Mizzou moves closer to $1.3 billion fundraising goal

The University of Missouri-Columbia announced Thursday that it’s raised more than $715 million as part of a fundraising campaign to raise $1.3 billion in donations to advance the university’s education and research goals.

The $715 million mark is up from the $650 million the “Mizzou: Our Time to Lead” campaign had raised as of last October.

The increase is also in spite of $2 million in pledged donations the university lost in recent months after a number of donors rescinded their pledges.

Of the donors who pulled back on their pledges, some cited the recent turmoil on campus.

Unknown donor helps University of Missouri fundraising rebound from bad months

By Rudi Keller

Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 3:21 pm

A large pledge that the University of Missouri is not ready to reveal pushed the campus fundraising total for February to $21.9 million, putting the campus on track for its best year ever soliciting private support, Vice Chancellor of University Advancement Tom Hiles said Thursday.
Through the end of February, MU recorded $115 million in new donations and pledges during the current year for its “Mizzou: Our Time to Lead” capital campaign, $30 million more than through the same period a year earlier. At the end of January, the year-to-date total was $17 million ahead of fiscal 2015.

Donations and pledges are generally earmarked by the contributor for a long-term project and are not available to replace declines in operating revenues. This year's total is $6.9 million more than donations to date in fiscal 2014, which was the university's best year for fundraising.

Large pledges are helping keep the totals strong despite a drop in smaller donations after the campus unrest that brought international attention to MU in the fall. Donations in November and December were $8.6 million below the previous year and donors also withdrew $2 million in pledges.

“We are still hearing some of the same things, there are still questions about leadership,” Hiles said. “The difference is major gifts, gifts of $1 million or more, are very individualized gifts built on relationships of years.”

Hiles would not discuss the size or purpose of the pledge that help almost triple the $7.5 million raised in February 2015.

One of the largest gifts this fiscal year, announced as the public phase of the fundraising campaign began Oct. 8, is $25 million from Rich Kinder, founder and executive chairman of Kinder Morgan Inc., and his wife, Nancy Kinder, through their family foundation. The money was donated to create the Kinder Institution on Constitutional Democracy.

The university has raised $715 million toward the $1.3 billion campaign goal. All gifts to the university, large and small, are included in the total. Hiles would not discuss the latest big donation because the donor is not ready to talk about it, Hiles said.

“We do that first of all on the donor’s comfort level and secondly we try to do these strategically as well,” he said. “It is not like we book a gift and announce it as well on the same day.”

In a news release highlighting $65 million in donations since the campaign was announced, interim Chancellor Hank Foley said the support will help MU elevate its status with the Association of American Universities as well as meet other campaign goals.

“Private philanthropy is vital to the education and research missions of the university,” Foley said in the news release.

MU has not released its latest association rankings, but it has lagged near the bottom of 34 public research universities that are members. Although MU has been a member since 1908, the low rankings have campus officials and politicians worried about the possibility that the membership will be revoked as it was for the University of Nebraska in 2011.
The other goals of the campaign are to increase the university’s endowment of about $825 million to more than $1 billion, create five to 10 “signature centers and institutes” with endowments of $10 million or more and fund new academic buildings.

A handful of donors are coming forward with gifts because MU’s tarnished image after the protests is projected to cut enrollment and cost the university as much as $32 million in tuition revenue, Hiles said.

“A majority of supporters have hung in there with us and know the university has been through a lot worse and we are going to be OK,” Hiles said.

In midst of budget uncertainty, fundraising gets boost from anonymous donor

TOM HELLAUER, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — In a month marked by legislative pressure and the firing of Melissa Click, MU managed to raise $21.9 million in February, thanks in part to a large anonymous gift yet to be announced.

Fundraising, "in the midst of the challenging times with budget cuts provides a boost of private support that is truly helpful," Vice Chancellor of Advancement Tom Hiles said.

Earlier this month, the Missouri House approved a $7.6 million cut to the UM System and an additional $1 million cut from MU's budget, which will be redirected to Lincoln University.

While Hiles said he has not seen contributions explicitly to combat budget cuts, he has heard from a handful of donors concerned about the future of MU after a controversial fall semester.

"People expect their donations to be additive and not covering lost funds," Hiles said.
Fortunately for the university, this year it has raised $7 million more than the previous annual record, including $65 million to date since October as part of its fundraising campaign, "Mizzou: Our Time to Lead." Officials hope to raise $1.3 billion by 2020.

Although MU will find itself with more money, Hiles said fundraising dollars have different purposes than the annual budget. Gifts usually go toward specific initiatives, such as scholarship funds or signature centers such as the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, which received a $25 million endowment in October.

**MU Fundraising Continues Despite Difficulties**


**MU Faculty Council: Don't select another Tim Wolfe for UM System president**

By Rudi Keller

Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 9:28 pm
When University of Missouri Vice President for Human Resources Kelly Stuck asked the MU Faculty Council on Thursday what kind of president should be hired, Associate Professor Nicole Monnier had a simple answer.

“Not Tim Wolfe,” she said.

Those three words started a discussion over the next 20 minutes of the bad attributes Wolfe exhibited and the personality traits to seek out in his permanent replacement. Wolfe resigned Nov. 9 after campus protests over racial issues capped several months of turmoil that included a bitter behind-the-scenes struggle between Wolfe and Columbia campus Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, who stepped down the same day.

Interim President Mike Middleton has said several times that he does not intend to be a candidate for permanent appointment to the post.

Stuck appeared before the council with human resources consultant Tim McIntosh. She said the Board of Curators designed the search for Wolfe’s permanent replacement to give full consideration to the major university constituent groups.

The Presidential Search Committee has 12 voting members. It is chaired by two alumni, Stuck said, and has two faculty, one student and one staff representative along with the six current curators. The committee could expand to 16 if vacant curator and student representative seats are filled.

The committee will screen candidates and pick finalists before making a recommendation to the curators.

“It would be very hard for there not to be that kind of transparency and everybody has an equal vote in a room, and for the curators then to walk out of that room and do something different than what the committee’s direction was,” Stuck said.

Wolfe was chosen by the curators in December 2011 to replace Gary Forsee, who resigned in January 2011. At the time Wolfe was president of Novell Americas, a computer network software supplier, but did not have an advanced degree or experience in academic administration.

Wolfe didn’t understand “the norms and culture of an academic setting” and was “terribly autocratic,” management Professor Art Jago said.

“He didn’t have a good appreciation of how a university works before he got here, and that’s one of the problems,” engineering Professor John Gahl said.

Stuck and McIntosh said after the discussion that they have appeared or will speak to about 12 groups like the faculty council on the four university campuses, as well as meeting with hospital staff and members of the Missouri 100 presidential advisory group.
In the search that selected Wolfe, the curators set up an advisory panel that was kept in the dark until the finalists were chosen. Stuck said Thursday that the curators had narrowed the field to Wolfe and another candidate, who withdrew before the advisory panel was informed, leaving Wolfe as the only finalist when the selection was to be made.

Public forums about the presidential search begin April 4 with meetings in Rolla and St. Louis. Each forum will include curators, other members of the search committee and representatives of consulting firm Isaacson, Miller Inc. A forum in Columbia will be held at 10:30 a.m. April 6 at the Reynolds Alumni Center.

During the meeting, several members of the council said that if a non-academic is chosen, the person should already understand how higher education is different from business or government. They also wondered what kind of candidates will apply.

“Missouri has been in the news recently and I am worried it will deflect some candidates who won’t apply or even seriously consider us just because we were in the news for so long and they don’t want all this conflict,” Associate Professor of Economics Vitor Trindade said.

The search consultants have already advised that encouraging candidates to apply might be more difficult than under normal circumstances, Stuck said.

“What we expect is that it may be a smaller pool, but very robust in terms of the level of candidate, because the mediocre candidates are not going to apply for this, they are not going to take a shot at it,” Stuck said.

**the maneater**

**Faculty Council does not want another Tim Wolfe**

Council member Art Jago: “(Tim Wolfe) was probably a pretty good strategist, but he was a terrible leader.”

During Thursday’s Faculty Council meeting, faculty gave input to interim Vice President for Human Resources Kelley Stuck and Human Resources Consultant Tim McIntosh about what qualifications they wish to see in the next UM System president, including experience in education and listening skills.

“Someone who’s not *(former UM System President)* Tim Wolfe,” Faculty Council Vice Chairwoman Nicole Monnier said.
Council members responded with laughter. Many members expressed their displeasure with Wolfe’s lack of higher education experience.

“He was probably a pretty good strategist, but he was a terrible leader,” council member Art Jago said.

The faculty who spoke said they wished to have a president who has experience in higher education and an understanding of how universities are run. Some said they want the next president to be required to have a doctoral degree. Other said they didn’t believe having a doctoral degree was necessary.

“He doesn’t have to be a sitting academic, but needs to have a good understanding of how universities work,” council member John Gahl said.

Council member Vitor Trindade said he thinks higher education experience is important.

“I think what that speaks to is someone who has a strong relationship with higher education, not someone who comes out of IBM,” Trindade said, referencing Wolfe’s former employer.

Council member Rebecca Graves said she believes it’s key for the next president to be a good listener and able to handle criticism.

Shortly after becoming president in 2012, the chair of the Board of Curators, Warren Erdman, called Wolfe the “best listener” he had ever met.

“He genuinely wants to learn from every conversation,” Erdman told Inside Columbia magazine. “He respects the opinions and experiences of others and really applies what he learns to his own informed decision-making.”

Council member Mary Stegmaier said she thinks it’s important for a president to be interested in students.

“Someone who has an interest in learning about what the student experience is like, learning about the challenges they’re facing … someone who has genuine interest in learning about students,” Stegmaier said.

Some faculty member raised concerns about candidates who might not wish to apply because of MU’s notoriety in the news recently.

Stuck said the point was valid.

“In working with the search firm, what we expect is for there to be a smaller search pool, but very robust in terms of level of candidates,” Stuck said. “I don’t think it’s impossible at all to get an incredible leader, we just might have to work a little harder.”
The council also discussed the greater inclusion of faculty and student voices in the current search. The 2016 presidential search committee consists of two faculty members, one staff member, one student, two UM System alumni co-chairs, the Board of Curators and the student representative to the board. All will be voting members. The 2011 Presidential Search was criticized for having a non-voting advisory committee that only met with one finalist, Tim Wolfe, as opposed to multiple candidates.

“There were two candidates and one dropped out, so they got to meet the candidate pool named Tim Wolfe,” Faculty Council Chairman Ben Trachtenberg said.

Council members expressed a desire to have public forums before the president is selected to meet the finalists. Stuck said this is a divisive topic. Some candidates, often strong ones, Stuck said, drop out if their name is to become public because they don’t wish their employer to discover they are applying for another job. On the other hand, it is more transparent to make candidates’ names public and allows for greater faculty, staff and student input.

Bill Wiebold, a council member who also served on the 2011 Presidential Search Advisory Committee, said he believes given the criticism of the 2011 search, it would be beneficial to hold public forums.

“You know, once burned, twice cautious,” Wiebold said. “And I was burned once before on the previous presidential search. It would go a long way to dispel that the Board of Curators are going to do what they want anyhow if you would have a public forum for the candidates.”

McCaskill says Missouri A+ Scholarship should be a model for the nation

By Rudi Keller

Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 10:37 am

A national program modeled on Missouri’s A+ Scholarship could ease the burden of college debt, but the federal government can’t afford to provide free higher education to every student, U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill said Wednesday during a visit to Ashland.

Speaking to reporters before meeting with financial aid officials, students and parents in Ashland, McCaskill, D-Mo., praised the program that provides full coverage for tuition and fees at community colleges. Created in 1993, the program has been expanded in recent years to cover
students from every high school who maintain a 2.5 grade point average and meet other requirements.

In the 2014-15 school year, 13,142 students took advantage of the program at a cost of $33.3 million. In the coming fiscal year, the program is expected to cost $37.5 million.

“I think there are ways the A+ program could even be improved, but that is a real bright shining light in Missouri higher education, and they deserve a lot of credit for developing that program, maintaining that program, because I know there was talk of doing away with it at one point, but I know that smarter heads prevailed,” McCaskill said.

McCaskill, who supports former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination, said Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders’ proposal for free college for all was too expensive.

“There is no question that some of the promises being made in this presidential campaign are unrealistic,” she said.

McCaskill is using the Easter recess to tour the state seeking information about college costs. At Souther Boone Elementary School, she heard that rising room and board rates are adding to the debt burden and that lack of transparency in pricing makes it difficult to compare schools.

“It is clear to me in all these conversations that room and board is a big, gaping problem,” McCaskill said.

Chris Felmlee, superintendent of the Southern Boone County School District, said about 80 percent of the graduating seniors from the district continue their education. The price of college is daunting, he said.

“When they realize it is going to cost $25,000 to attend” the University of Missouri, “that is like a huge rock crashing down on them,” he said.

The costs of specialized and professional programs are also difficult to meet, said Jazmyn Youngblood, a senior at Battle High School. She told McCaskill that she spent three weeks applying to colleges and wanted to attend MU’s College of Veterinary Medicine. She also checked out the cost of attending veterinary school overseas.

A college in London costs $2,000 more per year but is still cheaper overall, she said. “I can go to an international school in London and be finished in five years rather than eight,” she said.

The federal government can help students by allowing graduates to refinance their debt at market interest rates, she said. But state lawmakers must provide the support that keeps tuition and room and board costs down, she said.

And it is up to state lawmakers to provide the support for public colleges and universities that will keep tuition down, McCaskill said. Asked about proposed cuts to the University of Missouri,
McCaskill noted that support for public higher education in Missouri is 20 percent below the national average.

“The University of Missouri has been cut, I believe, about 26 percent since 2008, and to make a political point they think it is a good idea to punish the university further?” McCaskill said. “So they’re punishing these young people? So they have to take out more loans?”

**Autism Awareness Month aims to provide education and understanding**

COLUMBIA – Autism Awareness Month is just around the corner and April 2 will mark the eighth year of World Autism Awareness Day.

**The MU Thompson Center is partnering with Autism Speaks to hold an event called "Light it Up Blue" on Faurot Field that day.**

Autism Awareness goes beyond one day, the whole month of April is recognized as Autism Awareness Month.

“It’s because of Autism Awareness Month and all the focus and energy we put into it, that Autism has become a part of the common vocabulary,” Dr. Stephen Kanne, Executive Director of the MU Thompson Center said.

Kanne said there are two areas a person with Autism will often struggle with - one is the ability to communicate socially and two, the way they respond to their environment.

According to a news release, if parents notice red flags, it is important to see a pediatrician as soon as possible.
Here are a few examples of red flags from Dr. Kanne:

- No big smiles or joyful expressions by six months or thereafter
- No babbling by 12 months
- Any loss of speech, babbling or social skills at any age
- Not turning to their name when called

"The earlier we can get kids into services and the earlier we can start the right types of treatment with the kids and get them properly diagnosed, the better their chances for being able to have the most optimal functioning for the rest of their lives," Dr. Kanne said.

Middle schoolers and high schoolers are invited to participate in a video contest. The winning video will be played during the Light it Up Blue event.

For more information on the event and how to submit a video entry see this page on the MU Thompson Center website.

Local health officials track Zika virus

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 2:00 pm

Mosquitoes that transmit the Zika virus, which has strong links to a rare birth defect, might spread as far north as Missouri by midsummer, but local health officials aren’t raising alarms and say their main concern is for pregnant women who visit countries where the virus is prevalent.

The National Center for Atmospheric Research last week published research indicating that St. Louis and Kansas City could have “moderate” populations of the mosquito species known to carry Zika by July.
The study did not consider factors such as mosquito control efforts and the likely “faster response” by public health officials in the United States, said Scott Clardy, assistant director of the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services.

There has been only one case of Zika virus infection in Missouri, but it was related to foreign travel and was not contracted in the United States. The virus rapidly spread through Central and South America this past year, with more than 20 countries now facing epidemics.

“It is not expected to spread as widely as in Latin America because a higher percentage of Americans live and work in air-conditioned and largely sealed homes and offices,” Clardy said.

Jamilah Shubeilat, infectious disease consultant at Boone Hospital Center, said women who are pregnant or plan to become pregnant and have recently traveled to the affected areas — Mexico, Puerto Rico, Central and South America and the Caribbean — should be tested to see whether they have the virus. Symptoms can include low-grade fever, joint aches, headaches, rashes and red eyes, but most people infected with the virus develop no symptoms.

There is no treatment or cure for the Zika virus, but symptoms dissipate as the virus runs its course. Shubeilat said doctors suggest staying hydrated, treating the fever and getting plenty of bed rest.

“In general, mosquitoes can transmit many diseases,” Shubeilat said. Anyone who works or spends a lot of time outside should wear long pants, long-sleeve shirts and use repellents that include DEET, she said.

The primary public health concern with Zika virus is a possible correlation to microcephaly, a birth defect characterized by an abnormally small head and brain damage.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization have mentioned that connection in travel advisories for women who are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.

The CDC’s travel notices are updated with new information as it becomes available.

**A team of researchers at the University of Missouri has stressed that public education about Zika is particularly important as spring break begins.**

Daniel Jackson, a maternal and fetal medicine specialist at MU Health Care, said microcephaly is a permanent birth defect that can cause babies to have lifelong problems hearing, seeing, learning and developing. Jackson said it’s important for expectant mothers to know that having the Zika virus does not guarantee their children will develop microcephaly, but he advises women who are pregnant or considering pregnancy to avoid traveling to countries affected by the virus until more research is done.

One MU research project has been successful at manipulating mosquitoes to be resistant to the Dengue virus, another tropical, mosquito-borne ailment. Alexander Franz, assistant professor in
the MU Department of Veterinary Medicine, said the success of that project might help tackle the Zika virus.

There are no reports of infants getting Zika virus through breast-feeding, said Andrea Waner, spokeswoman for the Columbia/Boone County health department.

“Mothers are encouraged to breast-feed even in areas where Zika virus is found because of the benefits of breast-feeding,” Waner said.

Historian Martha Jones speaks on past and present violence against black women

Jones’ speech, the second in “The African American Experience in Missouri” lecture series, discussed the importance of sharing African-American women’s stories in order to inspire action against violence.

Martha Jones, historian and professor at the University of Michigan, spoke at MU Wednesday night in Jesse Hall on the importance of telling stories of violence against black women past and present in order to inspire change.

Jones recounted the story of Celia, an African-American slave purchased in 1850 in Fulton, Missouri, at the age of fourteen who was subject to years of sexual abuse by her owner, Robert Newsom.

“Our 21st century questions are ones about how the state disciplines, punishes and controls black women through agents of violence,” Jones said. “In this sense, Celia’s case reminds us that this state violence is an old problem; one with origins in the antebellum United States and the institution of slavery.”

Celia had two of Newsom’s children and was pregnant with a third child, most likely his, when she said she felt unwell and asked two of Newsom’s daughters to speak with their father about giving her space.

His daughters dismissed Celia’s plea, and that night, when Newsom entered her cabin, Celia killed him by striking him in the head with a stick and burning his remains to hide the evidence. After confessing, 19-year-old Celia was charged with murder and sentenced to hanging in the case State of Missouri v. Celia, A Slave.
“The elements of Celia’s case sound familiar,” Jones said. “Perhaps, eerily so. They include racism, the state, sexual assault and a court system unprepared, or perhaps unable, to manufacture justice for a woman like Celia.”

Jones also spoke about #SayHerName, a social media movement that shares stories of violence against black women, specifically in regard to law enforcement in order to bring attention to the issue and invoke change.

“(#SayHerName) is an intervention in the movement that we call Black Lives Matter,” Jones said. “It is one that reminds us, as citizens, as activists, as commentators, as scholars, that violence against women, including sexual violence, demands our attention and our action.”

Jones said #SayHerName is not simply a twenty-first century slogan, but is a call to action to make use of history to transform the present.

“For a historian, one who constructs stories and explanations of the past, #SayHerName is a challenge,” Jones said. “I have said Celia’s name countless times. Still, it demands that I not merely say her name, Celia, it demands that I make that invocation matter. It demands that we regard our work as more than antiquarian tellings of the foreign place that we call the past.”

Jones’ speech was preceded by a reception and followed by her signing copies of her 2007 book “All Bound Up Together: The Woman Question in African-American Public Culture, 1830-1900.”

“The issues she discussed are important because much of what she talked about is still going on today,” freshman Charlie Durham said. “Those issues have a lasting impact. Women and people of color are treated differently in the court system today, and there is tons of evidence to prove it. Those differences are not as drastic as in the past, but it’s still reminiscent of old problems that many people think America has solved, but we clearly have not.”

Jones’ speech was the second in MU’s new “The African American Experience in Missouri” lecture series.

“(The speakers’) presentations on everything from slavery and the meaning of race to urban decline and the rise of jazz culture are an essential step in continuing the dialogue that began this fall,” assistant history professor Keona Ervin said in a Jan. 6 statement.


In regard to Mutti’s speech, Vice Provost of Institutional Research and Quality Improvement Mardy Eimers said, “it was very informative. I never fully understood the extent of slavery in Missouri. I grew up in an Iowa town that had very little diversity. So I’m trying to learn more
about Missouri’s past — the good and the bad — so I can become a more effective campus leader, a better citizen both in and out of the university.”

Eimers attended both Mutti and Jones’ speeches. He said he thought slavery had mainly taken place in southeast Missouri, but learned that it had also taken place near the Missouri River extending to the Kansas City area such as in Columbia and in Callaway County.

While the remaining list of speakers is yet to be finalized, the series will continue with approximately three to four speakers over the span of three semesters. The State Historical Society of Missouri’s Center for Missouri Studies and MU’s Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity partnered to develop the lecture series, which will continue to cover the progression of black lives in Missouri from the beginnings of its statehood to present day.

The next event will be April 21 with Harvard professor Walter Johnson’s speech entitled, “No Rights Which the White Man Was Bound to Respect” which will detail the 1857 Dred Scott v. Sandford case.

“I think you need to know your past to understand the present and think of the future,” Eimers said. “It gives the framework for how current culture might have come about.”

“The richness that diversity brings to a community can only be truly appreciated when you understand its heritage,” said Chuck Henson, interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity, in a statement. “We believe this look into the past is essential as we work together to write the next chapter of our shared history.”

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

MARCH 24, 2016 11:19 AM

Missouri ‘religious freedom’ bill continues to stoke tensions

Proponents decry accusations that the bill enshrines discrimination in the Missouri Constitution

If voters approve it, certain individuals and businesses could refuse service to same-sex couples based on religious beliefs

Among the bill’s critics are some of the state’s largest companies, the NCAA and the Big 12 Conference
JEFFERSON CITY - More than once over the last few weeks, Don Hinkle has been accused of bigotry and discrimination.

And it doesn’t sit very well with him.

As director of public policy for the Missouri Baptist Convention, Hinkle was among the architects of a “religious freedom” amendment to the state’s constitution aimed at protecting certain individuals and businesses who cite religious beliefs to refuse service to same-sex couples.

Democrats staged a 39-hour filibuster to try to kill the bill in the Missouri Senate, garnering national attention. Republicans responded by shutting down debate and forcing a vote with a rarely used procedural maneuver.

With debate now shifting to the Missouri House, and with some of the state’s largest companies publicly condemning the amendment, proponents are trying to make their case that they aren’t trying to promote discrimination.

“We hear people screaming about discrimination,” Hinkle told The Star. “This bill doesn’t discriminate against anybody. As a southern Baptist, I love (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) people. I do not want them discriminated against. I don’t want them ridiculed or hurt in any way. This bill is simply asking everyone to live and let live.”

To those opposed to the amendment, Hinkle’s argument rings hollow.

“If this passes, LGBT people will not be free to live and let live,” said Sarah Rossi, an attorney and director of advocacy and policy for the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri. “It gives the ability to live and let live those who want to discriminate and takes it away from LGBT people.”

**Civil rights vs. religious freedom**

The debate roiling Missouri politics isn’t unique. Republican lawmakers in numerous states have pushed measures that would expand religious protections in response to the U.S. Supreme Court decision last June legalizing gay marriage nationwide.
Last year, Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback signed an executive order prohibiting state government from taking action against clergy members or religious organizations that deny services to couples based on religious beliefs.

The Missouri legislation goes beyond Kansas’ executive order by seeking to put similar protections in the state’s constitution.

Proponents point to lawsuits in other states faced by florists and bakers who declined to provide services for same-sex weddings. Christian business owners are being targeted by activists, they say, and must be protected.

“A baker will make them a birthday cake,” Hinkle said. “He'll make them cupcakes. It's just the question of a gay wedding. That’s it. It’s very narrow.”

The Missouri Human Rights Act — which outlaws discrimination based on things like race, gender and religion — does not include sexual orientation and gender identity. That means under current law, a person can legally be fired from a job, kicked out of a restaurant or evicted from an apartment for being gay.

That fact was highlighted last year when Missouri’s Western District Court of Appeals in Jackson County dismissed a lawsuit filed by a gay man who said he was fired for being gay because state law doesn’t prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.

A handful of local municipalities, including Kansas City and Jackson County, have passed nondiscrimination ordinances protecting LGBT citizens. But in the rest of Missouri, Rossi said, “you can discriminate against an LGBT person with no legal ramifications.”

The proposed constitutional amendment would override those local ordinances, Rossi said. And even if it were narrowly tailored to only focus on florists, bakers and others associated with weddings, “it's still enshrining discrimination in the constitution,” she said.

However, Rossi says the amendment isn’t narrow at all.

The definition of “religious organizations” that would be protected under the legislation includes religious schools, charities, hospitals and nursing homes, among others.

That could mean not only that a baker can deny a same-sex couple a wedding cake, she said, but that an adoption agency or a nursing home could turn away that couple based on a religious opposition to gay marriage.
“Saying it’s narrowly tailored is blatantly false,” Rossi said.

Ryan Johnson, president of the conservative nonprofit Missouri Alliance for Freedom, who also helped craft the “religious freedom” amendment, said in a recent radio interview that if a same-sex couple is denied service by a baker based on religious beliefs, they can “go down the street to the other five bakers in town that would happily bake them a wedding cake.”

He dismissed the idea that the bill protects discrimination.

“If there’s any bigotry on display here at all,” he said, “it’s the anti-religious bigotry of the left.”

Critics of the amendment say it’s an attempt to cloak discrimination in the veil of religious liberty, a tactic with a long history.

Alabama Gov. George Wallace repeatedly invoked God in his 1963 speech that came to be known as “segregation now, segregation forever.”

And when Bob Jones University lost its tax-exempt status in 1983 over its policy barring interracial marriage or dating among students, it unsuccessfully sued the federal government, arguing to the U.S. Supreme Court that prohibitions on racial discrimination “cannot constitutionally be applied to schools that engage in racial discrimination on the basis of sincerely held religious beliefs.”

“Religious conviction has historically been used as an excuse to justify racism, discrimination and slavery,” said Sen. Kiki Curls, a Kansas City Democrat.

Sen. Jason Holsman, a Kansas City Democrat, said in a newsletter to his constituents that the proposed amendment creates “a second class of citizens,” noting that arguments in support of the idea “are the same arguments once used to justify the denial of service based on race or gender.”

**Carl Esbeck, a professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law who helped craft the “religious freedom” legislation, said a “mistaken argument in the past doesn’t then delegitimize all later religious liberty arguments.”**

If that were the case, he said, “then you couldn’t ever again make a religious argument.”

**Business backlash**
Among the loudest critics of the proposed amendment are some of the state’s largest companies.

Monsanto Co. and MasterCard Inc. spoke out quickly against the proposal. They were joined by the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the state’s largest business advocacy organization, and its affiliates in Kansas City and St. Louis.

The NCAA and Big 12 Conference have also expressed concerns about the legislation, hinting that its passage could jeopardize future college athletic events in Missouri.

The Big 12 men’s basketball tournament, which Kansas City will host the next four years, brings in $13 million in revenue for the city each year. The conference’s chairman said the legislation could affect whether the Big 12 holds events in Missouri moving forward.

The NCAA has numerous major events scheduled in Kansas City in years to come, including the men’s Midwest regional basketball semifinals and final in March 2017. Additionally, Kansas City was awarded 14 NCAA championships through 2017, including Division I soccer and women’s volleyball.

In a statement to The Star, the NCAA said it expected “all people will be welcomed and treated with respect in cities that host our NCAA championships and events.”

When Indiana passed a “religious freedom” bill last year, it drew immediate outcry from the NCAA, which has its headquarters in Indianapolis. The state eventually repealed the legislation, but Indianapolis estimates it lost $60 million in convention and tourism business because of the controversy.

In Georgia, where a “religious freedom” bill has made its way to the desk of the state’s Republican governor, the National Football League has suggested its passage could cost Atlanta a chance to host a Super Bowl. Disney film studios has vowed to boycott the state if the bill becomes law.

The opposition from the business community is not surprising, Hinkle said, but it is perplexing.

“I do not understand why the NCAA or MasterCard or Monsanto want to go out of their way to offend their religious customers,” Hinkle said. “I just find that unbelievable. Do they not understand the millions of Missourians they are offending?”
House Speaker Todd Richardson, a Poplar Bluff Republican, said said the legislation will be sent to a House committee for review after lawmakers return from spring break next week.

“We understand this is going to be an issue that’s going to cause intense feelings on both sides of the issue,” Richardson said. “So the House will take a hard look at it when we get back.”

If the Missouri House passes the measure, it would go on the statewide ballot later this year for voter approval.

“Let the people vote,” Hinkle said. “Let them decide. If you’re against it, make your case to the people.”

Those who accuse proponents of the “religious freedom” amendment of bigotry are engaging in “demagoguery,” Hinkle said.

“It’s certainly not fair. It’s a gross mischaracterization,” he said. “We are all equal under the law. But we will not yield our conscience to the government or any manmade group, because God is the only lord of our conscience.”

Rossi said that if the goal was protection of religious beliefs, the amendment “wouldn’t be limited to targeting LGBT people.”

“This is not about interfaith marriages, which a lot of religious people disagree with,” Rossi said. “It’s not about interracial marriages. It’s not about all these other religious beliefs; it’s only about LGBT people. It’s elevating one religious belief above all other religious beliefs. It’s not about religion. It’s about being uncomfortable with gay marriage, which is a legal right.”

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

How One University Took Its Student Protesters Seriously

Ajay Nair, senior vice president and dean of campus life at Emory U.
Last fall, a few days after activists at the University of Missouri at Columbia and at Yale University demanded that steps be taken to improve their campuses' racial climates, students at Emory University staged protests and issued demands of their own.

Ajay Nair, senior vice president and dean of campus life at Emory, says his initial reaction to those demands was "defensiveness." But after speaking with the activists, Mr. Nair oversaw his institution's unusually detailed response to the protests. Emory convened working groups to assess each of the demands, asked everyone on the campus to weigh in on possible solutions, and held a racial-justice retreat for students and members of the faculty and staff.

"Our students are seeking change," Mr. Nair says. "They mean for the demands to be provocative and jarring. If we look at the demands just at face value, we're missing something." In an interview, Mr. Nair explains how and why the university embarked on such a lengthy process.

**THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Coaches Must Now ‘Step the Heck Out’ of Sex-Assault Investigations of Players

No MU Mention
Its first appearance at the NCAA men’s basketball tournament in more than 50 years wasn’t a good moment for Yale University’s team to be without its captain. But he wasn’t there.

Jack Montague was expelled last month after being accused of sexual assault. His expulsion highlights questions about how colleges handle such allegations against athletes and whether the process is impartial.

Yale hasn’t disclosed exactly what the former captain was accused of or found responsible for. But he has spoken out through his lawyer, sharing details of his relationship with a female classmate, saying the two had had consensual sex, and arguing he had been unfairly expelled. He plans to sue Yale.

The spotlight shines brighter on athletes than on other students, particularly regarding alleged sexual misconduct. But colleges haven’t always used their formal disciplinary process for players. Until 2008, for example, the University of Iowa has allowed its athletics department to take "informal action" on reports of sexual misconduct by athletes without first consulting campus investigators.

More recent incidents have involved allegations that institutions brushed off charges against athletes or let athletics officials control or influence an investigation. A female student at Hobart & William Smith Colleges said that in 2013 she was turned over a pool table and raped by football players — and that the institution cleared them of any wrongdoing. Florida State University’s star quarterback, Jameis Winston, was accused of rape in 2012 but found not responsible by the institution, which recently settled a lawsuit by the accuser, who claimed "deliberate indifference."

Officials at both Florida State and Hobart & William Smith maintain they handled the cases appropriately. Institutions in such positions often say privacy law prevents them
from filling in details that are missing from the public record and that may clarify their response.

But a lot has changed in just the last few years, say consultants who work with athletics departments, about how colleges manage allegations against athletes. Critics have denounced institutions for giving players special treatment to protect the athletics brand and revenue. No longer, though, do colleges let athletics departments handle misconduct charges themselves, a practice once common.

Ten years ago, when lacrosse players at Duke University were accused of rape, John F. Burness was the chief spokesman there. "One of the things I learned," he says, "was that at Duke the coach was responsible for the behavior of his team 24/7."

"We had disciplinary boards, but frequently it never got to that because it was just handled by the coach," says Mr. Burness, who is now a visiting professor of the practice in Duke’s School of Public Policy. "Other people would have no idea that these things had occurred."

With greater enforcement of the federal gender-equity law Title IX, sexual-misconduct charges against athletes have been removed from the purview of athletics departments. "Institutions have had to come to grips with the fact that these are institutional issues," says Mr. Burness. "These are not athletic issues."

Athletics ‘Oversight’

That is a change for coaches who were used to being involved, but shouldn’t be, says Dan Beebe, a risk-management consultant who works with university athletics departments. "It’s no longer in your realm," he tells officials whose players face sexual-misconduct charges. "Step the heck out of it."
Victim advocates and policy makers have made increasingly clear that universities must handle charges against all students — including athletes — uniformly. That typically means within the campus Title IX office.

In guidance to colleges in 2011 on how to handle students’ reports of sexual assault, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights explicitly said athletics departments should not be in charge of investigating cases involving athletes. "If a complaint of sexual violence involves a student athlete, the school must follow its standard procedures," the office said. "Such complaints must not be addressed solely by athletics-department procedures."

A report in July 2014 by Sen. Claire McCaskill, a Missouri Democrat, showed many athletics departments still involved in investigations. According to the senator’s survey, 22 percent of institutions had given their athletics departments "oversight" of sexual-assault cases involving athletes.

The following month, the National Collegiate Athletic Association approved a resolution that athletics departments should "cooperate with but not manage, direct, control, or interfere with college or university investigations into allegations of sexual violence."

Despite Senator McCaskill’s report, it’s unclear what role athletics departments have played, says Robb Jones, senior vice president at United Educators, a risk-management company. Even appropriate involvement — for example, a coach’s referring a report to the Title IX coordinator — may have seemed like a form of oversight to campus officials completing the survey. That doesn’t necessarily mean the athletics department was responsible for investigating, says Mr. Jones.
In examining more than 300 reports of sexual assault at about 100 institutions from 2011 to 2013, United Educators found "no athletic departments overseeing an institution’s sexual-assault investigation when athletes were involved."

The firm’s report also concluded that athletes accused of sexual misconduct were more likely to be found responsible than were other male students. More than 60 percent of cases involving athletes resulted in findings of responsibility, compared with 45 percent of all cases. Athletes found responsible were about as likely to be expelled, but a smaller share were suspended and a greater share were placed on probation relative to the general population.

While the report found that 15 percent of alleged perpetrators were athletes — roughly comparable to their representation on campuses, says Mr. Jones — athletes were disproportionately represented in certain circumstances, for example, in 40 percent of cases involving one victim and two or more perpetrators.

After Findings

Institutions’ moves to keep athletics departments out of investigations may be hard for coaches, who are used to talking to players about their personal lives and offering advice when students confront problems.

"The choices coaches face are either you turn your back on a player and say, I can’t get involved in these charges, or become the advocate," says Peter F. Lake, director of the Center for Higher Education Law and Policy at the Stetson University College of Law. "I don’t think either role works well."

Changes in many campus practices mean that if coaches now hear something from or about one of their athletes involving a reported sexual assault, they must inform
campus authorities. "A lot of athletes," says Mr. Lake, "don’t trust their coaches and assistants with information anymore."

Accused students who end up leaving or getting kicked out of their institutions have often transferred and played elsewhere. But two conferences, the Southeastern Conference and the Pac-12, are trying to limit those opportunities, ruling that athletes expelled for sexual or other misconduct cannot participate in sports at another institution.

At Yale, basketball players showed solidarity with their former captain last month by wearing T-shirts emblazoned with his nickname and jersey number — and the university’s name backwards. Victim advocates protested, saying the team was endorsing rape.

The players apologized, and the university told the student newspaper that neither the team’s coaches nor the athletics department had had anything to do with the shirts. The message seemed to reinforce the new wall between athletics and athletes when it comes to sexual assault.