Mizzou law professor enters Missouri attorney general's race

Another Republican has tossed his hat in the ring for Missouri attorney general.

Josh Hawley is a 35-year-old associate law professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Prior to his current position, he served as clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts and was part of a team of lawyers that argued the Hobby Lobby case before the high court challenging the Obama Administration’s contraceptive mandate.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Hawley painted himself as a political outsider.

"If you want a schmoozer and a back-slapper, then elect another politician to be attorney general," Hawley told the AP. "But if you want someone who has the expertise to stand up in the Supreme Court of the United States and defend our liberties and defend our values, then elect a constitutional lawyer.”

Hawley is expected to face fellow Columbian Kurt Schaefer in the GOP primary for attorney general next year. Schaefer was first elected to the Missouri Senate in 2008 and re-elected in 2012.

On the Democratic side, State Sen. Scott Sifton and St. Louis County Assessor Jake Zimmerman are facing off against each other. Current Attorney General Chris Koster, meanwhile, is expected to run for governor, although he has not yet made it official.
Curators approve policy change for UM employees seeking office

By Megan Favignano

Saturday, July 25, 2015 at 12:00 am

University of Missouri System employees who choose to run for a full-time public office in the future will have to resign or take a leave of absence sooner.

The UM System Board of Curators voted Friday to amend the UM System’s political activities policy, effective April 1, 2016. The revision requires employees seeking full-time public office to resign or request an unpaid leave of absence upon filing for the primary election, registering a candidate committee or registering an exploratory committee — whichever occurs first.

Before this change, the policy required employees running for full-time office to resign or request leave when they file in the primary election. Campaigning typically begins long before that deadline.

This policy change comes one day after MU Associate Professor Josh Hawley made his candidacy for state attorney general official. Hawley is taking an unpaid leave of absence for the 2015-16 school year, MU School of Law Dean Gary Myers said.

UM System President Tim Wolfe told the board he proposed the amendment to help the policy fit today’s election cycle.

“We continue to believe that employees should be permitted to engage in political and civic activities that do not take away from their university positions,” Wolfe said. “This amendment modernizes our policy to reflect the reality that active campaigning for full-time office starts earlier in the election cycle than it did 41 years ago.”

During Friday’s meeting, the curators and UM administrators did not say what spurred the policy update or why they decided to make the change. UM System spokesman John Fougere said the curators and Wolfe constantly are reassessing the UM System’s collective rules.

“In ongoing discussions, we determined that it was time,” Fougere said. “Although we were satisfied with the policy we’ve had for 41 years, it is very important for us to look at all collective rules to make sure they are up to date and as effective as they can be.”
Wolfe recommended the policy take effect immediately and said he doesn’t know of any employee who would be affected by the change. After a 45-minute executive session that included advice from legal counsel, the Board of Curators voted to accept the policy change and to make it effective after the next election cycle.

Had the policy change been made effective Friday, it would not have affected Hawley because his leave of absence already had been approved. Fougere said he is unaware of any UM employee, aside from Hawley, who is on leave for political purposes.

The original policy amendment Wolfe brought to the curators said an employee granted a leave of absence would remain on leave until the employee concludes their exploratory activities, ends their candidacy or takes office, at which point they would have to resign from their UM position.

Curator David Steelman expressed concern that specifying an end time tied to election cycle events could allow the employee to be on leave longer than the single year UM allows for other leaves of absence. Campaigns, Steelman said, can last longer than a year. The board removed the specified end time from the amendment.

The curators also approved minor revisions and clarifications to the policy, including changing references from “staff” to “employee” and adopting gender-neutral language.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Leave of absences expand for UM employees seeking public office

COLUMBIA — University of Missouri employees seeking candidacy for full-time public office must be granted an unpaid leave of absence or resign by the date they register an exploratory committee, register a candidate committee with the particular campaign finance authority or file for a primary election, whichever comes first.

Prior to the amendment approved Friday by the UM Board of Curators, candidates were required only to have been granted a leave of absence by the time they filled for the primary. That policy had been in place since 1974.

The amended policy takes effect April 1, 2016.

The amendment reflects a changing political reality, UM System spokesman John Fougere said. Nowadays, he said, campaigning takes employees away from their jobs. The new policy is a "mechanism to retain quality employees."

Josh Hawley, an associate professor in the MU School of Law, announced Thursday he plans to run for attorney general in 2016 and filed for the Republican primary. Hawley has been granted a
leave of absence, and because the new policy doesn't take effect until April, the month after the filing deadline, his campaign is unaffected.

Employees running for office may return to work after their campaign comes to a close for whatever reason. If they win, though, they must resign their UM position; holding public office is prohibited for system employees.

The board, meeting by teleconference, heard informational presentations on employee salaries and debt management. Highlights include:

- From 2009 to 2013 (the latter being the most recent data provided to the curators), MU had the lowest average salary for ranked faculty among public universities in the Association of American Universities.
- The majority of UM staff members are paid below the market average for their position.
- System debt — for example, MU student housing — is expected to be reduced by $190 million over the next five years.
- The UM System's Moody's credit rating of Aa1 ranks in the top 11 percent of public colleges and universities across the country.

 Universities vary on their response to Mizzou's mumps incident

COLUMBIA - As the University of Missouri works to contain a small mumps outbreak among students, other universities and colleges nearby are urging students to be cautious.

Columbia College sent out a precautionary CougarTrack announcement to inform students of the mumps incident at MU down the road.

"We haven't had any mumps reported," Interim President Dr. Terry Smith said.

Josh Howell, a senior at Columbia College, said he hadn't received the email at the time of our interview.
"During the school year, we get safety alerts all the time," Howell said.

The Wellness Center at Stephens College is closed during the summer, and a professor said she hadn't heard anything about the mumps cases yet.

Venita Mitchell, Vice President and Dean of Students at William Woods, said no alert was sent out on campus because there weren't any students present during the summer.

Mitchell said she learned of the mumps cases at Mizzou through the news.

"No organization got in touch with us," Mitchell said.

Kasi Lacey, the Executive Director of the Wellness Center at Westminster College in Fulton, said the university requires vaccinations for students when classes are in session.

Westminster College attendees did receive an update on the mumps outbreak.

A student at Central Methodist University said she also learned about the mumps incident through the news. No alert had been sent out to students on CMU’s campus.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Missouri immigrant ‘Dreamers’ are still seeking help for in-state tuition fight

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

Ana Hernandez has always had big dreams.

In the last week, though, she has seen those dreams nearly crushed by three words inserted into a Missouri budget bill and then revived — at least for a semester — by Kansas City philanthropists.

Now several groups advocating for immigrants in Missouri are gearing up to change the law’s language next year so college students like Hernandez can afford to get their degrees in Missouri.

Hernandez, 21, is a “Dreamer,” a term derived from the failed Dream Act that would have given qualified undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as young children a pathway to citizenship. Since her teens, Hernandez has wanted to attend the University of Missouri-Kansas City’s business school.
But after she graduated from Bishop Ward High School with a 4.0 GPA, she learned that hope might be out of reach.

It didn’t matter that Hernandez was a Kauffman Scholar, a program that supports low-income, urban students through middle and high school and then pays their tuition and some room and board for up to five years of college.

Kauffman college scholarships are paid only to students who have a Social Security number.

“I didn’t have that little piece of paper. Without it, Kauffman couldn’t help me pay for school,” said Hernandez, of Kansas City, Kan.

On top of that, UMKC at the time did not enroll undocumented students. So Hernandez enrolled at Kansas City Kansas Community College in 2012.

Then President Barack Obama created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. It allows certain undocumented young people to stay in the country temporarily without threat of deportation, but it does not create a path to citizenship.

For Hernandez, DACA meant she could get a Social Security number and Kauffman scholarship money. Even more exciting, she said, UMKC began enrolling DACA students at the in-state tuition rate available to other metro area students.

Everything was great until last week, just over a month before she was to start her senior year at UMKC, when Hernandez and other DACA students learned their tuition for the fall semester would more than double.

Those three words in the Missouri budget bill had thrown Dreamers’ college hopes into question.

The bill’s preamble says schools getting state money must charge students with “unlawful immigration status” the tuition rate that international students pay. It also bars the schools from giving state-funded scholarships to those students.

DACA students do not have lawful immigration status.

Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates estimates that more than 1,200 individuals with DACA credentials live in Missouri, but not all of them are college students. **Two are enrolled at the University of Missouri in Columbia. About 34 are at UMKC.**

One of the UMKC students is Alejandra, 21, of Independence. She asked that her last name not be used to protect family members.

She was riding around Kansas City in a car with friends on July 16 when she heard from UMKC about the sudden tuition hike.
“I cried. I couldn’t help it,” said Alejandra, who had spent more than a year bouncing from community college to community college, trying to get the best education her undocumented status would allow.

Alejandra, who is working jobs in retail and a restaurant this summer, was paying nearly $5,000 for 15 credit hours at UMKC. The legislative change would have pushed her tuition to more than $14,000.

“UMKC was the school I wanted to go to,” she said. “When I told my mother about the higher tuition, she said I probably would not be able to go to school for this semester, that I would have to save for it. I was already thinking I would get another job.”

The three words were added to the budget bill by Rep. Scott Fitzpatrick, a Shell Knob Republican, to prohibit DACA students from receiving in-state tuition or state-funded scholarships, including the A+ program.

“I was not trying to ban them from attending college,” he said Thursday. “I didn’t want their education to be subsidized by Missouri taxpayers.”

But on Thursday, the Missouri Department of Higher Education said Fitzpatrick’s budget bill language “was not binding” and would not prevent the department from awarding A+ scholarships to all qualified students.

It’s the colleges, though, that decide which students pay in-state tuition. And university officials have said they will abide by the budget bill language.

Fitzpatrick said that at the time he added the limiting language, he did not know any Missouri colleges had enrolled DACA students at an in-state tuition rate.

“My intent was not to change the rules on someone already in the system,” he said. If he had known, he said, he would have included language to make it clear that no new DACA students would receive in-state rates.

Students like Juan Sanchez, who was 2 when his undocumented parents emigrated with him from Mexico. This spring, Sanchez, who has lived in Kansas for 12 years, graduated with honors from Kansas City Kansas Community College with his mind set on starting at UMKC in the fall.

“I want to do entrepreneurship and international marketing,” said Sanchez, who has been working two jobs so he could afford in-state tuition at UMKC. “I kind of had it all planned out, and I know I could do the payments for a full-time, in-state student.”

The good news is UMKC was able to secure enough money from private donors to cover the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition charges for all the DACA students enrolled at the university this fall, including 20 newly admitted students like Sanchez.

But that money only accounts for one semester.
Area groups that support Dreamers are planning a gathering in Kansas City to make sure all the DACA students have cleared up disruptions in their college plans. Representatives from Kansas colleges and universities that enroll DACA students at in-state tuition rates will attend.

A GoFundMe.com account was established to raise money to help students pay for college, and an online petition campaign is being organized “to pressure Gov. Nixon to take a strong stance” against the budget bill language, said Jessica Piedra, an immigration attorney and advocate with the Kansas Missouri Dream Alliance.

“These students are lawfully present in the country and they are state residents, so they should be treated like every other resident of the state,” said Vanessa Crawford Aragón, executive director of Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates.

According to the National Immigration Law Center, at least 20 states, including Kansas, allow DACA students to pay in-state tuition.

“Doing what Missouri is doing makes college less accessible to DACA students, and it is out of the mainstream,” Aragón said.

**Advocacy groups attempt to stop tuition spike for undocumented students**

By Megan Favignano

Sunday, July 26, 2015 at 12:00 am

Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates started circulating a petition last week asking Gov. Jay Nixon to tell the Department of Higher Education and Missouri’s colleges that recent legislation regarding tuition and financial aid for undocumented students is not legally binding.

**Missouri public colleges and universities — including the University of Missouri — began informing undocumented students this summer that their tuition would be increasing this fall because of the approved legislation.**

Undocumented students have been eligible to receive scholarships and pay in-state tuition since the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program started in 2012. Students with DACA status are people who were brought to the United States as young children and are
undocumented “through no fault of their own,” according to the Department of Homeland Security.

The preamble of House Bill 3, the higher-education appropriations bill, prevents public colleges and universities from giving financial aid to students with unlawful immigration status. The bill also says universities cannot charge students with unlawful immigration status in-state tuition and that instead, the students must pay an international student tuition rate. The change would cost DACA students at MU an extra $15,000.

MU Student Financial Aid Director Nicholas Prewett said there are two DACA students at MU.

“We’re in the process of trying to help students secure alternative means of funding,” Prewett said.

The advocacy group worked with Progress Missouri and the American Civil Liberties Union to create the petition, which argues that the bill’s preamble is neither legally binding nor enforceable.

“It is both discriminatory and unnecessary for Missouri’s college students with DACA to be charged a different rate based on their immigration status,” the petition says.

Vanessa Crawford Aragón, executive director of Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates, said multiple students asked the group and its partner organizations for guidance after they were told they were losing their resident tuition rate and scholarships.

“Right before school’s starting, they were told they were losing scholarships they were relying on,” she said.

There are 20 to 30 DACA students across the UM System. UM System spokesman John Fougere said the figure might increase when new students arrive for classes this fall.

Missouri colleges don’t have a large percentage of DACA students, but Aragón said the tuition and scholarship changes for those students is significant. “For these individuals, this really is a life-changing problem,” she said.

Sarah Rossi, director of advocacy and policy with the ACLU, said language in the preamble of a bill is not enforceable. Rossi said universities simply felt obligated to follow the changes passed by the legislature.

“If universities think they are legally obligated to do so, they are mistaken,” Rossi said.

The UM System, Fougere said, will continue to follow the regulations outlined in House Bill 3. “We intend to follow the will of the legislature,” Fougere said.
Mizzou Loses Library Science Accreditation
July 26, 2015 4:08 PM

Listen to the story:
http://mediacenter.tveyes.com/downloadgateway.aspx?UserID=48364&MDID=5068957&MDStyle=7809&Type=Media

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) University of Missouri officials will appeal a loss of accreditation for the school’s master’s program in library science.

The American Library Association withdrew accreditation for the program earlier this month. The university has until Aug. 6 to file documents needed to appeal the decision.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports (http://bit.ly/1SIPG8b) Laura Dare, an ALA official, declined to discuss the decision while the appeal process is underway.

Dare says even if the appeal is denied, current students graduating through 2017 will get degrees with accredited status.

About 160 students are currently in the program, the only accredited library science master’s curriculum in the state.

Dare says after the appeal is considered, the earliest date the decision could be reversed is at a Committee on Accreditation meeting Nov. 20 or Jan. 10.

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University of Missouri loses library science accreditation

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Mizzou releases salaries for AD Rhoades, defensive coach Odom

COLUMBIA, Mo. • Missouri has not released a finalized contract for its new athletics director, but Mack Rhoades is working on a salary of $600,000, the university system custodian of records confirmed in response to an open records request for the salaries of several newly hired employees in Mizzou athletics.
Rhoades was hired in March to replace longtime AD Mike Alden, whose listed base salary at MU was $301,917, not counting bonuses and incentives. Missouri paid Alden $674,317 in 2014, according to USA Today’s annual survey on college athletics salaries. Rhoades, AD at University of Houston the last six years, made $537,600 at UH last year.

Missouri defensive coordinator and linebackers coach Barry Odom, hired in December to succeed Dave Steckel, will make $625,000, making him the highest-paid assistant on coach Gary Pinkel’s staff. Steckel, now the head coach at Missouri State, made $600,000 last year. At Memphis last year, Odom was the second-highest paid assistant coach in the American Athletic Conference, making $372,113, according to USA Today.

New safeties coach Ryan Walters, who also arrived from Memphis, is making $240,000 at MU.

New Missouri basketball assistant coach Corey Tate is making $155,000. Tate, a former MU player and most recently the head coach at Mineral Area College, joined coach Kim Anderson’s staff last month, replacing Tim Fuller, who was making $325,000 at MU.

Wren Baker, Mizzou’s new deputy AD under Rhoades, is making $230,000.

**THE KANSAS CITY STAR.**

**Annual salary information released for new Missouri athletics personnel**

**Final contracts are still being finalized, so the details of three recent additions to the Missouri athletics department haven't come into full focus.**

But annual salary terms for Tigers athletic director Mack Rhoades, defensive coordinator Barry Odom and safeties coach Ryan Walters were released Friday as a Sunshine Law request by The Star.

Rhoades, who was hired in March after Mike Alden announced his retirement in late January, will receive an annual base salary of $600,000. In 2013, Rhoades’ salary at Houston was $537,600 per year.

Odom, who was hired from Memphis in December, is set to make $625,000, which represents a nearly 68-percent raise in his annual salary. He earned $372,113 last season at Memphis, where he spent three years as defensive coordinator.

Odom, who played linebacker at Missouri during 1996-99 and served on coach Gary Pinkel’s staff with the Tigers in various capacities during 2003-11, was the 132nd highest-paid assistant coach in the Football Bowl Subdivision, according to the USA Today salary database.
Odom’s predecessor, Dave Steckel, who left to become the coach at Missouri State, received $600,000, which ranked 36th nationally among assistant coaches.

Walters, who also coached at Memphis before joining Pinkel’s staff, was hired in February to replace Alex Grinch, who left to become the defensive coordinator at Washington State.

Walters is set to make $240,000 this season, a 36-percent increase from the $176,000 he earned last season at Memphis.

Mizzou expected to hire ex-UALR basketball coach

COLUMBIA, Mo. • Missouri basketball coach Kim Anderson is adding some Division I head-coaching experience to his staff. Anderson plans to hire former Arkansas-Little Rock head coach Steve Shields as a special assistant, multiple sources confirmed.

Shields, 50, hired earlier this month as an assistant coach at Loyola University Chicago, was 192-178 in 12 seasons at UALR from 2003-04 to 2014-15, leading the Trojans to five division titles and six winning seasons, including an NCAA Tournament appearance in 2011 after winning the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

Missouri had not announced Shields’ hiring as of Saturday. The school posted an open position for a director of operations for men’s basketball on its human resources website on Thursday. MU generally waits 5-10 days after posting an open position before formally filling the job.

As a special assistant/advisor to the head coach, Shields would be allowed to assist Anderson in practice, but NCAA Bylaw 11.7.6 limits men’s basketball teams to only four coaches, including the head coach, who can evaluate and make contact with recruits off campus.

Shields is expected to share some administrative responsibilities within the program with Paul Rorvig, who currently has the title of director of basketball student-athlete development but is in line to take over the director of operations position formerly held by Bryan Tibaldi, who left this summer to join the staff at DePaul.

UALR fired Shields in March with one year left on a contract extension he signed last year with a reported salary of $228,843, according to the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. Shields was let go after a 13-18 season.

Shields attended Baylor and played for the golf team at the same time Anderson was an assistant basketball coach at the school in Waco, Texas.
Shields spent four years as the head coach at McLennan Community College in Waco, Texas before joining Porter Moser's UALR staff as his top assistant, a position he held for three years before taking over as head coach when Moser left for Illinois State. Moser, now the coach at Loyola, hired Shields a few weeks ago to fill out his staff in Chicago.

Shields will provide Anderson with a veteran presence on a staff otherwise filled with younger, less experienced coaches. Anderson’s three full-time assistants Brad Loos, Rob Fulford and newly hired Corey Tate have just two years combined experience as full-time Division I coaches. Tate, who replaced Tim Fuller earlier this summer, spent the last 11 years as the head coach at Mineral Area Community College.

Tate’s hire left Anderson with some payroll flexibility to find room on the staff for another experienced coach, like Shields. Tate will make $155,000 this season, the university confirmed Friday. Fuller, who was not asked back for the 2015-16 season, made $325,000 as Anderson’s top assistant.

MU and the campus community work to accommodate students with disabilities

On July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act, was created to “(remove) barriers and (empower) people” with disabilities, according to its website. According to the introduction to the ADA, the legislation was modeled after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and is “one of America's most comprehensive pieces of civil rights legislation.” The ADA effectively prohibits discrimination and guarantees those with disabilities have access to the same opportunities, and the ability to “participate in the mainstream of American life — to enjoy employment opportunities, to purchase goods and services, and to participate in State and local government programs and services.”

As the ADA celebrates its 25th anniversary, here's a look at how different areas of MU and the surrounding community work to meet ADA standards.

Campus

According to the ADA, places of public accommodation and public government entities must meet ADA requirements and standards. Examples of places of public accommodation on campus include dining halls, auditoriums and classrooms, University Hospital, Student Recreation Complex, and other service establishments. Check out this map, from the Campus Facilities Department of Space Planning and Management, which allows you to search for accessible entrances, ramps, elevators, chairlifts, accessible parking as well as current construction across MU’s campus.
Disability Center

The MU Disability Center offers a number of accommodations for students with a variety of disabilities. According to the center’s website, these accommodations fall under the following subcategories: academic and classroom, transportation, housing, and service animals. Examples of these include flexible attendance, additional time on exams, alternative-format materials and many more for the classroom, the ability to have private restrooms, lower closet rods, hands-free student room door access and more for housing, and access to para-transit vans for transportation. In order for a student to have access to these accommodations, they must first provide documentation of their disability and work with the Disability Center to find a plan suitable for them.

Residence Halls

After a student files with the Disability Center, they are then given access to the aforementioned number of accommodations for students with disabilities. In the case of on-campus housing, the Department of Residential Life works with the Disability Center to provide student-specific accommodations. Examples of these include placement in residence halls in the center of campus or nearest to the majority of the student’s classes, special attention and checks during storm warnings, power outages and fires, along with room design alterations to meet the student’s needs.

Greektown

While Greektown is located near the MU campus, sorority and fraternity houses are not university property, and as such, are exempted from meeting ADA building requirements. Under ADA, “privately owned and independently developed Greektown is exempted, as fraternity and sorority houses are considered private clubs under Title III of the ADA,” a Maneater long read from April of this year explained.

MU would be responsible for funding or making Greektown more accommodating only if the university bought all of its properties, MU’s ADA compliance manager Amber Cheek said in the article.

“Just because (sororities and fraternities) fall under an exception in the ADA doesn’t mean they shouldn’t plan to make things accessible,” Cheek said. “I think that with awareness, they might decide to plan (for) accessibility.”

Check out this interactive map to explore individual house's accessibility features.

Off-Campus Housing

MU students have many options when it comes to choosing apartments, but for students with physical disabilities, the search may require a bit more effort. Adam Thoma-Perry, a representative for Copper Beech Townhomes, said that it has a number of handicap accessible, one-bedroom units to help accommodate for students with physical disabilities. Other
complexes, like The Reserve, said that, upon request, the apartment complex will accommodate for students with physical handicaps by allowing them to install ramps and giving them access to ground-level units. MU also offers University Student Apartments, a grouping of on-campus apartments — Manor House, Tara Apartments and University Heights — that will “offer accommodations for undergraduate students over 21, graduate students and students with families,” according to Residential Life’s Accessible Housing webpage.

Comprehensive data on the accessibility of the many off-campus housing options is not available at this time. If you have concerns about your building's accessibility, email editors@themaneater.com

MU Parkinson's conference helps people find support

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Hundreds of people with ties to Parkinson's disease attended a conference Saturday to learn more about it.

**MU Health hosts the conference in Columbia. It's been happening for the past 19 years.**

People were able to talk with experts and each other about their struggles and how they overcome certain obstacles after their diagnosis.

One part of the conference pushed support groups.

Experts said support groups can help people with the disease find a family to lean on.

Patsy Dalton's husband was diagnosed with Parkinson's 21 years ago. Dalton became a support group facilitator because she feels it has helped her grow closer to a bigger community.

"When you share with each other you find that you can cope a lot better," said Dalton. "You aren't feeling that isolation, you aren't feeling that depression and those are things that are actually medically helpful by coming to a support group."

There are support groups in Columbia as well as Osage Beach and Jefferson City.
Op Ed: COMING TO A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY NEAR YOU: AN UNPLEASANT ONLINE EDUCATION

Ever wonder what keeps those in charge of higher education awake at night?

Demographics, no doubt, are among the challenges on the minds of sleep-deprived administrators. Fewer high school graduates — for a while, at least — mean tough competition to fill the available seats.

Funding is on the decease, including the value of grants by the state and the federal governments, and is likely to further erode in the near future, especially for public institutions. They have lately been losing out to Medicaid and K-12 education in the competition for state resources, and that is likely to get worse.

Declining middle class incomes make higher education more difficult for many to afford, especially as tuition and fees continue to climb — tuition grew 79.5 percent between 2003 and 2013.

A soft job market leaves potential students wondering whether a college education, purchased at an average loan amount of $33,000, is worth the cost. After all, institutions such as State Technical College of Missouri and others compete by nearly guaranteeing their graduates high-paying jobs.

Higher education has a costly delivery system — expensive buildings, considerable administrative bloat, and highly paid, tenured faculty who usually cannot be removed — that by its nature is suffused with stagnant productivity and is resistant to major cost-cutting.

The University of Missouri, Stephens College and Columbia College are not immune to the demographic and funding trends. And they certainly share with other traditional institutions of higher education a growing, overarching concern: the advent of the University of Everywhere. This looming threat to the status quo is named and described in detail in a book titled “The End of College,” written by Kevin Carey and published in 2015 by Riverhead Books.

In the early 20th century, buggy whip manufacturers were largely put out of business by the automobile. Today the Internet is doing the same thing to record labels, travel agencies and other industries. It is capitalism at work, what the brilliant economist Joseph Schumpeter called...
“creative destruction.” The old order falls victim to new entrants in the market that offer a new or better way of doing business.

Professor Clayton Christensen of Harvard Business School calls the process “disruptive innovation,” and it is much the same concept.

Higher education has, unlike other industries, avoided the Internet bullet so far. But that will soon end, Christensen predicts. He believes higher education is in the process of being disciplined by market forces and that a buyer’s market is developing. Unless higher education reinvents itself, he suggests, many such institutions will disappear during the next 15 years.

What is the University of Everywhere, and how does it work? Here are its hallmarks:

- Online learning will, in the words of Carey, “provide a personalized, individual education to large numbers of people at a reasonable price.” An education can come from a variety of organizations offering separate specialties. Students will unbundle the offerings of current higher education institutions and reassemble them into unique learning plans. The end product will be a better education at a lower price.
- Anything that can be digitized will be available to anyone in the world who has access to an Internet connection. Lecture videos can be downloaded or streamed. The student can pause and rewind the video to capture exactly what was said. Meanwhile, the text of the lecture will be displayed in real time.
- The digital learning environment can be customized and personalized for each student, thanks to advances in artificial intelligence. Also, a student’s progress and pace can constantly be assessed.
- Large numbers of students, both in the United States and around the world are getting their college education through so-called Massive Open Online Courses, or MOOCs. In May, Georgia Tech University announced it will offer a master’s degree in computer science online for a quarter of the cost of a customary on-campus degree. It will get even cheaper.
- Thanks to an improved credentialing system, a student can prove to a potential employer what he or she has actually learned and the details of how he or she did it. That information will likely all be linked to a website.
- All of this is nearly free, and roughly 5,000 quality courses are now or will soon be available online.

What about that valuable college campus experience? Will it be lost? Not necessarily. It is easy to imagine a building — or spaces in a building — devoted to distance learning. There educators could mentor students as needed, and students could work alone or form study groups, which could include students from around the world.

Getting a college education online can still involve a lot of human interaction — just no football team, dorms, student centers, staff or professoriate. On the other hand, there is no reason a student could not, for example, study online for two years and be on campus for the rest of his or her college career.
Some areas of learning will necessarily have to remain at traditional colleges and universities. This would include majors where lab work is essential, such as chemistry. Or such majors as fine arts, equestrian science, etc.

As the University of Everywhere makes its way forward as the classic “disruptive technology,” is it overall a good or bad thing? In my view, it is a very good thing, but the phenomenon will cause a lot of pain. The good news is a college education will be available for millions of people all over the world who previously lacked the opportunity. This is truly an unmixed blessing. Many others will benefit, as well, including those who are employed but who want to better themselves and their career opportunities by using online learning.

On the down side, this will be no fun at all for traditional colleges and universities. How will they adjust to this new reality? It will also not be much fun for a lot of college towns — such as, maybe, Columbia. Quality people in the higher education business will probably lose their jobs through no fault of their own.

This revolution will likely be subject to fits and starts and many failures along the way. Do not be misled, though, because this appears to be an unstoppable trend. The University of Everywhere is on the horizon.

Elite institutions will not disappear. Harvard and other such places will always be with us. But most colleges and universities will encounter challenges. Locally, our three major institutions are doing admirable and constructive work as they deal with this new paradigm.

For example, a national service recently rated the University of Missouri’s online program as the 13th best in the country. Columbia College and Stephens College recognized the trend early on and are far ahead of most institutions in coping with it.

Still, if I were part of the leadership teams of those three institutions, I would be worried. Maybe worried enough to stay awake at night.

Bob Roper is a retired bank executive.
Baltimore -- American higher education is failing “far too many of our students,” Education Secretary Arne Duncan was scheduled to say Monday, as he calls for colleges to be held more accountable for graduating students with high-quality degrees that lead to good jobs.

In a speech outlining the higher education priorities of the Obama administration as it enters its final 18 months in office, Duncan will say it is time to “go further” than discussions about rising levels of student loan debt. He will urge a shift toward focusing on degree completion and educational quality.

"Student debt is a burden for too many students, but most ultimately repay their loans, and for those who get their degree, college proves an excellent investment,” Duncan will say, according to excerpts of his prepared remarks at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. “The degree students truly can’t afford is the one they don’t complete, or that employers don’t value.”

Describing the current system of higher education as broken and inefficient, Duncan will call for fundamental changes to how colleges are held accountable. He will say policymakers "must shift incentives at every level to focus on student success, not just access."

In seeking to reframe higher-education discussions around student outcomes rather than student debt, Duncan also directly responded to the momentum that has been building in recent months for debt-free and tuition-free college proposals among some Democratic presidential candidates and liberal advocacy groups.
Although he acknowledged the need to contain costs and to create more “tuition- and debt-free degree options,” Duncan was to say that such policies aimed at drastically reducing student-loan debt should be only one part of improving the nation’s higher education system.

“If we confine the discussion to cost and debt, we will have failed,” Duncan said in his prepared remarks. “Because we will have only found better ways to pay for a system that fails far too many of our students.”

Even as student-loan debt already has become a galvanizing political issue during the 2016 presidential campaign, Duncan was set to call for a new focus on accountability in American higher education. One proposal he will offer in broad terms, according to excerpts of his prepared remarks, is greater risk-sharing for “every part of the system,” citing colleges, states and accreditors.

“Institutions must be held accountable when they get paid by students and taxpayers but fail to deliver a quality education,” he will say. “So should states and accreditors who are responsible to oversee them under the law.”

The speech also was slated to tout several of the administration's policy successes, including its effort to crack down on for-profit colleges with the so-called gainful employment regulations, which went into effect this month.

Duncan’s call for a greater focus on student outcomes in higher education comes only a month after the Obama administration abandoned its plan to produce a college ratings system, which officials had pitched for two years as a way to achieve such accountability.

Rather than grade colleges’ performance as high, low or middling, the administration announced last month it would create a government website that provides consumer information to prospective students and parents.