia in early October. So far, nobody at William & Mary has taken credit for the protest or issued any formal demands to remove the Jefferson statue.

"I don’t think we need to hide or remove him from the history," said a William & Mary history professor, Jody L. Allen. "I think we need to tell his full story."

Ms. Allen is co-chair and managing director of the Lemon Project, which is dedicated to exploring William & Mary’s role in slavery and racial discrimination. Part of the project’s goal is to provide a more-complete history of the college, and to present a more-accurate picture of figures like Jefferson.

Sometimes Ms. Allen asks students: If William & Mary had told you more about its historical figures, would it have affected your decision to enroll?

"Most of them have said that it would have actually made it an easier decision," she said. "They would be happy to be somewhere that was telling the whole story."

‘Old Nassau’ at Princeton

One of Princeton’s six residential colleges is named for Wilson, as is the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. A campus dining hall features a mural of Wilson, which protesters also want removed.

"We demand the university administration publicly acknowledge the racist legacy of Woodrow Wilson and how he impacted campus policy and culture," the protesters wrote in a letter to Princeton officials.

Mr. Eisgruber spoke with the protesters on Wednesday. He told them that the university should talk openly about Wilson’s legacy, but that it shouldn’t remove his name from campus buildings.

But for the protesters, promoting Wilson’s legacy seems dishonest. The former president segregated parts of the federal work force, and he is known for his racist views. Walking past buildings bearing his name, some students say they feel marginalized.

Yet he’s an undeniably large part of the university’s past. In a famous 1896 speech, on Princeton’s sesquicentennial, he provided the university with a motto that helped carry it from a small liberal-arts college to an internationally renowned research university:
"Princeton in the nation’s service." Taking his name off buildings — refusing to acknowledge his role in history — is just another form of erasure, opponents argue.

"I wouldn’t go so far as to strip the name from the Woodrow Wilson School," Ms. Painter said. "I would say, Make public the facts about Woodrow Wilson’s life and career, and let him damn himself."

By Thursday night, 32 hours after students had begun their sit-in at the president’s office, administrators signed an agreement. They did not commit to removing Wilson’s name from Princeton, but said that they would "initiate conversations concerning the present legacy of Woodrow Wilson on this campus."

'Upswing' in Campus Threats

In November, more than a dozen college campuses have been targeted by shooting and bomb threats, with many of them threatening black students.

November 23, 2015

By Jake New

The day after the University of Missouri’s president resigned following a series of demonstrations over racism on campus, violent threats appeared on the anonymous messaging app Yik Yak. "I'm going to stand my ground tomorrow and shoot every black person I see," one of the more alarming posts read.

That same day, another Yik Yak user threatened violence against black students at Northwest Missouri State University. A few days later, someone claiming to be a Missouri student threatened to kill black students at Howard University. Then, another Yik Yak user threatened to kill black students at Michigan Technological University. And last week, an anonymous user posted messages on Twitter, threatening to “shoot every black woman and male I see at Kean University."

In the past two weeks, such threats have been made against more than a dozen colleges and universities. While many of the threats have targeted black students amid a growing campus protest movement, others seem to have been designed to
capitalize on fear generated by the recent terrorist attacks in Paris. Some of the threats have been made against students at institutions that have attracted widespread attention for protests over racial issues, while others have been against institutions that have not had such protests.

Death threats targeting college campuses are not unusual, William Taylor, president of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators and chief of police at San Jacinto College, said, but rarely do so many materialize within such a short time frame.

In the past week alone, there were shooting threats and bomb threats at Cape Cod Community College and Alvernia, Fitchburg State, Hampton, Harvard, Kean, Princeton and Saginaw Valley State Universities. No shootings took place, nor were any bombs found, but some institutions closed buildings or shut campuses out of precaution.

“There is greater number of these than I’ve seen before,” Taylor said. “There is an upswing with these types of threats being made this semester, especially with the tragedy in Oregon. It’s almost as if this whole semester has been building and building.”

In October, Oregon’s Umpqua Community College became the site of the third-most-deadly campus shooting in U.S. history when a gunman shot and killed nine people and injured seven more.

Hunter Park, the white college student who was arrested for making the threats against Missouri, had shown a “deep interest” in the Oregon massacre, according to court documents. The threat itself even used similar language: “Some of you are alright [sic]. Don’t go to campus tomorrow.” When Park was arrested, according to the court documents, an officer asked him what he meant. Park allegedly smiled and said, “I was quoting something.”

Ahead of the Oregon shooting, the alleged killer posted a brief warning on an online forum. “Some of you guys are alright,” he wrote. “Don’t go to school tomorrow if you are in the Northwest.”

The vagueness of the language used in both the Oregon and Missouri threats, Taylor said, illustrates just how difficult it is for college officials and law enforcement to determine which threats are legitimate and which are hoaxes. According to court documents, Hunter later told police he had just wanted to frighten Missouri students.

“Let’s face it, as a threat, ‘Don’t go to school tomorrow,’ is really a pretty general thing to say,” Taylor said. “Yet, look what happened at Oregon, where we saw the same general threat. And that threat turned out to be very real and very tragic. Any threat has to be taken seriously on its face, and so most institutions are erring on the side of caution.”
On Friday -- one week after a threat was posted online targeting students at the historically black university -- Howard University continued to be on alert, with increased security both on campus and at nearby subway stations.

“Terrorist acts, including anonymous threats of violence, are the antithesis of the university’s mission and that of a free and democratic society,” Wayne A. I. Frederick, Howard’s president, said in a statement. “As a university community and a nation that respects and embraces our differences, we cannot and will not cower to fear, hatred and discrimination. While the investigation of the online threat toward the university continues, including efforts to bring those responsible to justice, it underscores the need to remain vigilant.”

The threat was made by a person who claimed to be a Missouri student who came home to Maryland because he or she "couldn't put up" with the recent protests on campus. The author of the post said if any black students were on Howard's Washington campus or using the nearby subway stations, they would be killed. "Sometimes the best thing to do is to put stupid out of its misery," the person wrote. "After all, it's not murder if they're black."

On Tuesday, Alvernia University, in Pennsylvania, evacuated its campus for hours over a "safety threat." Earlier that week, Harvard evacuated four buildings after a bomb threat. A bomb squad scoured the four buildings, but did not find anything. Most drastically, Washington College in Maryland announced on Wednesday that it will remain closed through at least Thanksgiving because of a police search for a missing student who was believed to be armed. The student's parents told the college that he had retrieved a rifle case from his family's home earlier in the week and disappeared.

On Saturday, authorities found the body of the student, Jacob Marberger, who died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The student had recently been the victim of a prank, the college said, and allegedly brandished a handgun out of anger, though officials stressed they do not believe he directly threatened anyone. The incident led to his fraternity expelling him from the chapter, and he resigned from his role in the college's student government. After his disappearance, the campus was on lockdown for much of last week, before officials decided to close the college through Thanksgiving break.

"We would like to stress that there has been no direct threat to the campus or any members of its community or the region," the college said in a statement. "But in the interest of caution and for the sake of the emotional well-being of our students, parents, faculty and staff, this decision is the correct course of action."
Race Matters

Princeton agrees to consider changing role of Woodrow Wilson name on campus; white student union surfaces (online) at Illinois; black ministers want Kean president to quit; Smith students exclude journalists; Towson president signs list of demands; and more.

November 20, 2015

By Scott Jaschik

Princeton University late Thursday ended a sit-in in the president's office by agreeing to consider changing the prominent use of Woodrow Wilson's name -- in ways that honor the man who was president of the United States and of Princeton. The action was one of many in higher education in which colleges are trying to respond to a growing student protest movement that in the last 48 hours has seen new sit-ins and rallies -- and also new incidents of backlash and threats.

Here is some of what happened in the last 48 hours:

Princeton Agreement to End Sit-In

Black student groups have demanded that the Wilson name be removed from one of Princeton's academic units and from one of its residential colleges because of his racism and advocacy for segregation. An agreement signed by President Christopher L. Eisgruber pledged that he would write to the university's board chair "to initiate conversations concerning the present legacy of Woodrow Wilson on this campus, including Black Justice League’s request to remove Woodrow Wilson’s name." In addition, Eisgruber pledged that the board would "collect information on the campus community’s opinion on Woodrow Wilson School name and then make a decision regarding the name."

He also said he would encourage the removal of a Wilson portrait from a campus dining hall.

Beyond the Wilson name issue, Eisgruber and other senior administrators agreed, among other things, to:
Create a working group "to begin discussions on the viability of the formation of affinity housing for those interested in black culture."

Have appropriate university groups consider "the possibility of cultural competency training."

Invite two members of the Black Justice League, the group coordinating the sit-in and other protests, to meet with a general education task force to discuss "the possibility of a diversity requirement" for students.

Pledge to take no disciplinary action against the students who remained overnight in the president's office from Wednesday through Thursday, provided that they leave the office, which they did.

Most of what Princeton agreed to do in the agreement was to have various bodies consider various changes -- from removing the Woodrow Wilson name to adding a diversity requirement. The university didn't pledge to actually do those things, just consider them.

And by Thursday night, many were speaking out online against the university doing those things. And many were criticizing the way Princeton resolved the sit-in. On the university's Facebook page, there were a few comments of support, but many more in opposition to the agreement. Some undergraduates posted comments stating that they did not agree with the Black Justice League demands or the university's agreement with the group.

A petition is circulating at Princeton criticizing several of the ideas that will get consideration under the agreement.

The petition states that the demands to remove Woodrow Wilson's name from campus represent "an alarming call for historical revisionism" about a "significant historical figure who, despite his flaws, made great contributions to this university."

As to the Black Justice League's demand for the university to require courses on "the history of marginalized people," the petition calls that "a thinly veiled attempt to impose the Black Justice League's unilateral narrative upon all undergraduates through the conduit of the core curriculum." And on affinity housing, the petition says that this "represents a morally abhorrent and blatantly illegal call for what is essentially racially segregated housing."

Finally, the petition states that "free speech is fundamental to Princeton's role as an institution of higher learning and excessive political correctness stifles academic discourse."
At the same time, others are speaking out to back the protest movement. Eleven faculty members in African-American studies issued an open letter early Friday that urged the university’s leaders to take the demands of the protest seriously.

"Imagine how difficult it must be, for some, to have to live and learn in a place that celebrates people who believed passionately in white supremacy; to experience daily a sense of alienation and have no place to which to retreat and find comfort," the letter said. "Imagine the exhausting task of having to constantly educate your fellow classmates about the particulars of your experience and the complex histories that shape them. And, finally, imagine being told, in effect, 'be quiet' and endure. Such experiences suggest that Princeton is not truly their university -- that they are just passing through."

The letter also cautioned against a traditional (slow) consideration of the issues being raised. "Our students are no longer quiet. They have forced all of us to confront the urgency of the moment," the letter said. "Princeton’s deliberate pace at reform often presupposes the sacrifice of those who must endure until we actually change. It’s a costly wager. These students refuse to wait. They have forced the conversation and now we must act. We stand with them as they struggle with the racist legacy of Woodrow Wilson and its impact on this campus."

**White Student Union at Illinois**

At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a group claiming to be the Illini White Student Union has twice created Facebook pages this week, and twice they have disappeared, amid concern from black students on campus and criticism from university leaders.

The News-Gazette reported that the page said it was created to be "a safe place for white students" so they could "be able to form a community and discuss our own issues as well as be able to organize against the terrorism we have been facing from Black Lives Matter activists on campus."

Rene Romano, the university’s vice chancellor for student affairs, issued a statement saying of the posts on the Facebook page: "While they may be protected exercises of free speech, they are offensive, divisive and stunningly narrow-minded expressions."

A black student group on campus, Standing With heR, posted to Facebook that other posts on the white group’s site (when it was up) suggested that people post photos of black students at the university. This should be viewed as something other than protected speech, Standing With heR wrote.

The black student group wrote: "Black students do not feel safe on this campus. By not giving serious antiblack acts of surveillance and intimidation weight or value, the University of Illinois [at] Urbana-Champaign is absolutely dismissing legitimate student
concerns, is disregarding black student safety and is hypocritically speaking against its own proclamations that it values the stories and lives of black students.

**Demand for Presidential Resignation at Kean**

At Kean University in New Jersey, a coalition of black ministers called for the resignation of President Dawood Farahi, saying that he had not responded sufficiently to threats against black students, NJ.com reported. The black ministers said the university was not taking seriously a threat posted to Twitter from @keanuagainstblk (an account that was quickly canceled). The account threatened to shoot black students at the university or to place a bomb there.

The ministers said Kean has not been an inclusive place for black students and more needs to be done, immediately, to protect black students.

The university maintains that it provides a supportive environment for all students and takes threats to student safety seriously.

**Smith Students Bar Reporters for Being 'Neutral'**

Student activists at Smith College barred reporters with a “neutral stance” from a sit-in Wednesday, MassLive reported.

**Organizers told journalists they were welcome so long as they expressed support for the event organized in solidarity with students at the University of Missouri.**

"We are asking that any journalists or press that cover our story participate and articulate their solidarity with black students and students of color," Alyssa Mata-Flores, one of the event’s organizers, told MassLive. "By taking a neutral stance, journalists and media are being complacent in our fight."

Smith is a private college and exempt from the broad First Amendment protections that apply to public colleges and universities. But the episode is the latest in a handful of clashes between campus activists and journalists. Protesting students at the University of Missouri provoked a firestorm of recrimination after video spread of students blocking access to reporters on the college quad. (The protest organizers subsequently changed their position and encouraged more press coverage.)

**Presidential Pledge at Towson**

At Towson University, the interim president, Timothy Chandler, signed a pledge to "address" a list of demands made by black students who had spent the prior 10 hours in his office (photo at right). His pledge was to "move forward on addressing" the issues, and to communicate his support for the concerns. Further, he said that if he does not advocate for black students on these and other matters, he would resign.
The demands included increasing the number of tenured and tenure-track faculty members by 10 percent by 2018, pushing to diversify the committees that review tenure candidacies at the university, requiring that police activities be "equitable for black events and white events alike," and advocating for a course requirement for all students in American race relations.

In a statement, Chandler said, "This is what universities are supposed to do. We are supposed to help students express their opinions and find solutions to problems. I'm extraordinarily proud of this group of students, who want to make this a better place, not just for them, but for all of us."

**Occidental Pledges Change, but Not a New President**

Occidental College, where students have been staging a sit-in and holding protests for several days, pledged a series of changes Thursday in response to students' demands.

The college pledged to immediately promote the chief diversity officer to a vice president, to create a black studies minor and to increase funding for various services and student groups for minority students. The college also noted that it has had success at recruiting minority students. At Occidental, 42 percent of students this year are not white, up from 36 percent in 2009. And of this year's new students, 45 percent are from minority groups.

At the same time, Occidental's board has rejected a demand that President Jonathan Veitch be removed, saying that he is leading the college well.

**Portraits of Black Professors Defaced at Harvard Law**

At Harvard University, students at the law school on Thursday found that someone had placed black tape across the faces of black professors in a series of portraits.

Martha Minow, the dean, issued this statement: "This morning, Harvard Law School discovered that portraits of some African-American faculty had been defaced with black tape. The Harvard University Police Department is investigating the incident as a hate crime. The HLS community gathered at noon to listen to one another, to share our concerns, experiences and perspectives, and to address ways to move forward. Expressions of hatred are abhorrent, whether they be directed at race, sex, sexual preference, gender identity, religion or any other targets of bigotry. Here at HLS, we are focused on efforts to improve our community, examining structures that may contribute to negative experiences of any members of our community, and pursuing opportunities where the school can both change and support change."

Michele Hall, a second-year law student at Harvard, blogged about the incident. "This morning at Harvard Law School we woke up to a hate crime. And tomorrow you will wake up to a hate crime on your campus too. And they -- the cowards who deface the portraits of black professors, who hang nooses in front of black dorms, who draw
swastikas with human feces -- want for that to be the end of the story," she wrote. "But we, black students on campus, are not afraid of what you do under the covers of darkness and hatred and cowardice. We will march and scream and sit in and walk out and shout our demands and make ourselves heard and tear down these hallways of white supremacy because we belong here too. And no longer can you make us feel that we do not belong here. Because our sweat and blood and death and courage [are] what really built these hallways."

*Josh Logue contributed to this article.*

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**The Week**

*By Lawrence Biemiller*

NOVEMBER 23, 2015

**Say You're Sorry**

This fall black-student groups have delivered *lists of demands* to college presidents all across the country. The lists make for compelling reading, both as distillations of anguish and anger and because they seek a remarkable mix of concrete and symbolic changes.

Many of the groups want **more black faculty and staff members**, and they often set specific targets — "We demand that by the academic year 2017-18, Guilford increases the percentage of black faculty and staff members campuswide by 10 percent," for instance, or, at Purdue, "We demand that there be a 20-percent increase of underrepresented minority faculty and staff by the 2019-2020 school year." At the University of Michigan, demands include **increasing the number of black students** to 10 percent of total enrollment.

Many lists also include demands for better **facilities and funding for black student organizations**. Increasing the number of black staff members in campus health and counseling centers is another common request. And at Emory, students are seeking "alternative methods of counseling for black students if they prefer to receive them," including "black spirituality methods."
Other items on the lists concern campus police forces, such as a demand at Occidental for an "immediate demilitarization of campus safety" that would include "removal of bulletproof vests from uniform" and "exclusion of military and external police rhetoric from all documents and daily discourse." Suggestions that colleges **respond to hate speech more aggressively** appear on several lists, including one from students at Amherst College who want its honor code to "reflect a zero-tolerance policy for racial insensitivity and hate speech."

A number of lists, including Purdue’s, ask that students and faculty and staff members **be required to take courses** exposing them to minority history and culture. Graduate students at Brown want the university to "hold itself accountable for the past, accepting its burdens and responsibilities along with its benefits and privileges," in part by "integrating the history of Brown’s role in the slave trade into orientation for both graduate and undergraduate students." And at several colleges, groups "demand that black bodies be removed from diversity marketing campaigns," as the group at Johns Hopkins put it, until the institutions improve their records on diversity issues. The group called out Hopkins for "the low quality of life here that many black students experience and the problems with retaining black students."

But many of the demands are also for **apologies or other statements** that would appear to have little practical effect. The top item on the list at Purdue, for instance: "We demand that administrators, specifically President Mitch Daniels, acknowledge the hostile environment caused by hateful and ignorant discrimination on Purdue’s campus. We also demand that he apologize for his erasure of the experiences of students of color in his email to the student body, where he asserted that Purdue is in ‘proud contrast to the environments that appear to prevail at places like Missouri or Yale.’"

The list at Amherst seeks **apologies from both the president and the chair of the Board of Trustees** for "injustices including but not limited to our institutional legacy of white supremacy, colonialism, anti-black racism, anti-Latinx racism, anti-Native American racism, anti-Native/indigenous racism, anti-Asian racism, anti-Middle Eastern racism, heterosexism, cis-sexism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, ableism, mental health stigma, and classism." The group at Wesleyan was equally specific, demanding "within 48 hours" a statement that "should highlight the administration’s inaction and lack of dedication to adequately support students of color and acknowledge the ways that the senior administrators have failed the SOC community" — including by sending condolences to French students after the Charlie Hebdo massacre but sending nothing "in response to Kenyan tragedy at Garissa University" in April.
And then there’s the matter of names. Students at Yale want John C. Calhoun’s removed from one of the university’s residential colleges because Calhoun — in case you’ve forgotten, the U.S. vice president under both John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson — was a defender of slavery. Students at Princeton held a rally last week outside Nassau Hall, which houses the university president’s office, to insist that Woodrow Wilson’s name be removed from buildings and the Woodrow Wilson School of International Affairs because of his "racist legacy." Princeton’s president, Christopher L. Eisgruber, met with the demonstrators but refused to endorse their demand, although the same day the masters of Princeton’s residential colleges decided to call themselves "heads" instead — with Mr. Eisgruber noting that the switch "does away with antiquated terminology that discomfited some students."

At the University of Alabama, students are demanding that the university "remove the names of white supremacists, klansmen, Confederate generals, and eugenicists from classroom buildings or include a visual marker to indicate the history of racism that the building’s namesake was associated with." Meanwhile Georgetown University students (above) successfully pressed that institution to strip two buildings of the names of former Georgetown presidents involved with the 1838 sale of 272 slaves to pay the university’s debts.

**Fighting ... Hawks**

Officials at the University of North Dakota last week announced that at long last the institution has a new nickname for its sports teams. A runoff election for a team name to replace "Fighting Sioux" saw "Fighting Hawks" beat out "Roughriders" after three other candidates had been eliminated — Nodaks, North Stars, and Sundogs. The winning name had 15,670 votes, and the runner up 11,708. The victory brings to an end — or so one hopes — a controversy that dates back to 1999 and pitted tribal leaders, students, and others calling for a new name against diehard fans determined to keep the old one at all costs.

In 2005, the NCAA threatened the university and 17 other institutions with sanctions if they didn’t stop using depictions of Native Americans that the organization called "hostile and abusive." At one point, the state had a law on the books forbidding the university from changing the name, but a statewide referendum in 2012 showed 67 percent of voters in favor of a rechristening.

**Cuts in Missoula**

After watching enrollment decline from a peak of nearly 13,000 to just under 11,000, the University of Montana at Missoula said last week that it would eliminate jobs so
that "expenses align with revenues." The cuts will include 52 faculty positions, 25 of them currently vacant, and 149 staff jobs.

The university’s president, Royce C. Engstrom, said in an open meeting in a university auditorium that the enrollment declines were the result of "recruiting challenges in the face of increasing competition," demographic shifts, the improving economy, and what he referred to, obliquely, as "our ongoing visibility around the topic of sexual assault." Departments that are teaching fewer students now, he said, will be "targets for staffing adjustments."

Plus All This ...

An annual tuition survey by Moody’s Investors Service shows that both public and private colleges expect tuition revenue to remain relatively flat in the 2016 fiscal year. Based on survey responses from about 170 institutions, Moody’s forecasts a net increase of about 2 percent in tuition revenue. … Gary Pinkel, the University of Missouri football coach who backed a boycott by black players that helped bring down the university’s president and chancellor, is quitting to focus on his health. He has lymphoma. … Education Management Corporation, which runs the Art Institutes, Argosy University, Brown Mackie College, and South University, will pay $95.5 million to settle a lawsuit charging that it illegally based pay for recruiters on how many students they enrolled.

Bringing Missouri writers into the light

By AMY WILDER

Sunday, November 22, 2015 at 12:00 am

Missouri is a place of strangely syncopated rhythms and cultural layerings; a patchwork of peoples and histories that never quite mesh comfortably. In one sense or another, just about everyone here is an outsider.

The experience of being off center and somehow out of step with the people around you puts you in a position of observer — and often correlates with the ability to pull back and take a look at a bigger picture.
Maybe that is why the state has a habit of producing writers possessed of perverse humor and a keen eye for cultural observations and criticisms. And these writers often flee the psychological discomfort of their home state, uprooting themselves and going on to influence culture at large.

Mark Twain comes to mind, of course, as does Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes and Robert Heinlein; and contemporaries such as William Least-Heat Moon or New Yorker features writer Peter Hessler, whose keen cultural observations illuminate various less-traveled corners of the world for today’s readers.

Two 20th-century writers fled Missouri relatively early and made waves in the theatrical and literary worlds; to some degree, each left a posthumous legacy to scholars at the University of Missouri to ensure the less-read corners of their unpublished writings are brought to light.

**English professor Frances Dickey is one of a team of editors working to compile an eight-volume collection of prose — the third of which was published Sept. 26 — by St. Louis-born T.S. Eliot, who by age 39 had become a British citizen and spent his life there working as editor, publisher, critic, playwright, essayist and, of course, poet.**

**Across campus, theater professor David Crespy is leading a class exploring the archives of Pulitzer-winning playwright Lanford Wilson, who left his manuscripts and writings to MU through his estate after his 2011 death.**

Crespy grew up idolizing Wilson, and spent a significant amount of his youth in the renowned Circle Repertory Theatre, which Wilson co-founded, in New York City.

“It was the center of new and happening theater in the 1980s,” Crespy said. When he came to MU, he began inviting playwrights he admired to visit and work with students, including Wilson, who Crespy had met working on research. After several years of asking, Wilson agreed.

“We did a concert performance of his play ‘The Mound Builders,’ which is essentially a fictional version of the Cahokia Mounds. He just loved it here. He had a ball with the students,” Crespy said.

But he also was ill. Wilson asked Crespy to take him to see Thomas Hart Benton’s murals in the state capital, something he had missed doing in high school with his class. But when they got there, he was too weak to get out of the car.
“He’s a native of Ozark, a little town near Springfield,” Crespy said of Wilson, who was raised in abject poverty by a single mother. “He kind of ran away from there, because as a young gay kid, there just wasn’t a place for him. He only came back infrequently to visit his mother.”

“In 2013, I got word from the Director of Libraries, Jim Cogswell, that Lanford’s estate had negotiated to leave all of his manuscripts to MU,” Crespy said. “He didn’t go here. He went to Missouri State, but Mike Holland, who is the archivist and actually did the negotiations ... basically said, ‘It was really you, David.’ I don’t know. All I did was show Lanford a good time. I didn’t ask for anything.”

As Crespy began to dig into the collection last fall, he found a gold mine of draft revisions, showing the development of Wilson’s creative process.

He also discovered a wealth of unpublished essays and poems. Crespy created an opportunity for his students to engage in archival research and set up a class in which students engage directly with Wilson’s documents and write papers based on this research — which Crespy will encourage them to submit for publication.

He also has arranged for students to interview Marshall Mason, who is working on a biography of Wilson, via Skype.

Like Crespy’s interest in Wilson, Dickey’s engagement with Eliot began at an early age.

“My dissertation was partly on T.S. Eliot,” she said. “That’s when my academic work on Eliot started, but I think going back to middle school, I had an anthology of modern poetry with Eliot’s poems in there, and I was really drawn to him.

“He’s just a beautiful writer, and he captures some of the ambivalence that one feels about modern life, about living in cities,” she added. “He’s very much a city poet, but he’s also attuned to the darker side of city living. ... One thing I really appreciate about him is how durable his poetry is. You can read it, come back to it, keep reading it for 20 years — and you always see something that you didn’t see before. He really sticks with you in that way.”

Eliot died in 1965, but research into his personal archives are just beginning. He left instructions for his much younger widow not to allow a biography or publication of his letters or unpublished prose.

“So for 50 years, there was sort of a lock hold, if you will, on Eliot’s writing; everything except what he had selected himself for publication,” Dickey said.
Before she died, Eliot’s widow took a long view and decided to appoint someone to take charge of writing his biography, as well as people to oversee the collection and publication of his letters and his prose.

Dickey became involved in the prose project through the general editor, Ronald Schuchard, and through the T.S. Eliot Society, based in St. Louis.

“Through the society, I’ve gotten to know most of the leading Eliot scholars, and I’ve published on Eliot myself,” she said. “Most of the editors from this project are drawn from the Eliot Society.”

Although known primarily as a poet, Eliot was widely read and published in a variety of styles.

“He actually viewed himself as a journalist, in many respects,” Dickey said. “He was actually much more prolific as a prose writer than a poet.”

Modern conveniences have helped advance the project more rapidly than it might otherwise have progressed. Schuchard “spent years tracking all of these pieces of prose and created a huge database, and everything was digitized, which is an amazing resource,” Dickey said.

Here’s to Missouri writers who continue to illuminate dark corners of the world. And here’s to the writers and editors committed to preserving those legacies and keeping the light shining for future generations to behold.

How we can free America from the foreign oil cartel

November 22, 2015 12:00 am • By Jim Talent

Ten years ago, Congress took an important step toward the goal of energy independence. By establishing the Renewable Fuel Standard as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Congress sent a clear message that it wanted to kick the addiction to foreign oil through a tried and true solution: American innovation. I was one of the chief authors of the RFS.
Ten years later, the RFS is the government’s most successful energy policy; in fact, it may be the government’s only successful energy policy. It has reduced dependence on foreign oil, created hundreds of thousands of jobs, and also reduced carbon emissions. Despite these achievements, the Environmental Protection Agency wants to move in another direction and actually scale back the RFS.

That’s right. The same federal agency that is promulgating costly regulations to reduce greenhouse gases also wants to weaken a program that is already reducing carbon emissions without costing the economy anything. Given the Obama administration’s emphasis on the climate change issue, the EPA’s hostility to renewable fuels only makes sense as a response to pressure from the oil industry.

The advantages of the RFS are clear. Ten percent of our fuel supply is now derived from biofuels, and our foreign oil imports are at their lowest level in 20 years. At the same time, the price of gasoline at the pump has gone down by over a dollar, in part because most gasoline contains an ethanol blend, and ethanol sells for about $1.60 per gallon. The University of Missouri Extension Service calculates that Missouri’s corn production industry generates approximately $4.3 billion in economic output and sustains 65,960 jobs. Across the river, the collective renewable fuel sector in Illinois generates $17.5 billion of total economic output annually and supports 73,156 jobs, according to the economic research firm of John Dunham & Associates.

Critics of the RFS claim that renewable fuels are subsidized. That’s not true; there are no subsidies or tax breaks for ethanol. At the time the RFS was passed, there were concerns about whether the supply of corn would be adequate to support both food and fuel production. Those of us who authored the RFS believed that it would stimulate efficiencies in corn production that would more than meet the demand. That’s happened; American farmers are growing more corn than ever before on the same amount of acreage.

Critics also claim that the RFS is an intervention in the free market. Actually, it’s the path to a free market for automobile fuel. For 40 years, the price of oil has been controlled by a foreign cartel that does not hesitate to use its market power to crush competitors.

Unsurprisingly, OPEC has already made plans to crush the U.S. oil boom, and regularly strategizes to batter competitors and dominate market share. Last November, OPEC colluded to drop oil prices so that it could squeeze competitors with higher costs. Saudi Arabia was the main architect of this strategy, driving many U.S. fracking companies out of business and into bankruptcy.

It’s alarming when you realize just how much control foreign governments and OPEC oil barons have on our everyday lives and paychecks. But they can’t exercise that power over renewable fuels, because of the RFS. The fact that the largest ethanol plant in the world just opened its doors for business in Iowa — a plant that is powered by discarded corncobs, husks and stalks — is another reminder of what American-style innovation can accomplish if it is allowed to succeed.

If you create a map of the world and size it according to oil reserves, Saudi Arabia is the biggest country by far. But if you size such a map according to agricultural production, the United States is the largest nation. That’s why the RFS was and remains such an important policy.

In the end, the RFS is not about a proposed policy change by a federal agency, it’s about who will be in charge of our nation’s energy. When you consider what is at stake, that’s something worth fighting for.

Jim Talent was U.S. senator representing Missouri from 2002 to 2007. He is the chairman of Americans for Energy Security and Innovation.