MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

April 11, 2016
Agencies that serve people with HIV in the U.S. are at the forefront of delivering medical care, shelter, psycho-social counseling and other services to their vulnerable clients. These services are offered through a mix of different types of agencies, including local health departments, state government agencies, non-profits and faith-based organizations. Collaboration among these various entities is essential for holistically serving the needs of their clients. Now, a University of Missouri researcher has published two studies after studying collaboration among these types of agencies in Baltimore, a severely HIV-affected city. Her research offers suggestions for improving HIV prevention, treatment and care and provides an innovation in measuring collaboration among agencies.

"HIV remains a major health care concern in the U.S.," said Nidhi Khosla, assistant professor of health sciences in the School of Health Professions. "The diversity in types of agencies can create problems in coordinating services, either in duplicating services or inadvertently ignoring a need or a population."

Khosla’s research found that HIV agencies believed efforts to address HIV should go beyond prevention, treatment and care, and should include efforts to improve public safety and civic amenities, such as education and trust. In the study, Khosla identified six areas from HIV agencies' perspectives that could lead to improvements in the delivery of HIV prevention, treatment and care:

- Focusing on HIV prevention
Establishing common entry points for services
Improving information availability
Streamlining funding sources
Removing competiveness
Building trust

The study, "Perspectives of HIV agencies on improving HIV prevention, treatment and care services in the USA," was published in *AIDS Care* and was co-authored by Iris Zachary, assistant research professor of health informatics at MU.

Khosla’s other study combined two distinct methods to measure inter-agency collaboration -- social network theory and relational coordination -- in an effort to capture the depth and breadth of relationships among HIV agencies. This innovation allowed the researchers to capture different aspects of collaboration among agencies that cannot be explained by one method alone.

"Understanding the breadth and depth of the relationships allows us to better understand inter-agency collaboration." Jill Anne Marsteller, co-author of the study, said. This allowed for a better understanding of the strong and weak points of inter-agency collaboration and identifying policies to further enhance collaboration. For example, lower scores for frequency of communication can be addressed through virtual meetings and problem-solving sessions at regular meetings that are convened by the local health department.

David Elliott, doctoral student in the department of sociology at MU, along with Marsteller and Yea Jen Hsu with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, co-authored the study, "Analyzing collaborating among HIV agencies through combining network theory and relational coordination." It was published in *Social Science and Medicine*.

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**University of Missouri nursing school receives $3 million**
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri’s nursing school has received gifts totaling $3 million to go toward construction of a new building.

University leaders announced Friday that Michael and Millie Brown of Leawood, Kansas, pledged $2 million. Richard Miller of Pittsburg, Kansas, also pledged $1 million. The money will go toward the estimated $55 million needed for the new building for the Sinclair School of Nursing.

Millie Brown is a graduate of the school and Miller’s daughter earned a nursing degree there.

The new building would include larger classrooms, a nursing simulation center and a research center. The added space will allow the school to increase enrollment from 160 to 200 students.

University of Missouri reveals $3 million in gifts to nursing school

By Rudi Keller

Friday, April 8, 2016 at 2:00 pm

A new building for the Sinclair School of Nursing will allow it to increase enrollment by 25 percent and expand research programs, University of Missouri leaders said Friday as they named the donors who pledged $3 million for construction.

Michael and Millie Brown of Leawood, Kan., pledged $2 million, and Richard Miller of Pittsburg, Kan., pledged $1 million of the estimated $55 million necessary to construct the proposed 104,000-square-foot facility. Millie Brown is a graduate of the school, and Miller’s daughter graduated with a nursing degree in 2012.
“We need good news, and we are seeing it here today with this announcement,” said Miller, who is also one of three chairs of the “Mizzou: Our Time to Lead” campaign that aims to raise $1.3 billion for the university.

The campaign has landed some major gifts in the current fiscal year, and the university is on pace for its best fundraising year ever despite international publicity about protests on campus over racial issues. The protests and their aftermath disrupted fundraising, which was down significantly in November and December and caused donors to withdraw $2 million in pledges.

The pledges were revealed three days after the school announced it has landed a $19.8 million federal grant to expand a study of how to improve care in nursing homes. The nursing school, ranked No. 1 in the country by College Atlas, has reached its capacity, interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley said.

“The nursing school is like a fish,” Foley said. “It has grown to the size of its tank. In order to grow bigger, it needs a bigger tank.”

Along with money from Miller and the Browns, the nursing school has committed $10 million to the project. MU wants to secure the remaining $14.5 million in pledges in time to seek legislative support for construction in the 2017 session, said Tom Hiles, vice chancellor for advancement.

The new building would include larger classrooms, clinical seminar rooms, a nursing simulation center and a research center, Dean Judith Miller said. The school currently enrolls 160 students each year, she said, and the new building would allow them to expand that number to 200.

The increase might seem small, she said, but the student-faculty ratio in clinical work is 8-to-1, which limits enrollment.

Medical employment projections show a nursing shortage of 1 million by 2022, she said. The new building will help mitigate the shortage in Missouri, Judith Miller said.

The new gifts convince nursing school leaders “we are moving from a dream to a reality” on the building, she said.

Brown said he and his wife made the pledge because of Dean Miller’s leadership and because hundreds of applicants are turned away from the nursing school each year. “All we need is the facilities,” Brown said. “We will get enough pupils in for tuition to cover the cost of faculty.”

**MISSOURIAN**

Donors give $3 million to help fund a new building for the MU nursing school

KEELEY DORITY, Apr 8, 2016
COLUMBIA — A gift of $3 million from three private donors will help construct a new academic building for the MU Sinclair School of Nursing.

The estimated cost of the new building is $55 million, to be funded with private gifts, state funds and $10 million in matching funds from the nursing school.

The building is to be located near the current building within the University Hospital complex. It will include approximately 104,000 square feet of usable space with classrooms, clinical seminar rooms, and a research and innovation center.

On Friday, MU officials, including Interim Chancellor Hank Foley and Vice Chancellor for Advancement Tom Hiles, expressed their gratitude toward donors Michael and Millie Brown and Richard Miller for their contributions. The Browns donated $2 million, and Miller donated $1 million.

Michael Brown said the contribution was from the heart. His wife, Millie, attended the nursing school, and their daughter, Julia, is currently enrolled. Brown expressed his confidence in the university and Judith Miller, the dean of the school.

“It’s all about management. I wouldn’t invest in something without a good leader,” Michael Brown said. "We need this for our community, as well as others. We shouldn’t be turning away qualified students that want to be nurses.”

Judith Miller thanked the donors and said the gifts would help realize the dream of a new facility. She said she was concerned about the lack of nurses in the country.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ employment projections, registered nursing is listed among the top occupations in terms of job growth through 2022. The nursing work force is expected to grow from 2.71 million in 2012 to 3.24 million in 2022, an increase of 526,800 or 19 percent. The Bureau also projected the need for 525,000 replacements nurses by 2022.
The new building at the Sinclair School of Nursing is expected to allow the school to admit up to 40 more students, representing a 25 percent increase in enrollment.

Richard Miller said he hoped his gift will give other students the opportunity to have the experience his daughter did.

“My daughter, Grace, had a terrific experience as a student at the Sinclair School of Nursing, graduating cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in 2012,” Miller said in a prepared statement.

"The state of Missouri has a dire need for nurses, and new facilities will help to fill a portion of that need."

Miller currently serves as one of the chairs of MU’s comprehensive fundraising campaign and is on the Sinclair campaign executive board. He previously donated $300,000 to the nursing school.

He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and is president and CEO of Miller’s Professional Imaging/Mpix in Columbia and Pittsburg, Kansas.

Michael and Millie Brown, both MU alumni, live in Leawood, Kansas. Michael Brown was one of the founders of Euronet Worldwide, Inc., and has served as the president and chief executive officer since 1996. He serves on MU’s comprehensive campaign cabinet, and his wife is a member of the nursing school’s campaign executive board.
MU nursing program receives $3 million in donations for new building

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri revealed two large donations to the Sinclair School of Nursing Friday, together totaling $3 million, which will support construction on a new nursing building.

Michael and Millie Brown contributed $2 million, while Richard Miller gave $1 million.

The new building will be near the current nursing building. MU says that, with the new building, the nursing program will be able to admit as many as 40 additional students each year.

The total cost of the project is estimated at $55 million. Money will be raised through private donation and state matching funds, adding to $10 million contributed by the nursing school directly.

"With the impending shortage of professional nurses in this nation, this new building will enable us to increase the numbers of students admitted to the clinical major by 25 percent," said Judith Miller, dean of the school, in a press release on Friday.

Michael and Millie Brown, residents of Leawood, Kansas, are both MU alumni.

Richard Miller, a resident of Columbia and Pittsburg, Kansas, is also an alumni and regular donor to MU.

$3 Million gifts support MU Nursing School building

$3 million in gifts are supporting the construction of a new MU Nursing School building.
MU Sinclair School of Nursing administrators made the announcement on Friday morning at Mizzou's Student Center.

Michael and Millie Brown gave $2 million to help pay for the new building.

Richard Miller gave a million dollars for the same project.

The new building will make room for as many as 40 additional nursing school students.

MU Nursing School Dean Judith Miller said, "We'll have a Research Innovation Center where research ideas will be generated and taken to completion, for some to commercialization, meeting our expectation for economic development."

The new building is still in its early fundraising stages.

MU Nursing School administrators estimate the building will cost approximately $55 million to complete.

Study: Harmful chemicals found in creek near fracking wastewater well site

By Alan Burdziak

Sunday, April 10, 2016 at 12:00 am

Researchers from the University of Missouri and Duke University soon will publish a study showing activity related to high levels of chemicals that cause hormonal problems in humans and wildlife in a creek near a well that stores wastewater from hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as fracking.

Endocrine disrupting chemicals, or EDCs, inhibit hormones such as estrogen and progesterone, which are essential for the development of female reproductive organs and the establishment and maintenance of pregnancy, said Susan Nagel, an associate professor at the MU School of Medicine and researcher in the Reproductive and Perinatal Research division. Other hormonal inhibitors in EDCs can affect the immune system and thyroid gland, she said.

Nagel and Christopher Kassotis, a former graduate student in her lab and now a postdoctoral fellow at Duke University, tested water from upstream, downstream and at a site run by Danny
Webb Construction Inc. in Fayette County, W.Va. Water downstream and at the facility, Nagel said, had elevated chemical activity in a creek that is used for drinking water, though the drinking water was not tested. Their method did not look for specific chemicals but for effects on a handful of hormones. There are regulations on the legal limit for certain chemicals in water, Nagel said, though it is lacking.

“When we’re talking about EDC activity in water, there is no legal standard,” Nagel said. She added that health effects from fracking-related pollution have been understudied.

Nagel also worked on a 2013 study that found elevated levels of EDCs in water in a Colorado county with heavy fracking activity. An advocacy group for the petroleum industry criticized the study, saying it made no connection between fracking and widespread hormonal disruption.

In the new study, researchers didn’t try to determine how the polluted water became tainted, Nagel said. The work was part of a larger, nationwide study by the United States Geological Survey on unconventional oil and gas waste and their environmental impact, Denise Akob said in an email. Akob, a USGS research microbiologist and the director of the study, said she heard about the site in 2013 and that because it was suspected to be polluted, could be a place to research the “potential associations between surface water quality and a nearby facility where these wastewaters are disposed of by deep well injection.”

“Our ongoing research includes investigating a range of other sites across the U.S. where these wastes might enter the environment and ultimately we hope to provide a national perspective for these findings,” Akob wrote.

A representative of Danny Webb Construction could not be reached.

However, Seth Whitehead, a fracking industry advocate, told BuzzFeed News that the concentration of EDCs from the samples Nagel and Kassotis tested would have to be 40 times higher than what was found to be a risk to people.

“None of the samples collected by the researchers contained EDC concentrations high enough to be deemed dangerous,” Whitehead said, according to BuzzFeed.

The study’s findings were released on Wednesday, and the full study is expected to be published online in the journal Science of the Total Environment.

Why "organic" shampoo can be loaded with chemicals
When it comes to product labels, a billing of "natural" is basically meaningless, while something certified "organic" actually has some teeth. That's unless the items involve personal care or household cleaning, which have fallen through the cracks of government oversight.

"It's innocent until proven guilty for chemicals in consumer products," said Julia Brody, executive director of Silent Spring Institute, a nonprofit group that researches the links between exposure to chemicals in everyday products and breast cancer. Brody is referring to a system where regulatory action typically follows consumer complaints. "A lot of consumers go to the store with the assumption if it's on the shelf, that it's been tested for safety," she said.

Illustrating the climate in which purveyors of natural goods operate are recent developments at Hain Celestial Group (HAIN), one of the nation's biggest makers of natural shampoos and skin cleansers.

Already under fire after The Wall Street Journal reported that Hain's Celestial Earth's Best baby shampoo contained a chemical cleansing agent despite claims to the contrary, Hains Celestial in February separately settled for $7.5 million a class action by a California resident and the nonprofit Center for Environmental Health, or CEH, which sued over the organic labeling of its Avalon Organics and Jason personal care product brands.

The Journal commissioned testing, which found sodium lauryl sulfate, or SLS, in Hains Celestial Earth's Best baby shampoo, as well as in laundry detergent made by upstart Honest Co. Hains responded by saying it was already working on revamping its ingredients, while Honest Co. disputed the newspaper's findings.

The Journal's findings and court case highlight a gap in oversight of the term "organic," which unlike the word "natural" has a specific meaning on a product label and is regulated by the U.S. Department of Agricultural and overseen by independent certifiers. That said, the USDA's organic oversight does not extend to personal care products, unless its makers use the USDA organic seal.

But California has a more stringent organic standard, which unlike the federal rule, specifically covers cosmetics. "In California, it has to contain at least 70 percent organic ingredients, excluding water and salt. We discovered a number of years ago the law is widely ignored," said Howard Hirsch, an attorney and outside counsel for the CEH. The nonprofit sued about two dozen personal-product companies in 2011 over their organic labeling claims, reaching settlements with most of them later that year.

With Hain Celestial, a class action was filed on behalf of CEH and consumers who paid more for its products because they believed them to be organic. The company is "one of the biggest actors with the biggest sales and causing the biggest impact on the market," Hirsch explained. "With
Hain you had a large publicly traded company that prides itself on being a leader in the organic natural marketplace."

In the next couple of weeks, checks will be mailed to around 22,000 consumers in California who purchased personal care products that Hain Celestial billed as organic. Of the $7.5 million it's paying, about $4 million will cover legal fees, and the remainder will cover the cost of notifying and refunding consumers. Any unclaimed cash will go to organizations including the California Consumer Protection Foundation, Hirsch said.

Because of California's size, companies forced to adapt to its rules will likely do so nationally, said Hirsch. Still, he advises consumers to read the list of ingredients. "From a consumer standpoint, a lot of people are surprised that you can call it organic if it's only 70 percent," said the lawyer. "Even if the front label says organic, it's worth flipping to the back. Companies play fast and loose with the rules, so 30 percent could be rat poison and you can call it organic."

On Thursday, Hain Celestial said in a release that its Avalon Organics line of personal care products had been repackaged and some of it reformulated, steps the company said are in response to consumer preferences and also part of an annual innovation review.

Mizzou graduate student workers to vote on unionization

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — University of Missouri graduate student workers are planning a vote on whether to unionize.

The Forum on Graduate Rights on Friday announced a vote will take place over two days beginning April 18 at the Columbia campus.

Graduate student workers with photo identification can vote.

Students rallied after university officials in August gave graduate assistants 24-hour notice that health insurance subsidies would no longer be offered.

The school went back on its plan following a backlash. But that sparked discussions among graduate students over worker conditions.
Some graduate student workers are seeking better pay and benefits as well as full tuition waivers for graduate assistants.

Foley, graduate students meet after statement and public criticism

By Alan Burdziak

Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 12:00 am

An email Friday from University of Missouri interim Chancellor Hank Foley urging graduate students to delay a vote on whether to unionize led to criticism from student workers organizing the effort.

However, after Foley met with members of the MU Graduate Workers Coalition after the email was sent, most of the issues were smoothed over, Connor Lewis, a co-chair of the coalition, said.

“I think there were some misunderstandings regarding the process that have since been cleared up,” Lewis said.

An email attributed to Foley and sent Friday afternoon said Foley was caught off guard by an email from the Graduate Professional Council telling graduate students about a planned vote April 18 and 19 on whether to unionize. Foley’s message said students need to be “fully educated on the ramifications of unionization.”

“It is surprising, and disappointing, that at the same time MU administration has responded to graduate student requests for improved communication that this announcement was made without any consultation with us,” Foley’s message said. The message also said that whether graduate students who receive stipends for teaching and research are employees is an unsettled legal question.

The email elicited harsh criticism on social media from graduate students affiliated with the union movement.

Lewis said the election on whether to join a local union that represents graduate student employees will go on as planned. “I think that he accepted that this election is going to happen,” Lewis said of Foley. “I think there is some difference of opinion of when that should occur.”
Foley sent a follow-up message to graduate professional students and teaching faculty members about the meeting. Foley did not elaborate on what happened in the meeting but wrote, “We will issue further communications on these matters next week.”

In a statement, the Forum on Graduate Rights, a graduate student group that has pushed for better benefits for graduate workers, said Foley should not have been surprised by the notice of the election because the dates had been published in the Tribune and the Columbia Missourian and graduate groups had long told administrators a union election would happen during the spring semester.

Though they receive a stipend, tuition waivers and health insurance coverage, the university does not recognize graduate student assistants as employees. The union effort began shortly after MU announced just before the fall semester started that health insurance coverage for graduate students would be dropped because of a federal interpretation of the Affordable Care Act. That decision was reversed, and coverage was extended for a year.

Lewis said what particularly irked graduate students were statements in the email that a vote to unionize “cannot be considered binding or recognized by the university” and that the decision to unionize has both pros and cons for graduate students. The email also said that if the vote is for unionization, the university will begin a campaign to educate all graduate students about what it means for the university.

It “really indicates that the system administration is interested in taking a more hostile tone toward unionization,” Lewis said.

Administrators, though, understand the students’ concerns and are willing to listen, he said.

**MISSOURIAN**

**Graduate students will vote on unionization April 18 and 19**

RUTH SERVEN, Apr 8, 2016

COLUMBIA — Graduate student workers at MU have been discussing unionization since August. But this month, graduate students will have the opportunity to move a step further in forming a union.

The Coalition of Graduate Workers will hold a vote on April 18 and 19 for graduate student workers to decide whether or not the group can officially represent MU graduate students in collective bargaining.
"Obviously we want as many people to show up as possible, and we hope people vote yes," said Joseph Moore, a doctoral student of journalism and the coalition's outreach officer.

The Coalition of Graduate Workers, formerly the organizing committee of the Forum on Graduate Rights grass-roots group, announced that it would pursue a unionization plan in October. The coalition is currently working with the Missouri National Education Association and hopes to formally affiliate as a union soon.

If a simple majority votes "yes" later this month, the workers coalition will become the official representative of graduate student workers at MU. If and when the university recognizes the outcome, the Coalition of Graduate Workers will be able to bargain on behalf of graduate student workers on campus, Moore said.

The unionization effort follows events that occurred last fall, including an Aug. 14 announcement that graduate student workers would no longer receive health insurance subsidies due to an IRS interpretation of the Affordable Care Act. The subsidies were quickly reinstated, according to previous Missourian reporting. The coalition has also been advocating for better health care, housing and child care.

On Friday afternoon, Interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley responded to a mass email from the Graduate Professional Council, the governing body for MU graduate students, which informed graduate students of the upcoming vote. In an email sent to graduate students, Foley said he was surprised by news of the vote and disappointed that Graduate Professional Council had not notified him earlier.

Foley also raised concerns about the legality of a unionization vote. In his email, Foley said "any vote to unionize at this time cannot be considered binding or recognized by the university."

At about 8 p.m. Friday, the Forum on Graduate Rights issued a statement urging graduate professional students, staff and employees to email the chancellor and ask for a retraction and an explanation of the statement.
"Interim Chancellor Foley’s statement implies that GPC (Graduate Professional Council), the government of the wider graduate and professional student body, acted in bad faith by providing information to employees of their Constitutionally guaranteed right to pursue collective bargaining," the graduate rights council statement said.

Matt McCune, director of communications for the professional council, said Friday in an interview the group does not have a responsibility to inform the chancellor of other, separate organization's actions.

Foley sent another email to graduate students and faculty Friday evening saying he had since met with members of the Graduate Professional Council and Coalition of Graduate Workers and will further discuss the issues next week.

Moore said the coalition had informed the administration about it plans to hold a vote later this month. At the beginning of the week, Moore said the coalition sent an email to the UM System curators and MU administration with details about the vote.

"It's a bit disingenuous for Foley to say we haven't communicated," Moore said.

The election will be conducted by the League of Women Voters, an independent third party. Polling stations will be located at MU’s Memorial Student Union and Student Center on both days and will be open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Photo identification will be required to vote, and active electioneering is prohibited within both buildings.
Chancellor: University can't recognize a graduate student union

COLUMBIA - MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley sent an email to University of Missouri graduate students Friday saying a graduate student union can't be recognized by the university. Graduates students responded by saying the university has been acting in "bad faith."

Foley's email said a move by graduate students to vote on unionizing is "surprising and disappointing." He said it comes as the university is working with graduate students on improving communication and that the decision was made "without any consultation with us."

Graduate students have a vote scheduled for April 18 and 19 on the issue.

Tensions between the university and graduate students have been strained since MU suddenly announced in August it would no longer be offering health insurance subsidies for graduate students. That decision was rescinded after students and faculty voiced protested.

Graduate students have since demanded wages for graduate assistants that are above the poverty line, on-campus child care, affordable housing, tuition waivers and a guaranteed, fully subsidized health care plan.

Foley said the university has discussed whether it was legal for the students to unionize.

"To this end, any vote to unionize at this time cannot be considered binding or recognized by the university," Foley said.

Foley ended the email saying, if the graduate student leaders decide to continue with the vote, university leadership will begin an educational campaign to ensure all graduate students impacted by the decision know what the union means at the University.

"The decision to unionize carries both significant pros and cons for our graduate students, and we feel it is in your best interest to be fully educated on the ramifications of unionization," he said.

MU Grad Rights tweeted this response following a Chats with the Chancellor session.

Adam Johnson, a University of Missouri graduate student, said he talked briefly with Foley about the issues presented in the email.

Johnson said one phrase in Foley's email stood out.

"He uses the phrase good faith, and with regards to the stipends, I can hardly disagree with that, but with regards to graduate student housing, where we’ve seen no substantial progress during the last several years, and especially with regards to the union effort, that seems to be completely
false," Johnson said. "The idea that they’ve acted in good faith while denying in fact that we are employees, when we quite clearly are, is, to me, the definition of bad faith."

Foley would not talk with KOMU 8 News at the Chats with the Chancellor, saying he does not talk to press at the chats.

Foley sent an email after the Chats saying he met with graduate school student organizations after the event to "keep open lines of communication," and will release more information next week.

Grad students at MU a step closer to unionizing


MU closing down two more residence halls due to decrease in demand

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri will not be offering space in two residence halls this fall as a result of a decrease in demand for student housing.
According to MU Roar, the website students use to sign up for student housing, Respect and Excellence Halls will be closed for the fall.

"Due to an expected decrease in the number of students needing housing at Mizzou this year, Residential Life will not be offering space in Respect or Excellence Halls at this time. This is an effort to ensure we are using our halls in the most efficient manner, keeping our costs as low as possible so we can provide our students with the best living environments at an affordable cost," reads the statement on Roar's website.

The statement goes on to read, "If demand rises, we will open space in Respect or Excellence later."

This comes after MU announced it would be closing down Laws and Lathrop Halls. New residence halls will be built in their place.

In March, Interim Chancellor Hank Foley sent a letter to faculty and staff anticipating 1,500 fewer students enrolling next fall.

Both Respect and Excellence Halls opened in 2004.

**MU dorms to close as university prepares for enrollment drop**

COLUMBIA, Mo. — **Two dorms will not be offering space on the University of Missouri's campus as a result of an expected decrease in enrollment.**

According to MU Roar, the residents' website to select or change in which dorms they live on campus, Respect and Excellence Halls will be closed next semester.

"This is an effort to ensure we are using our halls in the most efficient manner, keeping our costs as low as possible so we can provide out students with the best possible living environments at an affordable cost," reads the statement online.
The statement goes on to say if demand rises, the university will open space in Respect or Excellence later.

In March, university administrators said the school expects to have 1,500 fewer students on campus next fall. The university said it will also use a hiring freeze and 5 percent budget reduction to close a projected $32 million shortfall.

More MU residence halls scheduled to close

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Due to an expected drop in student enrollment next fall, the University of Missouri announced it will be temporarily restricting two more residence halls on campus from incoming freshman.

According to the university's Residences' Online Access to Rooms website, both Respect and Excellence Halls will no longer be available to students next semester.

A statement on the website said, "This is an effort to ensure we are using our halls in the most efficient manner, keeping our costs as low as possible so we can provide our students with the best possible living environments at an affordable cost."

Administrators expect upwards of 1,500 fewer students to attend MU, which could mean a shortfall of around $32 million.

In Mid-March the university announced Lathrop and Laws Hall would be closing four months earlier than originally scheduled. Both residence halls were scheduled to be demolished, but officials said moving that timeline up would help save money.

The halls could eventually be used if they are needed to house students.

Respect and Excellence halls unavailable for incoming students
The decision comes after the Department of Residential Life closed Laws and Lathrop for the upcoming school year.

Incoming students set on living in Respect and Excellence halls will have to make other plans.

The Department of Residential Life put a notice on the ROAR site that the two halls are temporarily unavailable for incoming students. ROAR opens for admitted students at 4 p.m. April 11.

The decision comes in the wake of declining enrollment and a $32 million budget shortfall. University officials are expecting a decrease of about 1,500 students. Interim Chancellor Hank Foley announced a 5 percent budget cut for all departments as well as a hiring freeze to save money. In March, ResLife announced they would not need Laws and Lathrop halls to house incoming freshmen.

Laws Hall is going to be demolished in 2017, but Lathrop Hall could reopen before its scheduled demolition. Similarly, ResLife might open up spaces in Respect and Excellence if demand increases. Discovery and Responsibility, the other two buildings in the complex, will remain available.

“This is an effort to ensure we are using our halls in the most efficient manner, keeping our costs as low as possible so we can provide our students with the best possible living environments at an affordable cost,” the notice read.

The staff of the two buildings was told about the changes in a meeting Friday afternoon.

Director of Residential Life Frankie Minor told The Maneater in March that the staff hired for Laws and Lathrop would maintain similar positions. This time around, there is no such guarantee, according to an incoming staff member in that meeting.

Respect and Excellence, both suite-style halls, house a combined 315 students. A double room in both halls costs $7,640.

Final Kemper award goes to engineering professor

Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 12:00 am
An associate professor of electrical and computer engineering was the fifth and final University of Missouri professor to receive a Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence this week.

On Friday, interim Chancellor Hank Foley and Jim Schatz, Commerce Bank chairman, presented Robert O’Connell with the award, which includes a $10,000 check.

Five professors at MU are given the award each year as part of the program named for William T. Kemper, an MU graduate, former bank executive and civic leader in Kansas City. The fellowship was established in 1991 with a $500,000 gift.

The other winners of the fellowship this week were School of Journalism Associate Professor Earnest Perry, English department Director of Undergraduate Studies Alexandra Socarides, biological sciences Associate Professor Sarah Bush and School of Law Professor Mary Beck, who also directs the school’s Family Violence Clinic.

MISSOURIAN

Engineering professor awarded final William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence

PAYTON LIMING, Apr 8, 2016

COLUMBIA — Bob O'Connell's Circuit Theory II class was in the middle of an exam when they got a visit from Interim Chancellor Hank Foley and Commerce Bank Chairman Jim Schatz on Friday afternoon.

"Looks like we will be having an interruption," O'Connell said.

Foley and Schatz awarded O'Connell, an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering in the MU College of Engineering, with a $10,000 check as part of the final 2016 William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence.

As O'Connell was handed the check, the class began to look up from their exams to applaud.
The engineering professor said he was thankful to be recognized and accepted into a club full of outstanding people.

O'Connell has worked at MU since 2005, and before that was an officer in the U.S. Air Force, according to the College of Engineering Website. He has been involved with various university programs including co-founding the MU Faculty Workshops Committee, and advising the MU chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and its honors society, Eta Kappa Nu. He also started a summer study abroad program, according to a news release.

Other recipients for the 2016 Kemper award include Earnest Perry, Sarah Bush, Alexandra Socarides and Mary Beck. All of the winners have been given a $10,000 cash award to use however they see fit.

The Kemper awards started in 1991 with a $500,000 donation from William T. Kemper, who graduated from MU in 1926, according to previous Missourian reporting. During his 52-year career in banking, Kemper held positions in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma.

This year marks the 26th annual recognition of outstanding educators.

MU professors honored for promoting campus diversity

RACHEL PHILLIPS, Apr 8, 2016

COLUMBIA — MU astrophysics professor Angela Speck is no stranger to thinking about diversity issues.

"I was brought up to be social justice-minded, to be thinking about how we treat people and where injustices occur," Speck said. "So this isn’t something that’s new to me."
The professor said she has been working on promoting diversity in STEM fields throughout her career.

“Science tends to be a little bit homogeneous — especially as you get towards the physics and engineering end, which is where I am,” she said.

She has worked to promote inclusivity in the classroom and currently serves as the chair of the MU Faculty Council Diversity Enhancement committee, she said. Later this month, she will be officially honored for her efforts.

Speck, along with Charles Menifield, Truman School of Public Affairs associate dean of academic programs, have been selected to receive the MU Faculty Achievement Award in Diversity.

According to the Student Affairs website, the award was started by Steven A. Richardson and Sally Alberty Richardson to honor faculty members “who are working to elevate diversity and inclusion on the Columbia campus.” A group of students from various organizations, including the Legion of Black Collegians and Four Front, are responsible for nominating faculty members.

Menifield's work with diversity has mainly been focused in the school of public affairs. He said in the wake of fall protests, he worked with faculty and students to create a plan to promote diversity in the classroom. Some of the plan's elements included diversifying reading assignments, encouraging speakers from diverse backgrounds to come to campus, and expanding the school's student and faculty recruitment pools.

Moving forward, Menifield said the school will be evaluating the results of the plan to see what adjustments were made and if they brought about change.

The Truman School will also offer a new course for the fall 2016 semester that will explore the effects of policy on the economy and how that, in turn, affects race and diversity issues.
Making sure the university offers diverse programs is important because it prepares students for life after they graduate, he said.

"It's important because students leave our programs and they work with people with diverse backgrounds," Menifield said. "On the job is not the best time to learn about another culture. We need our students to be culturally competent by the time that they graduate."

Menifield said he was appreciative of the fact that he was selected for the award, but that he can't take full credit for the changes the Truman School is employing.

"We are really a family and the family decided that we needed to make some changes," he said.

Menifield said the award is important in demonstrating the university's attitude toward increasing diversity.

"The flagship university of the state needs to be proactive in promoting diversity, and I think this award really perpetuates that sort of attitude," he said.

Speck said that although she isn’t doing her inclusivity work to win awards, it feels good to be appreciated.

“It’s something that sometimes feels thankless,” she said.

Speck also said the award proves that there is recognition available for diversity work.

“I think it shows other people that there is some sort of appreciation for this hard work, which helps to then recruit more people to the cause,” she said.

Speck said her term on Faculty Council is about to be over, but her work in diversity in the STEM fields will continue.

Now, much of her focus is on the solar eclipse that will be visible in Columbia in August 2017. Speck said she sees this as an opportunity to get people involved in a different kind of science
experience. She is thinking about how to engage people who wouldn’t normally think about science.

“The solar eclipse is going to be my life for the next 500 days,” she said.

Menifield and Speck will receive awards and monetary prizes at a ceremony hosted by the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs on April 26, according to the Student Affairs website. They will be honored along with the winners of the Excellence in Education Awards.

The most recent winners of the MU Faculty Achievement Award in Diversity include associate professor of journalism Earnest Perry and Etti Naveh-Benjamin, assistant teaching professor of psychological sciences and director of the Multicultural Certificate Program.

'Democracy Now!' host focuses on MU protests in campus lecture

By Alan Burdziak

People in Boone County recently saw firsthand how change can happen as a result of protests against a faulty status quo, Amy Goodman, journalist and host of “Democracy Now!,” said Saturday at the Corner Playhouse.

At her fourth stop of a 100-city tour to promote her new book, “Democracy Now! 20 Years Covering the Movements Changing America,” with David Goodman and colleague Denis Moynihan, Goodman spoke about the fall’s unrest at the University of Missouri. Among the excerpts she read from the book was part of a section about Concerned Student 1950 and member Jonathan Butler, who went on a hunger strike to force the ouster of former UM System President Tim Wolfe.

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter Movement, Concerned Student 1950 members and others staged weeks of protests around MU’s campus against racism and what they said was the lack of response by the university administration. Their efforts culminated in Wolfe’s resignation after
the Tiger football team announced their support of Butler, and the story gained international attention.

“Movements make a difference, and nobody knows that more than you in Columbia,” Goodman said to the about 150 people who came to listen to her talk on MU’s campus. Radio station KOPN, which broadcasts “Democracy Now!” twice a day during the workweek, put on the event, a fundraiser for the station.

Goodman lamented that it took the football team’s support for something to happen here, citing the financial ramifications of the team’s boycott. The team said it would not compete again until Wolfe resigned, which came before its next scheduled game.

The theme of Goodman’s talk was the importance of having independent media that is not beholden to major corporations. Independent journalism gives voices to people who don’t get their stories in the mainstream media and has the ability to cover issues that major networks ignore. Goodman cited a study done by Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting that found the four major TV networks’ national nightly news coverage after 9/11 had been skewed to support the U.S. going to war.

“That is no longer mainstream media,” Goodman said. “That’s extremist media banging the door for war.”

In the 20 years since she began “Democracy Now!” Goodman and her coworkers have covered movements, protests and major social events, including in Ferguson, Syria, South Carolina, the Middle East, Washington, D.C., and northern Africa. When the show began, it was on nine stations. Today, Goodman said, it’s on more than 1,400 radio and TV stations and is streamed on the internet.

Audience members Jeff Frey, a local physician, and his friend, Jane Murfett, said they are regular listeners of Goodman’s show.

“She is the only person who does cover stories the mainstream media doesn’t touch,” Frey said.

Murfett, a native Australian who has lived in the United States for more than 20 years, said she likes the global nature of Goodman’s show.

“I consider her my lifeline to the world,” Murfett said. “I don’t know where I would get that kind of reporting anywhere else.”
Boycott presented unprecedented challenge for MU athletic department

By David Morrison

Sunday, April 10, 2016 at 12:00 am

On Sunday morning, Nov. 8, about 12 hours after the picture of more than 30 black Missouri football players locking arms with hunger-striker Jonathan Butler started circulating on social media, an email landed in the inbox of executive associate athletic director Tim Hickman.

The sender identified himself as a “life long” fan and current holder of eight seats’ worth of season tickets. If any of Butler and his Concerned Student 1950 group’s demands were met, he wrote, he would pull his season-ticket order. He said he had discussed the topic with “several others” and they all agreed with him.

“It is very dangerous to allow any radical group” to “take a PUBLIC institution hostage for ANY reason,” he wrote. “I support the players and everyone else’s right to free speech but allowing such things to influence public policy is completely unacceptable.”

Hickman forwarded the email to Athletic Director Mack Rhoades and senior associate athletic director for strategic communications Ryan Bradley less than two hours later.

“FYI. I don’t know this person,” Hickman wrote. “This is the only one I have gotten so far.”

It would not be the last.

Later Sunday morning, right around the time Missouri emerged from its team meeting and then-Coach Gary Pinkel tweeted the now-infamous picture of support for the striking players, an alum replied to an email chain with the message, “I say suit up whoever wants to play, dismiss the rest and have fun.”

In the evening, after Pinkel and Rhoades released a joint statement affirming the team’s stance, a fan emailed executive associate athletic director Bryan Maggard to let him know he would “boycott” Missouri football and basketball for the rest of the year, as well as football for the 2016 season, if the team did not play against BYU at Kansas City’s Arrowhead Stadium on that Saturday.

Monday morning, about an hour after University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe announced his resignation and the team ended its boycott, a 1971 engineering school graduate, season-ticket holder and donor of “thousands of dollars” emailed Rhoades to let him know that not only would he not be contributing or buying season tickets moving forward, he wanted a refund for the contributions he had already offered.
A former athlete from the 1960s passed along a message from another former “prominent athlete and alum” to vice chancellor for advancement Tom Hiles on Nov. 10. Hiles forwarded it to Rhoades and deputy athletic director Wren Baker.

“I hope ticket holders and donors show their power. The pocket book has some clout too,” it read. “I would never ever say this except today. I hope BYU beats them 50-0 Saturday.

“I will not watch those bastards play any more games. F—— em.”

This is just a sampling of the reaction that flooded athletic department inboxes over three tumultuous days in November. The Tribune obtained the information from the University of Missouri after an open-records request for emails containing certain keywords and sent or received by Rhoades, Bradley, Pinkel and football team spokesman Chad Moller between Nov. 7 and Nov. 10.

The university system custodian of records originally quoted the Tribune a response time of four weeks when the newspaper paid for the records in November, but the information wasn’t released until March 1, with the custodian of records blaming the delay on a backlog of requests stemming from the campus’ controversial fall semester. The university closed certain parts of documents or entire documents responsive to the request under Missouri state statutes and the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Still, the Tribune’s request returned 425 pages.

“We certainly heard from a large volume of people during that time period,” Rhoades wrote in an email to the Tribune. “No question there were a lot of people who were upset, but the tenor of those communications ranged greatly.”

As the months have passed, the fire-and-brimstone rhetoric surrounding the boycott has cooled somewhat. The season-ticket-holder who emailed Hickman on the morning after, who asked not to be named during a phone interview with the Tribune, said he now plans on continuing to pay for his tickets.

But the athletic department’s work continues when it comes to soothing fans and donors who felt burned by the way it handled the football players’ threat to walk away.

And communications from the hours immediately after the event give a glimpse into how Missouri tried to navigate choppy waters that no athletic program had sailed before.

“We understand that a lot of people were concerned, frustrated or even confused about what took place,” Rhoades wrote to the Tribune. “As I said in November, these were extraordinary circumstances and extremely difficult issues we were grappling with. There are no easy answers and we respect that our stakeholders have various perspectives on the issues and the decisions that were made.”
Coordinating a response

The first step the athletic department — and the university as a whole — took was media lockdown.

That Sunday morning, former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin forwarded a request from Roland Martin to appear with him on the nationally syndicated “Tom Joyner Morning Show” to vice chancellor for marketing and communications Ellen de Graffenreid. Martin was a friend, Loftin wrote, as well as a fellow Texas A&M graduate.

“If we meet with one reporter, we should meet with all,” de Graffenreid wrote back in a message that she copied to Bradley and Baker, among others. “I do not have any direction from UM system colleagues at this point.”

Rhoades took a similar tack in an email to the athletic department leadership staff on Sunday night.

It included his and Pinkel’s statement along with the admonition that all media inquiries must be funneled through Bradley. The email came after a meeting with the department’s senior staff and head coaches at 5 p.m. in Mizzou Arena.

“Under no condition shall anyone speak to the media without Ryan’s approval,” Rhoades wrote.

That strategy had coalesced across the campus by Monday morning, when MU News Bureau executive director Mary Jo Banken forwarded a request from a Washington Post reporter asking about how the boycott could affect the players’ scholarships.

“Would you please send me the response so that I will know how you are responding?” Banken asked Bradley. “We currently are not responding to any media.”

Pinkel and Rhoades held a joint press conference Monday afternoon, during the football team’s usual weekly availability window, in which they offered their first public comments beyond a prepared statement on the situation.

With the boycott over and the cameras trained elsewhere, Rhoades held a Monday night meeting in the Hearnes Center for any staff, coaches and players who could make it. Assistant track and field coach Eileen Halter emailed Rhoades after the meeting to thank him for putting it on.

“It will be uncomfortable & we will need more uncomfortable conversations for progress and healing,” Halter wrote. “Thank you for being vulnerable and encouraging our student athletes to understand respect, unite & be vulnerable.”

Then came the task of reassuring the donor base.
Damage control

Scott Arnold had Rhoades fresh on his mind.

Arnold — a former MU swimmer, Phi Beta Kappa graduate, current principal at Atlanta-based Iron Tree Capital and “longtime” financial supporter of Missouri and its athletic programs — met Rhoades when he and his wife made the trip to Columbia for the Nov. 5 game against Mississippi State.

Arnold came away impressed with Rhoades. And with no clue about what was to come.

“There was no hint of any of this going on when we were there,” Arnold said in a telephone interview with the Tribune. “And Mack would’ve had to have been a superlative actor, because we did talk about other things that were on his mind, and this just didn’t come up at all.”

Arnold emailed Rhoades shortly after Wolfe announced his resignation that Monday. He offered some advice on how to handle the minefield through which Rhoades still needed to tread.

He advised Rhoades to stay away from “public expression on the merits” of the protests. He wagered that Rhoades risked “significant alienation” to large segments of his donor class if he appeared weak in the aftermath.

He suggested that Rhoades could use the recent example of the football program accepting Michael Sam as an openly gay player to bank some of the capital of how progressive the department has been if he wanted to take a harder line with the current players.

“If there was ever an athletic department in the country that was in high regard in terms of those kinds of issues, it was the University of Missouri,” Arnold said. “There’s a very inclusive culture in the Mizzou athletic department based on that, if that’s any evidence of anything. That was pretty quickly forgotten, which is sort of a shame.”

Rhoades, Baker and senior associate athletic director for development Brian White set about putting out as many fires as they could. Department staff responded to emails and phone calls over the following weeks, and Rhoades said he, Baker and White set up as many face-to-face meetings with “donors and stakeholders” as they could fit in the schedule.

“Our development staff went above and beyond to return calls, take meetings and listen to the concerns of our fans,” Rhoades wrote to the Tribune. “Overall, the results of those meetings and conversations were very positive.

“That work has continued over the last four months. We’ve worked really hard to be proactive and the vast majority of those we’ve had an opportunity to visit with face-to-face have indicated they will continue to support us.”
Rhoades said capital donations, pledges and annual giving are all up compared to the same time last fiscal year. It’s too early to determine how season-ticket sales have been affected, Rhoades said, but he is encouraged by the early numbers.

Arnold, for his part, plans to keep on supporting the athletic program. He’s not sure about the rest of the university.

“I think the university has to get back on track,” Arnold said. “I have various charitable causes that I support, and, when they get off track, my desire to continue to support at previous levels diminishes. It’s only natural. The beneficiary of my donation has to be worthy of that. My alma mater is no different in that respect.”

‘A lot of healing’

A season-ticket-holder and Tiger Scholarship Fund donor who holds three degrees from Missouri was one of the emailers who threatened to cut all ties after the boycott.

He is leaning toward re-upping, but he’s still on the fence.

“My motivation for this is not to hurt the university,” the donor, who asked not to be named, told the Tribune in a phone interview. “I know there’s people out there that are saying they want to, by withholding funds, try to make change, but that’s really not my goal. My goal is just to kind of have some sort of idea of what my donation is being used for, where we’re at going forward, are we going to go through this again?

“Are we going down this road again? Is there going to be another boycott? I would hate to go through this again.”

While time has helped temper some of the emotions surrounding the boycott, reminders seem to keep popping up. Spike Lee’s “2 Fists Up” documentary on the Concerned Student 1950 protests and the football team’s role in them just premiered Wednesday at the Missouri Theatre.

“I knew it wouldn’t die down quickly, but I’m surprised that people are still coming here, trying to find out more about what happened,” wide receiver J’Mon Moore, one of the key figures in the boycott, said March 12. “I feel like what happened, happened. I’m moving forward. I feel like there’s always somebody on campus every day trying to figure out what went on and who all is involved. I don’t know when that’s going to die down.”

Rhoades has said he and the athletic department are focused on preventing a recurrence by fostering an atmosphere in which MU’s athletes won’t ever feel as if they need to take such extreme actions again.

He and new football Coach Barry Odom have portrayed the boycott as a learning experience.

“Our primary focus should be on providing a world-class experience for our student-athletes and giving them an opportunity to earn a degree and compete for championships,” Rhoades wrote to
the Tribune. “Our fans, donors, student-athletes, coaches, staff, we all love Mizzou and want it to be great. We have the same goal.”

Not all of the emails included in the records response excoriated the athletic department.

Clarence “Bucky” McGill was one of nine Syracuse players who boycotted during spring practice in 1970 to protest what they felt were discriminatory practices on the football team. McGill emailed to congratulate Missouri’s players and staff for the stand they took.

Rhoades emailed Syracuse vice president and chief of staff Candace Campbell Jackson, with whom he worked at Akron, early Nov. 10 to let her know McGill had contacted Missouri and thank her for a supportive text she had sent.

“We have a lot of healing ahead of us,” he concluded.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Activist Group Unites via Social Media

The wave of racial unrest that swept over the University of Missouri and other campuses last fall illustrated just how much social media has influenced activism. A protest on a single college campus can go viral within minutes. Shared photos of a particularly powerful demonstration might embolden others to take similar stands. Activists don’t have to go through traditional media outlets to spread their message.

Yamiesha Bell, a graduate student at the University of Connecticut, has seen these forces in action daily during the past five months. Social media has helped theBlack Liberation Collective — a group of organizers, including Ms. Bell, that tries to unite far-flung student activists protesting campus racial problems — spread its message widely. The platforms have their drawbacks, too: The unfiltered structure of such
sites, particularly Twitter, has opened up the collective’s leaders to hateful, derogatory comments from critics of black-justice movements like theirs. Still, much of the collective’s success in helping fuel the surge of protests nationwide after two top Missouri administrators resigned wouldn’t have been possible without social media.

A founding team of 10 student leaders from colleges across the country formed the collective last August. Throughout the fall, the students crafted a set of principles, attended leadership-training workshops, and got to know each other, with a planned public debut in early January. But they ended up moving ahead in November after the Missouri demonstrations escalated, says Ms. Bell.

Two of the collective’s leaders were also original members of Concerned Student 1950, the Missouri student group that spearheaded the protests on that campus. "We had to launch before we anticipated, to support them and to push the black student movement along," Ms. Bell says.

The collective’s leaders immediately turned to social-media sites like Twitter and Tumblr. Some members had big followings as individuals, which helped extend their reach early on, Ms. Bell says. Hashtags allowed the collective’s leaders to encourage activists to join their conference calls and promote their first major push: a national "day of action" on November 18.

The collective hosted a Twitter chat the day before the event that allowed people to discuss racially charged incidents on their campuses. "Have you ever experienced microaggressions in your classroom from a professor or classmates?" the group tweeted. "Yes, many times," one student responded. "Absolutely affected my performance in coursework." A faculty member wrote, "Both. And still deal with it on many levels as a black professor." The day of action drew more than three dozen
participating campuses and international media coverage. Students coordinated their efforts with a #StudentBlackOut hashtag.

The collective’s social-media timelines quickly filled with photos taken by activists — including a solidarity pose of students in lab coats at Thomas Jefferson University’s medical school and a long chain of silent students with tape over their mouths at the University of Cincinnati. A photo of a student demonstration in Atlanta appeared on the collective’s Tumblr feed with an inspirational message: "Tonight we shut the city down. Tonight we were heard. Tonight, regardless of the rain, we stood in solidarity with Mizzou, Yale, and campuses nationwide."

"The revolution might not be televised, but it will be tweeted!" Ms. Bell wrote on Twitter that afternoon. (Those words were a glib reference to the Gil Scott-Heron poem "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised" and a 2010 New Yorker article by the author Malcolm Gladwell, which appeared under the headline, "Why the revolution won’t be tweeted." He argued that social-media activism was characterized by a system of "weak ties," and that such a strategy "succeeds not by motivating people to make a real sacrifice but by motivating them to do the things that people do when they are not motivated enough to make a real sacrifice.")

Ms. Bell says her group’s activists could see which strategies used to pressure college administrations — marches, sit-ins, and tent encampments, to name a few — worked best.

Social media has become an important tool for campus activism "because that’s how people communicate today," says Barbara Ransby, a professor of history, African-American studies, and gender and women’s studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a longtime activist herself. Ms. Ransby has been in contact with the
collective and offered the activists support. When multiple campuses are able to coordinate protests, she says. "that’s when we really see a heightened impact."

Still, she cautions against giving more weight to social media than the outlet deserves. "It’s a technology, it’s a tactic, and it’s one part of the larger organizing going on," she says.

Ms. Ransby draws a comparison with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which in the 1960s used the black press to publicize its message. "Groups engaged in social justice and social change have always looked to alternative modes of communication and mobilization," she says.

What’s next for the Black Liberation Collective? The group now has regional chapters nationwide, and plans to add international voices to its leadership team to seek a more global presence. Its leaders will continue helping student activists carry out direct actions, draft letters to their administrations, and raise money if needed. A national conference is on its radar for the future. "A lot of students have what it takes, just not the tools and the confidence," Ms. Bell says. That’s where the collective can come in, she says, "and create a space where we imagine students can be unapologetically black at all times."

The collective’s leaders are also turning to one of their national demands: that all colleges divest their endowments from private prison companies. They’re planning to promote a day of action focused on prisons later this spring.

There isn’t a hashtag yet, but stay tuned.