Even in more developed countries where larger proportions of mothers work in science-related fields, girls experience so many negative emotions about math that often they avoid the subject altogether. New research suggests factors beyond performance are driving higher rates of math anxiety in girls.

“We analyzed student performance in 15-year-olds from around the world along with socioeconomic indicators in more than 60 countries and economic regions, including the US and the United Kingdom,” says David Geary, professor of psychological science at the University of Missouri.

“Analysis revealed that girls’ mathematics anxiety was not related to the level of their mothers’ engagement in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) careers, nor was it related to gender equality in the countries we studied.

“In fact, the gender difference in mathematics anxiety was larger in more gender-equal and developed countries. In more developed countries, boys’ and girls’ mathematics performance was higher and their mathematics anxiety was lower, but this pattern was stronger for boys than for girls.”
In 59 percent of the countries analyzed, gender anxiety differences are more than twice the magnitude of gender differences in mathematics performance, suggesting there is more to the story than performance alone.

The study also analyzed the possible role of parental views on the value and importance of mathematics for their daughters and sons. Perhaps, surprisingly, parents in more developed countries placed a stronger emphasis on the math ability of their sons than their daughters—despite the fact that more developed countries have larger proportions of mothers working in STEM fields.

“Policies to attract more girls and women into subjects such as computer science, physics, and engineering have largely failed,” says Gijsbert Stoet, reader in psychology at the University of Glasgow and coauthor of the study published in PLOS ONE.

“Gender equality is a key humanistic value in enlightened and developed societies, but our research shows that policymakers cannot rely on it as the sole factor in getting more girls into subjects like physics and computer science. It is fair to say that nobody knows what will actually attract more girls into these subjects. Policies and programs to change the gender balance in non-organic STEM subjects have just not worked.”

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

APRIL 23, 2016 9:25 AM

Kansas City area could be facing a hot, dry summer

Drought is common for the central part of the United States during years with a La Niña weather pattern

Much of Kansas and Missouri already is abnormally dry or worse

Gardeners should choose spring plantings carefully to protect investment

BY ROBERT A. CRONKLETON
It could be a hot, dry summer this year in Kansas City — as well as for Missouri and surrounding states.

Look to the Pacific Ocean for the reason. One of the strongest El Niños on record is quickly weakening and appears to be shifting to La Niña.

“If you look at the historical records of the last 80 years, when you transition from El Niño directly to La Niña, the summer that is involved is usually warm and dry,” said Tony Lupo, a professor of atmospheric science at the University of Missouri in Columbia. El Niño weather patterns are associated with a warming of the central and eastern tropical Pacific, while La Niña events are the reverse.

There seems to be a correlation between this type of transition and hot, dry weather, Lupo said.

“El Niño plays a role in the path of the jet stream,” he said. “When we undergo this transition, the jet stream is further north, which allows the sun to really heat up the continent.”

It’s drier, too, because the storms that produce rain follow the jet stream away from states in the central and south-central part of the country.

Lupo said he’s not sure how much warmer this year will be compared with average temperatures.

“We had the same prediction in 2012 when things were in a La Niña-type pattern,” he said. “Of course, that summer was ridiculously hot and dry.”

That year ended up being the third-warmest and -driest summer in the central part of the country, only behind the summers of 1936 and 1980. But other summers involved in a La Niña were not as bad.

“How much warmer and drier it’s going to be is a little unclear given the statistics,” Lupo said. However, he doesn’t expect this summer to be as hot as the summer of 2012.

The possibility of a hot, dry summer could be bad news for Kansas City and the surrounding region, which already are experiencing abnormally dry or moderate drought conditions.

As of Tuesday, more than 68 percent of Missouri and Kansas were experiencing abnormally dry or worse conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Slightly more than 6 percent of Missouri and 15 percent of Kansas were under moderate drought conditions.
As of Thursday, Kansas City had received 5.33 inches of precipitation for the year. That’s 1.8 inches below normal, which is about 80 percent of the rainfall typical for this point, said Spencer Mell, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Pleasant Hill.

“The storm track has been basically to the south of us, where they obviously picked up a tremendous amount of precipitation, especially this (past) weekend,” he said.

Kansas City’s rainfall deficit wouldn’t be too difficult to make up at this point. And relief could be on the way.

“In the short term, we actually look like we are going to be kind of wet,” Mell said.

There’s a strong storm system coming the middle of this week that could bring significant rainfall totals.”

And the long-range outlook is good, with normal to slightly above normal precipitation expected through the middle part of the summer.

“We are not at a dire situation yet,” Mell said. “But we are certainly in need of precipitation.”

One or two good rains would cut into the deficit and the abnormally dry and moderate drought conditions would disappear.

Dennis Patton, a horticulturist with Johnson County K-State Research and Extension in Olathe, said it’s been so dry this year that he had to violate a rule he has about how early each spring he waters his lawn.

In a typical year, he never waters in April — there’s usually enough rainfall in April, May and June that lawns don’t need supplemental moisture. But a week or two ago he watered it.

Gardeners planning their spring plantings might want to consider that it could be a hotter, drier summer, he said.

“You may want to think twice about some of your plant choices and whether or not you are going to take care of the plants if it does turn out to be a hotter, drier summer,” he said.

Gardeners, for example, might want to consider cutting back on annual flowers unless they are willing to care for them. Without that care, the flowers might burn up come July or August.

It’s OK to plan on planting trees, shrubs and other long-term plants.

“Just know that you might have to be a bit more slave to watering,” he said. “What it really boils down to is that if it’s hot and dry, make sure you keep your investments alive.”
Want to live longer? Get a dog! Bonding with a canine makes people happier and healthier

- Older people with dogs benefit from the exercise of regular walks
- Dogs linked to lower body mass index, fewer doctor visits
- Also led to more frequent exercise and an increase in social benefits
- Doctors should recommend pet dogs to older people, researchers say

By ABIGAIL BEALL FOR MAILONLINE

If the thought of unconditional love, hours of happy companionship and unwavering loyalty was not enough to persuade you to get a pet dog, this research might swing it.

A new study shows that having a dog makes people healthier and ultimately live longer.

A group in the US has found older people who look after dogs benefit from the exercise of regular walks, giving them a lower body mass index (BMI) and making them visit their doctor less.

"Our study explored the associations between dog ownership and pet bonding with walking behavior and health outcomes in older adults," said Rebecca Johnson, a professor at the MU College of Veterinary Medicine.

The researchers, at the University of Missouri, looked at data from the 12th wave (2012) of the Health and Retirement Study, a panel study that surveys a representative sample of approximately 20,000 people in America over the age of 50 every two years.

The study used data about human-animal interactions, physical activity, frequency of doctor visits and health outcomes of the participants.

'Our results showed that dog ownership and walking were related to increases in physical health among older adults,' said Professor Johnson.

WHY DOGS MAKE YOU HEALTHY
- The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that adults of all ages should engage in 150 or more minutes of moderate physical activity per week.
Among adults 60 years of age or more, walking is the most common form of leisure-time physical activity because it is self-paced, low impact and does not require equipment.

The study also determined older adults who also are pet owners benefit from the bonds they form with their canine companions.

'These results can provide the basis for medical professionals to recommend pet ownership for older adults and can be translated into reduced health care expenditures for the aging population.'

Dog walking was found to be linked with lower BMI, fewer doctor visits, more frequent exercise and an increase in social benefits.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that adults of all ages should engage in 150 or more minutes of moderate physical activity per week.

Among adults 60 years of age or more, walking is the most common form of leisure-time physical activity because it is self-paced, low impact and does not require equipment.

The study also determined older adults who also are pet owners benefit from the bonds they form with their canine companions.

Retirement communities should also be encouraged to incorporate more pet-friendly policies including dog walking trails and dog exercise areas so that their residents could have access to the health benefits, Professor Johnson said.

Having access to a garden, living near a park or within reach of the countryside also helps people live longer, according to a study published last week.

Conducted by Harvard University, the research explored the link between higher amounts of vegetation and mortality rates.

Published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives, it studied the wellbeing of 108,630 women and adds further weight to the suggestion urban living takes a greater physical toll.

Specifically, researchers found those who live in the urban jungle had a 12 per cent higher death rate than those with access to green spaces.

In addition, they also had higher chances of developing cancer or respiratory illnesses.

Those in the greenest areas had a 34 per cent lower rate of respiratory disease-related mortality and a 13 per cent lower rate of cancer mortality.

The increased opportunity to get out and be active, along with breathing in less air pollution or suffering noise pollution were factors in reducing death rates.

Green spaces also reduced depression and boosted mental well-being by making it easier for isolated people to meet others, exercise and generally get away from it all.

Research associate Dr Peter James said: 'We were surprised to observe such strong associations between increased exposure to greenness and lower mortality rates.'
'We were even more surprised to find evidence that a large proportion of the benefit from high levels of vegetation seems to be connected with improved mental health.'

While small localised studies had suggested exposure to vegetation was linked to lower death rates the study was the first to take a nationwide look at the link between greenness and mortality over a period of several years.

Dr James added: 'We know that planting vegetation can help the environment by reducing wastewater loads, sequestering carbon, and mitigating the effects of climate change.

'Our new findings suggest a potential co-benefit - improving health - that presents planners, landscape architects, and policy makers with an actionable tool to grow healthier places.'

---

Cuts mean open positions, search for revenue at University of Missouri

By Rudi Keller

Sunday, April 24, 2016 at 12:00 am

The appropriation increase granted by state lawmakers will cut $6 million to $7 million from an expected shortfall at the University of Missouri’s flagship campus, but it won’t change instructions from interim Chancellor Hank Foley to cut 5 percent from instructional and operations budgets.

In response, schools across campus are seeking ways to increase revenue and gifts. While most of the schools and colleges responding to a Tribune email survey reported they will avoid layoffs, College of Education Dean Kathryn Chval said layoffs, leaving jobs unfilled and eliminating positions — including a $208,981 administrative post — will be necessary to achieve a $781,080 cut.

The Tribune sought details on the scope of budget cuts at each school and how employment might change as a result. Eight of the 11 schools surveyed and MU libraries responded. Paired with an earlier response from the College of Arts and Science and an announcement of cuts by campus operations, the survey covers about 71.3 percent of the campus operating budget of $613.7 million.

On March 9, Foley ordered a hiring freeze and a 5 percent cut to all recurring general revenue spending to cover $20 million of an anticipated $32 million deficit because of lowered...
enrollment projections and unavoidable new costs. Based on a projected decline of 1,500 students from the fall enrollment of 35,448, the campus estimated tuition revenue would drop about $19.8 million.

New costs include $3 million to increase minimum stipends for graduate assistants and new diversity programs in response to demonstrations on campus this past fall. The enrollment figures don’t include expectations for student retention, which won’t be clear until late May or June, MU spokesman Christian Basi said in an email.

A tuition increase of 0.7 percent was planned to offset about $2 million of the deficit, but tuition will instead remain level because of the legislative budget increase. The remainder was to be taken from campus reserves for the coming year and additional cuts in future years, if necessary.

Schools that can do so are taking steps to increase revenue. Dean Neil Olson of the College of Veterinary Medicine said in an email that he faces a cut of $1.8 million over the next three fiscal years and that the amount could increase to as much as $3.6 million. The college has stable tuition revenue and will delay filling two of six faculty positions, Olson wrote.

The college will try to increase revenue through endowments, gifts and through services provided at the teaching hospital, the diagnostic laboratory and the Radiation Oncology Facility in Wentzville, Olson wrote.

The cut will be about $1.6 million at the MU School of Medicine, spokeswoman Mary Jenkins wrote. No layoffs or jobs will be eliminated, she wrote, and the school “will look at ways to improve efficiency and increase research and clinical productivity.”

Some schools didn’t provide an amount that will be cut, including the School of Health Professions, the School of Journalism and the College of Engineering.

School of Health Professions Dean Kristofer Hagglund said the exact amount of the school’s budget cut had not been determined.

Exceptions can be made to the hiring freeze for jobs “absolutely necessary to the mission” of the university, Foley wrote in his March 9 memo. Hagglund said he was not certain about the exact number of positions that will remain unfilled but that three staff and two faculty jobs currently were open.

“These are real reductions in staffing that reduce our ability to accomplish important goals,” he wrote. “However, the faculty, staff and students at SHP deserve our unwavering commitment to high quality teaching, clinical services and research support.”

One staff member changed departments to cover an open position, Hagglund wrote; that person’s workload will be absorbed by the remaining employees.

The College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and the College of Human Environmental Sciences did not respond to requests for information.
School of Law Dean Gary Myers said he was working to provide a response.

The College of Arts and Science will cut $4.2 million, and campus operations will cut $5.47 million by eliminating 50 jobs, reducing campus cleanup after football games and having faculty and staff tidy their own offices.

Ann Riley, director of MU libraries, said about $2 million will be cut from the department’s budget. That amount is in addition to a $1.3 million shortfall anticipated because of a failed student referendum to increase library fees. Ellis Library will no longer be open 24 hours when classes are in session, and part of the cuts will come from an $8 million budget for journals and databases.

The Sinclair School of Nursing eliminated data ports with a monthly fee, laid off a staff member in the research office and will not fill a tenure-track position, Dean Judy Miller wrote.

“In addition to these cost saving measures, we are proposing methods of revenue generation with new program initiatives to attract more students,” she wrote.

At the College of Education, Chval said the process of deciding how to implement the cuts has been done with extensive input from faculty and staff.

“All of the professional staff, faculty, and administrators have been incredibly professional throughout our conversations,” she wrote. “Our faculty and professional staff have provided valuable insights into suggested cost-saving measures that we can make as well as ways in which we can increase revenue by offering further programs and services.”

Emails depict growing concern as Mizzou crisis grew

By Jeremy Kohler And Koran Addo St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Apr 24, 2016

As anger rose at the University of Missouri in early November over the university’s lethargic response to a series of racist incidents, waves of protest from all directions hit the email inbox of system president Timothy M. Wolfe.

“My younger son, a freshman in high school, has been quite focused on attending one of the power journalism/communications schools in the country with Mizzou, Syracuse &
Northwestern topping the list,” Byron Willis, a Union Pacific railroad executive, wrote Wolfe on Nov. 8. The boy “understands that being born to a white mother and a black father makes him a young black man in society’s eyes and right now, your university setting doesn’t appear to be sensitive to the concerns of those students.”

Wolfe and other administrators were shaken by the flood of messages from concerned parents and skittish donors, some of whom were angry that the college seemed to tolerate racism — others adamant that campus officials should not kowtow to the young protesters.

Wolfe forwarded the email to University of Missouri Curator David L. Steward, co-founder of St. Louis-based World Wide Technology, the only black curator at the time.

“These are very difficult times and I will need your support and advice more than ever,” he wrote.

As the demands grew for Wolfe to step down, there were many emails calling for him to stand firm.

“Millions of people are watching this situation,” Judi Borgo, of Atlanta, wrote in an email forwarded to Wolfe on the morning of Nov. 9, the day he would resign. “This gentleman appears to have the courage to stand up to bullies. His resignation could start a domino effect, and this would be devastating for our nation.”

The emails were revealed in a cache of nearly 8,000 pages obtained last week by the Post-Dispatch through the Missouri Sunshine Law. They show another dimension to the anger and discord on display as protesters occupied the campus quad to demand the ouster of Wolfe.
‘People we are losing’

The emails shed light on efforts by Wolfe to shore up support for himself, particularly among African-Americans, in the days leading up to his resignation.

They also show he worked with Mizzou Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and public relations staffers to craft statements designed to quell campus anger by admitting mistakes and promising change through new initiatives.

The emails also reveal a massive divide in public opinion after football coach Gary Pinkel supported the decision of some players to boycott football-related activities until Wolfe left office. Some football fans derided Pinkel as a coward; others praised him for showing solidarity with his players.

In one email, the mother of a Mizzou junior wrote that she was “shocked at the complete lack of leadership that’s become apparent.”

“We’re confident that we’ve raised tolerant, respectful citizens of the world and have taught them that the way to effect change is NOT by resorting to the type of mob rule that’s become apparent over the past few days,” she wrote.

It was too late for her son to transfer, she said, but “our two younger children (11th grade & 9th grade) have also observed the events of this week and, at this point, have all but eliminated Mizzou from their college list.”

Ellen De Graffenreid, the university system’s vice chancellor for marketing and communications, forwarded the email to a group of university officials that included Loftin with the lament: “This is pretty representative of the middle of the road people we are losing.”
Fighting battles

While Wolfe was dealing with the fallout from the racist incidents, Loftin, the leader of the Columbia campus, was fighting a series of his own battles.

Observers inside the university believe he’d effectively sidestepped taking blame for the racial tension on campus through his public relations prowess and people skills.

One example of that comes from one of the defining moments of last fall’s protests — Oct. 10 when protesters blocked a car Wolfe was riding in during Mizzou’s homecoming parade.

Protesters largely point to Wolfe’s refusal to engage with students as a sign of his indifference. Some say that was the moment he became the focus of the protests.

Meanwhile, shortly after the event, a pastor emailed Loftin to talk about Wolfe’s not getting out of his car.

“From what I’m hearing, the focus has shifted off of you and toward Wolfe,” the Rev. Carl W. Kenney II wrote. “I’m glad to hear that.”

In his response, Loftin appears to take a slight dig at Wolfe.

“I really expected that they would stop the parade by getting in front of the wagon I was riding in,” Loftin wrote. “I was prepared to speak to them.”

But Loftin’s rapport with students and community members didn’t always translate.

In less than two years at Mizzou, Loftin managed to make enemies out of graduate assistants, full-time faculty and deans, many of whom worked behind the scenes to get him fired.
Faculty groups were especially upset when Patrick Delafontaine, the medical school dean, abruptly resigned in September, presumably over clashes with Loftin.

In a letter to the curators, the medical school’s Faculty Affairs Council said the dean’s departure would harm the school’s “national reputation … negatively impacting both institutional confidence and faculty morale.”

Delafontaine’s departure also caused waves outside the university.

Edward Adelstein, a deputy medical examiner in Boone County, wrote to the curators informing them of his intentions to persuade a donor to rescind a gift to the university.

“I would greatly appreciate it if you would quickly reinstate Dr. Delafontaine, neutralize Wolfe and Loftin and let the Dean become the Dean,” Adelstein wrote.

Loftin also took heat in September for the university’s decision to discontinue a type of clinical privilege that allowed a Planned Parenthood doctor to perform certain abortions at a Columbia clinic. Emails show that Loftin was getting pummeled by people on both sides of the issue.

The president of “Missouri Lawyers for Life” wrote a letter accusing Loftin of allowing Mizzou to break a law that forbids public funds to be used for abortions.

“The university, under your leadership has not only flouted the spirit and letter of the law, but still attempts to maneuver around it,” wrote David C. Drury.

In an opposing letter addressed to the curators, a Mizzou alum suggests Loftin too easily surrendered on the issue.

“I very much hope you are able to reverse your position on this, honor your contract with Planned Parenthood, and continue being a bastion for academic excellence,” Michelle Bonebrake wrote.
Perhaps the most commanding criticism of Loftin came from all nine of Mizzou’s sitting deans, who called for his resignation for creating a toxic environment “through threat, fear and intimidation.”

‘Terribly embaRrassed’

In a twist, many of the controversial decisions credited to Loftin have since been reversed.

Health insurance that had been cut to graduate assistants has been extended; Mizzou has partially restored ties to Planned Parenthood; and Delafontaine, the medical school dean, was reinstated in February.

Even with Wolfe gone and Loftin out as chancellor, the university continues to feel the reverberations of last fall’s turmoil. An anticipated drop in enrollment is being blamed, at least partially, on last year’s unrest. And school leaders report that Mizzou has lost about $2 million in pledged donations in the last several months.

The possibility of losing financial support was a recurring theme in emails examined by the Post-Dispatch — including one sent to Loftin on the morning of Nov. 9.

“Due to the campus unrest Jill and I will be postponing any decision on our donation,” wrote Jim Stone, a 1974 Mizzou alumnus who works in the financial service industry in Denver. “I’m terribly embarrassed by this whole situation. It’s put Mizzou in the headlines for the wrong reasons”

Later that same day, Wolfe resigned and Loftin had been stripped of his title as chancellor.

MISSOURIAN
Race initiatives at MU and UM: A Missourian guide

KASIA KOVACS, 2 hrs ago

On Nov. 9, the day of Tim Wolfe and Bowen Loftin’s resignations, the UM System Board of Curators announced several race initiatives for its four campuses, in Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla and St. Louis.

One initiative was creating the position of chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer for the entire UM System. Kevin McDonald, who has been vice president and associate provost for diversity and inclusion at the Rochester Institute of Technology, was hired in March. McDonald will begin the position June 1 and, according to the curators, his role is to:

- Manage a full review of UM System policies relating to staff and student conduct.
- Supply additional support for students, faculty and staff who have experienced discrimination.
- Provide additional support for the hiring and retention of diverse faculty and staff.

Systemwide task force

The curators also announced they would create a diversity, equity and inclusion task force to consider the UM System's policies and procedures on diversity and inclusion.

So far, they’ve selected the chair of this task force: David Mitchell, associate dean for academic affairs and an associate law professor at MU. Mitchell has appointed 20 phase I members of the task force. These members have been meeting for the past few months, but so far, phase II members of the task force have not been selected.

Other systemwide initiatives announced by the curators
Each campus will also form a campus-specific task force. The systemwide task force members from the Columbia campus will make up MU’s task force, but the campus-level task force hasn’t yet formed.

Other systemwide initiatives announced by the curators on Nov. 9 include:

Ensuring each campus has a chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer who has a direct reporting line to that campus’ chancellor. Chuck Henson is the interim in this position at MU. The search for someone to permanently fill the position has not yet begun, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

Starting a diversity, equity and inclusion leadership training and development education program. This program will be launched by McDonald after he begins working at the UM System in June.

Hosting a listening session on Nov. 20, when the board invited representatives from student groups to speak to the curators of their concerns about the university.

In February, the curators provided $921,000 in funding for diversity initiatives, including campus climate surveys, training for campus and system administration and providing additional mental health support.

The curators also announced several initiatives specific to MU.

Have external diversity, equity and inclusion consultants to conduct a comprehensive assessment of diversity and inclusion efforts on campus. A national firm will perform this audit. The firm will be announced soon, UM System spokesman John Fougere said.

Institute mandatory diversity, equity and inclusion training for all faculty, staff and incoming students — MU students who entered in the spring of 2016 were the first class required to participate in this training.
Continue a review of student mental health services. As a part of the $921,000 in funding, MU received $22,000 for mental health services. That money will go to: professional training for mental health staff; the implementation of RESPOND, a program meant to train students, faculty and staff how to help others with mental health concerns; and tele-psychiatry technology, so students can receive mental health care over breaks.

Much discussion about race surrounds the search for the new UM System president. Many faculty members have expressed worry about hiring another businessman like Wolfe. The curators announced the co-chairs of the presidential search committee in March: Cheryl D.S. Walker and James H. Whitaker.

Walker is a former curator who works at Bryan Cave, LLP, the law firm hired by the Board of Curators to investigate the protest-related actions of former assistant professor of communication Melissa Click. Whitaker is a member of The Missouri 100 — a group of prominent university supporters — and an orthopedic surgeon in Overland Park, Kansas.

The curators also announced members of the presidential search committee, which includes Stephanie Shonekan, chair of the black studies department at MU.

**Restructuring and the Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity**

On Nov. 10, the day after Wolfe and Loftin’s resignations, Henson was named interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity. He now heads the Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity at MU.

The creation of this division means a restructuring for MU diversity programs. It’s a structural and organizational change, according to Ken Dean, senior associate provost, meant to pool resources together and create greater efficiency. The timeline for the transition is still being developed.

As a part of this transition, the Chancellor’s Diversity Initiative, headed by Noor Azizan-Gardner, is being subsumed into the Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity.
In February, Pat Ivey was hired as MU’s assistant vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity. The former strength and conditioning coach for the Missouri football team, who holds a master's degree in health education and a doctorate in sports psychology, assists Henson in communicating with MU students, faculty and organizations and the state legislature.

The Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity has required training for people involved in hiring processes. Anyone who serves on an academic search committee is being trained on the best practices to ensure a diverse pool of candidates, Basi said.

Henson began hosting the Working Group in February, a combined effort between the Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity and student leaders meant to keep student leaders informed of MU administration actions and to give students a way to offer their input on issues and future plans. The group meets every week in a private session.

The Working Group hosts public sessions, which are called the Creating a Better Mizzou Project. The project is a series of five sessions about topics including university structure and the First Amendment.

The Working Group has been criticized by student activist group Concerned Student 1950, whose members claim that the Working Group is merely meant to let administrators tell students what to do.

Office of Civil Rights and Title IX

Another part of the restructuring was creating the Office for Civil Rights and Title IX in December. Whereas the Title IX Office, which no longer exists, dealt only with sex discrimination, the new office consolidates and handles all 13 types of types of discrimination listed in the University of Missouri System Collected Rules and Regulations: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex — which includes pregnancy discrimination — sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, genetic information, disability or protected veteran status.
The purpose of this new office is to provide a central location for the MU community to report all types of discrimination, according to Ellen Eardley, assistant vice provost for Civil Rights and Title IX and the Title IX administrator. The office also addresses retaliation against people who make a discrimination report.

This month, the office launched a centralized online system for reporting discrimination.

Diversity training

As was mandated by the Board of Curators, first-year students in spring 2016 were required to attend one of three diversity orientation sessions at the beginning of the semester.

Professors from various fields gave presentations — on topics including cultural appropriation and why black tennis player Serena Williams makes less money than her white fellow player Maria Sharapova — and encouraged students to engage in discussion.

Educating the community

MU has also established lecture series and invited speakers to come to campus to educate the community on the issues brought up during the fall protests.

Henson also partnered with The State Historical Society of Missouri to start an 18-month lecture series about the experience of black people in Missouri. UMKC professor Diane Mutti Burke kicked off the lecture series in February, speaking about slavery in Missouri. The lecture series is being coordinated by Gary Kremer, director of The State Historical Society of Missouri, and Keona Ervin, a history professor at MU.

The Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity hired Benjamin Reese, vice president for the Office of Institutional Equity at Duke University and a licensed clinical psychologist, to present seminars about implicit bias. Reese has delivered presentations at MU already and will return in May.
The division has also hosted distinguished guest lectures. For example, Bryan Stevenson, a lawyer who advocates for the wrongly imprisoned, spoke at MU in March.

Several schools and departments across campus have invited speakers as well.

Mental health

Student activists have demanded greater mental health resources at MU. In fact, one of Concerned Student 1950’s demands specifically addressed the MU Counseling Center, insisting on greater funding to hire mental health professionals of color.

Since the fall, the center has hired three new psychologists who will begin in August. One of the new hires is black — she will work as both a psychologist and the Center’s diversity coordinator — another is from India, and the third is white. All three are women.

Before the new hires, the Counseling Center employed 31 counselors, two of whom were black, one Latino, one Chinese and the rest white.

In addition, the center is planning ways to use the extra funds from the UM System given to mental health services on each campus to sponsor diversity and inclusion training.

Student Health Behavioral Health Services is not staffed with any black counselors, and the program does not have the resources to add additional counselor positions. Craig Rooney, Behavioral Health director, said he has put "extensive effort" into hiring black counselors and will continue to do so. One third of the Behavioral Health providers are non-black racial and ethnic minorities.

The Student Health Center also established a diversity committee in December meant to guide inclusion efforts. The members meet twice per month, and they have organized training for staff members; will review policies and look for areas of improvement; advise the Student Health Executive Team during hiring processes; and be a liaison to the rest of the MU community.

MU Faculty Council
The Faculty Council Race Relations Committee formed before the protests heated to their boiling point last fall. The committee began its work in April 2015 after students marched on MU’s campus protesting the police shooting of Ferguson teenager Michael Brown. Since then, the committee has been working to develop tools for MU’s faculty to make sense of race relations on campus. The members expect to report their findings and recommendations to the Faculty Council this summer.

The committee has uploaded videos based on their discussions about race. The committee will release more videos and a series of podcasts by former Faculty Council chair and plant sciences professor Craig Roberts, speaking about his journey to understand race relations at MU.

The members will make presentations to MU schools, colleges and departments, committee chair Berkley Hudson said, and they hope to create new race relations groups throughout campus.

SCHOOLS

Within MU, some individual schools have recently developed their own diversity initiatives.

College of Arts and Science

In March, the College of Arts and Science faculty voted to require students to take a three-credit “diversity intensive” course in the college’s undergraduate curriculum.

The diversity intensive courses must meet two criteria: They will “focus on understanding differing social groups,” and they will “explore at least one form of social inequality,” according to the news release from the college’s website.

Several already-existing classes in various departments, including anthropology and black studies, will qualify for the diversity intensive course.

Sinclair School of Nursing
In December, the Sinclair School of Nursing received a $122,500 donation for diversity programs and scholarships from Gregory and Diane Lind.

The program provides financial support to underrepresented minority students who complete a two-credit elective course on academic success, and it provides stipends to students who serve as mentors to younger minority students.

**THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Being Melissa Click**

Last fall, as Melissa Click yelled and pointed her way into infamy, she quickly became a caricature of a radical faculty member who represented everything conservative lawmakers and pundits hate about academe, right down to her research on *Twilight*.

**But while the video of her screaming at a student went viral, turning her into the Melissa Click, the confrontation on a quad during a protest here last year really wasn’t that remarkable, in her mind. The assistant professor of communication at the University of Missouri was just doing what other professors and administrators were doing there, too, she says. So why did she lose her job?**

She has one idea. Under pressure from state legislators, she says, Missouri’s Board of Curators fired her to send a message that the university and the state wouldn’t tolerate black people standing up to white people. "This is all about racial politics," she says. "I’m a white lady. I’m an easy target."

Ms. Click has avoided the campus since she was fired in February, when she began moving out of her office in the dark so she wouldn’t run into anyone.
Returning this month to the site of her fateful confrontation with the student, she is skittish. Who will spot her? Someone always does. She eyes a family with a stroller and steels herself.

Controversy has overwhelmed Ms. Click since that day last fall, when the student journalist recorded her frantically calling for "muscle" to stop him from filming a campus protest.

She had been helping the protesters camped out on the quad call attention to racism and what they saw as a lack of concern for minority issues at the university. She’d stepped in to organize the students’ supplies, which were stashed in countless Walmart bags. A heavy rain had drenched the students’ tents — plus their clothing and textbooks inside — and Ms. Click was airing them out. Everything, she recalls, smelled of mildew.

Suddenly, the students got word that their chief demand had been met: Timothy M. Wolfe, the university system’s president, had resigned. The exhausted students, who had been living on the quad for a week, wanted to close ranks and regroup before a press conference. While most reporters heeded their request for a time out, Ms. Click says, a few insisted on pushing through the circle the students had formed to keep others out of the quad.

That’s when Ms. Click heard some of them arguing with Mark Schierbecker, a senior majoring in history who was filming the protest. Ms. Click grabbed at his small handheld camera, telling him: "You have to go!" To which he responded: "I actually don’t." As Mr. Schierbecker recited his right to be in a public place, Ms. Click invoked her authority as a "communication faculty" and made the call for "muscle" to get him removed. All the while, Mr. Schierbecker was filming, capturing what to
many seemed to be an out-of-control professor with flaming nostrils and unruly red hair inciting violence against a university student.

These are actions and remarks that, by now, she has apologized for countless times — both formally and informally. Some, however, point out that Mr. Schierbecker wasn’t the only one Ms. Click clashed with on the quad. She told a geology professor that questions he directed to the black students were inappropriate, he says, and asked him to leave. And she told two other cameramen they weren’t welcome, flinging mocking comments at one (“Wow, you’re so scary”) and leading the students in a chant to banish the other (“Hey, hey, ho, ho, reporters have got to go!”). Exactly why, many have asked, was the assistant professor there that day taking on such a lead role?

While Ms. Click acknowledges that she was certainly frustrated that day, she says she was simply trying to protect the black student protesters. Everything she has come to stand for since the video came out — intolerance, anger, mouthiness, and dismissiveness — is exactly the opposite of who she says she really is. Focusing on her behavior, she says, is a way to take attention away from the demands of Concerned Student 1950, the group of protesters.

"I’m not a superhero," Ms. Click says. "I wasn’t in charge." But she’s taken the fall. "When it got out of control," she says, "I was the one held accountable."

The media subjected her to withering public scrutiny, she says, making her recognizable wherever she goes. "Batshit Crazy Professor Loses Temper With Student" was the wrong headline, she says. The real story, if you ask her, was "Favorite Professor Fights to Support Black Students on Campus in Dangerous Situation."

But most of us don’t get to write our own headlines. Ms. Click has tried to regain her voice and cast herself as a brave advocate.
"I do not understand the widespread impulse to shame those whose best intentions unfortunately result in imperfect actions," she wrote in The Washington Post last month. "What would our world be like if no one ever took a chance?"

More gradually, the woman seen as a feminist rabble-rouser has also taken on the role of martyr for the values of due process and academic freedom. She’s less a shrill bully, her supporters say, than a victim of a social-media frenzy and of outside influence on academic affairs.

Ben Trachtenberg, chair of Missouri’s faculty council, says the curators uncharacteristically took a faculty personnel decision into their own hands — skirting the campus’s formal procedures designed to weigh charges against professors while preserving their rights to due process. "It’s pretty clear our rules weren’t followed, and that’s bad for faculty morale," says Mr. Trachtenberg, an associate professor of law. The American Association of University Professors is investigating Ms. Click’s firing and may censure the university. Hans-Joerg Tiede, senior program officer for the group’s department of academic freedom, tenure, and governance, calls the episode "fundamentally at odds with basic standards of academic due process."

Meanwhile, Ms. Click is still making sense of what happened to her, while dealing with the pain and chaos it has caused her family. Before any of this happened, she was a 44-year-old mother of three, her tenure bid finally in hand, part of a successful dual-career academic couple. As she sits on her living-room couch, her black cat lying nearby, her tough exterior cracks a bit, and she cries.

"I believed at some point, somebody would care about the truth of what I was doing," she says. "I am a woman who made some mistakes trying to do what she thought was right." That, she says, could have been anyone.
Behind the headlines was a first-generation college student from southwest Virginia. Ms. Click went about an hour from home to James Madison University, planning to work in advertising. But her love for glossy women’s magazines evolved in a more academic and activist direction.

Naomi Wolf, who’d just published *The Beauty Myth*, a feminist critique of how the media had constructed beauty, came to speak at James Madison. That resonated with the young Ms. Click. While in Washington for a feminist punk-rock concert, she marched for women’s rights, and became the first student, in 1993, to graduate with a minor in women’s studies from James Madison.

Pursuing a Ph.D. in communication at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Ms. Click studied *Martha Stewart Living* and why the icon’s domestic perfection appealed to so many women.

When Ms. Stewart was indicted for insider trading, in 2003, Ms. Click thought her research might collapse. But it just expanded. People were still fascinated by the woman in the taupe suit who was going to jail. "They became protective of her," she says. "It strengthened her fans." Reflecting on her dissertation subject, Ms. Click finds they have that in common.

While writing her dissertation, she moved to Missouri to follow her now-husband, Richard Callahan, an associate professor of religious studies at the public flagship. The transition from Amherst to the Midwest was difficult. But eventually, Ms. Click found a farmers’ market, she says, became a visiting instructor at the university, and befriended other East Coast transplants.

Still, she didn’t quite fit, even in the communication department, where she got a tenure-track job in 2008. A common textbook used at UMass, *Media/Society: Industries, Images and Audiences* (SAGE Publications, 1999), featured a Marxist
critique of the media. "I came here and used it, too," she says, "and students’ heads nearly popped off."

Introducing controversial ideas and speaking out against policies she considered unfair — like raising undergraduate fees — came naturally to Ms. Click, she says. She was passionate and sometimes annoyingly self-righteous, her former colleagues say. For a person so small — she is about five feet tall — she has a bold laugh that carried through the halls of the communication building.

Her research on Twilight and Fifty Shades of Grey also departed from the norm. Whereas most of her colleagues’ scholarship has a quantitative focus, Ms. Click does qualitative analyses — including extended personal interviews with fans of popular work. But while Ms. Click was a bit of a rebel in her department, she was known as a good teacher and eager colleague. Her teaching evaluations were better than the department’s average, and she earned several teaching awards. She also mentored three Ph.D. students who graduated last spring, a notable number for a junior faculty member.

If someone in the department was sick or having personal trouble, Ms. Click would often step in. "When my mom died, she was at my house before my husband was," says Jennifer Stevens Aubrey, who worked with Ms. Click at Missouri before moving to the University of Arizona. "She canceled my kids’ birthday party for me and answered all of my sympathy cards."

As the academic year began last fall, Ms. Click submitted her tenure file. It was a huge relief. She’d been waiting eight years, two that she took off when her younger children, twins, were born.

"I had been keeping my head down for so long, busting my ass until then. So I was sort of" — she takes a deep breath — "emerging." In October, the department told her
it had voted unanimously to grant her tenure. "Then I could breathe a little more," she says.

Maybe that’s why Ms. Click felt she had the time and energy to support the growing protest movement over race relations at the university. At a homecoming parade in October, she spontaneously linked arms with black students blocking the president’s car. That had a profound effect on her.

"Am I going to be one of those people who stands and watches another brutal moment against black people, or am I going to step in and make sure they’re safe?" she remembers asking herself. "I found out that day." She stepped between the students and a policeman, thinking he’d be less likely to push her. But he did, she says, and she was indignant: "Get your [expletive] hands off me!"

When she saw black students camping out on the quad in November, she offered to help, staying for hours and returning day after day. The atmosphere at Missouri was intense. Students were calling on the president to resign, one was on a hunger strike, and dozens of football players had announced that they wouldn’t play until the president stepped down. Some professors and graduate students had canceled classes for a teach-in on racial justice.

Ms. Click took it upon herself to attract media attention to the protest. She posted a request on Facebook: Did anyone know national reporters who might cover "the failure of administrators, a student on day 6 of a hunger strike, and creative, fearless students"?

Despite the eventual swarm of journalists, Ms. Click didn’t worry about being in the thick of a protest, even as she tried to give students a break from cameras and questions. She had seen administrators bringing portable heaters out to the quad. Her husband and other professors were there, too.
"I was in a space where even the chancellor was spending a lot of time," she says. "There was no reason to think I was doing something that wasn’t sanctioned by the university."

On the day Ms. Click clashed with Mr. Schierbecker, she arrived home to an email saying her tenure bid had cleared the next hurdle: approval by a college-level committee.

But by that evening, the video had taken off. When the footage of Ms. Click screaming and pointing made national news, friends emailed and called to see if she was OK.

Mixed in with her university email were death threats, and at home, notes appeared about rape. Ms. Click checked in with her department chair, who initially reassured her that the commotion would die down.

It didn’t. Administrators started speaking out against Ms. Click. The dean of the journalism school, where she had a courtesy appointment, said a faculty member’s role was not to escalate conflict. Under pressure, Ms. Click resigned from the appointment. The provost also reprimanded her, calling her behavior "completely unacceptable."

In January, Ms. Click was charged with misdemeanor assault for her encounter with Mr. Schierbecker. Two days later, as she was getting her children ready for bed, she got a text message from Hank Foley, the interim chancellor: "Melissa coming out of the BoC mtg today, you are suspended pending further investigation."
She quickly called him. "I was breathless," she says. "I asked, With or without pay?" (With.) As for how long the investigation would last, Mr. Foley wasn’t sure. Nothing he said made her feel very good. She rushed to ask colleagues to cover her classes.

"At that point, we were off the rails," she says. "I didn’t know what would happen."

A lot did. University administrators asked the communication department to consider whether everything that had happened should be factored into the decision on Ms. Click’s tenure case. The department then reversed its earlier decision to approve her tenure bid, says a university official involved with the process. Ms. Click appealed the reversal.

In addition, more than 100 state legislators were calling on her to resign. They’d cut the university’s budget, they said, if it didn’t fire her. When another video of her surfaced, cursing at the police officer during the homecoming parade, she looked even worse.

She had been mostly quiet, refusing to speak to reporters, but now she resolved to tell her side of the story. She worked with a Texas-based public-relations agency, Status Labs. She put on makeup and smoothed her hair, and, in the month of February, did 25 interviews. Some felt abusive, she says. One reporter asked if she’d ever been forced to take anger-management classes. None of the interviews, she says, helped reform her image.

Her husband, Mr. Callahan, says it’s hard not to be bitter. "Academia is a place where you can follow your conscience," he says. "Standing up for people who are trying to voice their concerns about their treatment shouldn’t be penalized."

But on February 24, the curators voted to fire Ms. Click. She was shocked. "The board respects Dr. Click’s right to express her views and does not base this decision on her
support for students engaged in protest or their views," Pam Henrickson, the chairwoman, said in a statement. "However, Dr. Click was not entitled to interfere with the rights of others, to confront members of law enforcement or to encourage potential physical intimidation against a student."

Michael Sykuta, an associate professor of agricultural and applied economics here, believes Ms. Click should have been punished for her actions. But he blames the university for creating an opening for the curators to act. "If the provost had impaneled a group to investigate, if there was a faculty process that could be pointed to, that would have taken away most of the political punch the curators had," he says. "A big part of why the curators acted is that the university did nothing."

With the protest, Ms. Click’s actions, and the resignations of the president and chancellor, the university, too, has suffered from the controversy. The flagship is expecting about a 15-percent decline in freshman enrollment next fall.

Ms. Click now spends her days mostly at home. She is pursuing a research project she started before she became notorious: editing an anthology on fandom. She’s still informally working with Ph.D. students she used to supervise. She hopes to find another academic job someday, but she has no leads at the moment.

When Ms. Click filed for unemployment, she was denied, she says, because the university said she’d been fired for cause. She has appealed. And she is planning to sue the institution, arguing that it denied her due process. A friend started a GoFundMe campaign, Stand With Melissa, to help pay her legal bills (it has raised $13,332 toward a goal of $38,000).

The criminal charge against Ms. Click was dropped when she agreed to perform 20 hours of community service. Most of the staff members at the food bank where she served recognized her, she says. Many voiced their support.
But Ms. Click is wary. She leaves the house bracing for confrontation. Strangers do notice her. "Don’t worry," said a clerk at the automotive-repair shop, "we don’t hate you." Wherever she goes, there is judgment. The owner of an antique store and a greeter at the polls each told her they thought the university was wrong. Two young men she passed near the campus asked her if she needed some muscle. She considered it a threat.

As she walks through downtown Columbia, an African-American man yells his support out a car window: "Hey, Melissa!" ("Black people love me," she tells a reporter.) Later, a black woman runs out of the Campus Bar and Grill headlong into an embrace with Ms. Click. It’s one of the protest organizers. Soon three black students surround the former professor. They sound protective. How is she? They’re concerned. They tell her they love her.

An image she returns to, on Facebook, is of black students who interrupted a Board of Curators meeting to protest her firing. One young woman is holding up a sign: "Ain’t Nobody Messin With My Click."

But her nerves are perpetually on edge. In the dairy aisle of the grocery store, Ms. Click is vigilant. She takes a quick look around as she glances at the flier, then reaches for two packages of shredded cheese on sale.

She imagines someone watching. "Look," she says in a high-pitched voice. "There’s Melissa Click, using coupons!" But no one is there.
University of Missouri graduate students push to unionize

At the University of Missouri this past fall, the protests were not limited to the treatment of African Americans on campus. Graduate students have also been agitating since August for a graduate student union, among other demands, set off by an early August decision by Mizzou to take away the graduate student health care subsidy (reinstated later that month).

Now, that union is one step closer to being a reality. The grad students there voted overwhelmingly (84%) this week in favor of authorizing the Coalition of Graduate Workers to represent them in collective bargaining with the university and the UM System.

Despite the vote in favor of unionization, the election results are unlikely to be recognized by the administration.

The vote is the result of efforts by the coalition, part of the Forum of Graduate Rights, which was established shortly after graduate students were informed they would lose their university-sponsored health care subsidy Aug. 14. On Aug. 19, the group released a list of seven demands.

“We have all of the responsibilities of employees without any of the rights. We pay state and federal income taxes, we have job training responsibilities that are related to being an employee,” says Connor Lewis, co-chair of the Coalition for Graduate Workers. “But we don’t have any of the rights to, for example, file grievances for workmen’s comp, or the right to negotiate and form a union, which is a right that’s actually guaranteed by the Missouri Constitution.”

Interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley had sent out an email early in April asking for students to “delay a vote,” student newspaper The Maneater reported. On April 16, he spoke with the Columbia Daily Tribune, saying the administration stands by its decision not to recognize graduate students as employees, but that the courts must make the final decision. The article also angered students when he referred to them as “kids”: “I am not trying to go to war with these kids,” he told the paper, later apologizing.

USA TODAY College reached out to the university administration for comment, and was directed to this news release stating, “MU leadership has been working with graduate assistants, administrators and faculty on the MU campus to address concerns, including improving compensation and workload for graduate assistants and support structures for graduate students.”
House, Senate send budget to Nixon

By Kurt Erickson St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Apr 21, 2016

JEFFERSON CITY • Working against a self-imposed deadline, Missouri lawmakers approved a $27 billion spending plan Thursday that restores many threatened cuts to higher education, includes a modest bump for public schools and forgoes any tax increases.

With the clock ticking, the Republican-led Legislature worked to get the budget blueprint to Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon’s desk in order to give themselves time to override any possible vetoes before their scheduled May 13 adjournment date.

Winners include state employees, who will see raises of 2 percent in the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Losers include Planned Parenthood, which will see its state funding cut by an estimated $380,000 as part of an ongoing election-year move by Republicans to defund the agency. In order to slight the organization, perceived as an abortion provider, the state is leaving $8 million in federal funding on the cutting room floor.

The final plan came together after negotiators from the House and Senate reviewed more than a dozen bills that constitute state funding for the coming fiscal year.

In a statement, Nixon said he would review the budget with an eye on keeping the state’s AAA credit rating intact.
“Here in Missouri fiscal discipline is a value, so I thank members of the General Assembly for passing the budget on time and answering my call to make smart, fiscally responsible investments in mental health services and college affordability,” Nixon said.

“In the coming days, we will review the budget line by line to ensure we keep the budget in balance, our AAA rating intact and our economy moving forward.”

No longer included in the document is $50,000 that would have gone toward the hiring of a valet to help park lawmakers’ cars and trucks in the Capitol basement.

Legislators did insert language that would prohibit state money from being spent on renovations to the Scottrade Center in St. Louis.

They also earmarked $500,000 for Harris-Stowe State University to launch a postgraduate program. That was down from a proposed $1 million allocation, which triggered outcry from Sen. Jamilah Nasheed, D-St. Louis, who said the cut was racially motivated because the school is a historically black institution.

**Much of the focus of budget talks this year centered on the University of Missouri, where protests last fall led to threats of budget cuts from GOP lawmakers who were unhappy with the response to the turmoil from administrators.**

But, rather than go along with plans in the House to cut funding to the university system by $7.6 million, the final version reflects a $3.8 million reduction. A separate $1 million cut to the Columbia campus also was eliminated.

Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia, called the $3.8 million reduction “retaliatory” and voted “no” on the higher education portion of the budget because the cuts won’t hurt administrators. Rather, the university has already announced plans to lay off 50 maintenance workers.
Budget-writers were able to secure guarantees from the state’s universities to freeze tuition for the coming year in exchange for a 4 percent funding increase equaling about $37 million. Earlier versions had limited the increase to 2 percent.

Public schools won’t see as much money as Nixon had sought in his budget outline. The Legislature agreed to pump an additional $71 million toward K-12 education, down from the $85 million increase in the foundation formula Nixon had proposed.

“I am disappointed that legislators provided less funding for our K-12 classrooms than I recommended,” Nixon said.

Rep. Margo McNeil, R-Florissant, said the education funding increase was based on a shaky premise because $5 million of the money is based on revenue from the state lottery.

“It may come in or it may not come in. Kinda chancy,” McNeil said.

She said the state could look for other sources of revenue to boost spending for schools.

“We’re not making (education funding) a high priority,” McNeil said.

The cuts to Planned Parenthood drew fire from Democratic lawmakers.

“In essence, the attempt is to shut down Planned Parenthood but the effect is denying low-income women their access to health care through the provider of choice,” said Sen. Jill Schupp, D-Creve Coeur.

“You’re actually punishing women by this political agenda,” said Rep. Stacey Newman, D-St. Louis.

Others had concerns about using $4.3 million to fund programs advocating alternatives to abortion. The money is available because of an estimated $20 million in savings
resulting from the state scaling back the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

“I'm not opposed to the alternatives to abortion, I just don’t think that it should be coming out of TANF,” said state Sen. Jason Holsman, D-Kansas City.

Much of the growth in government spending is targeted at rising health care costs for the state’s poorest residents. Medicaid costs are expected to jump 34 percent, with prescription drug costs rising above $1.8 billion.

Senators want the administration to cut prescription drug costs by at least $22 million by negotiating better prices with drug companies and potentially limiting the amount of different drugs prescribed to recipients.

In all, total state Medicaid spending is set at $10.2 billion, down from Nixon’s proposal of $10.3 billion. Current year spending on Medicaid is about $9.3 billion.

“There are a lot of things in this budget that we don’t have to do, but that we want to do,” said Rep. Marsha Haefner, R-south St. Louis County.

**Complaint questions Schaefer's role in University of Missouri policy change**

By Rudi Keller

Saturday, April 23, 2016 at 12:00 am

State Sen. Kurt Schaefer “may have” illegally tried to influence the University of Missouri’s decision on political leave policies to keep Associate Professor Josh Hawley from
seeking the Republican nomination for attorney general, according to a complaint filed Thursday with the Missouri Ethics Commission.

The complaint, filed by the Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust, uses news articles, minutes from UM Board of Curators meetings and a highly publicized letter from former UM President Tim Wolfe to back up a call to investigate whether Schaefer misused his office.

“These facts … suggest Schaefer may have acceded to corruption,” according to the complaint, signed by foundation Executive Director Matt Whitaker.

The complaint asks the commission to investigate whether Schaefer used his position as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee to threaten the university’s funding if it did not prevent Hawley from running. If he did, the complaint asserts, Schaefer violated several state and federal laws.

Hawley was granted leave without pay for a year beginning Sept. 1. The university changed its leave policies but did not make the new policy effective until after candidate filing ended March 29.

The budget written under Schaefer’s direction during the 2015 session gave the university $5.4 million from a $12 million pool for increased funding to colleges and universities as well as $64 million for construction projects.

The complaint has no basis in facts and is meant to smear him, Schaefer said.

“The allegation is ridiculous,” he said. “No one has done more for the university, including the budget we just finished.”

Wolfe’s Jan. 19 letter claimed Schaefer worked hard to persuade the university to prevent Hawley’s candidacy or make him choose between politics and his faculty appointment.

“Kurt Schaefer had several meetings with me pressuring me to take away Josh Hawley’s right to run for Attorney General by taking away an employee’s right to ask for an unpaid leave of absence when running for public office,” Wolfe wrote.

Wolfe did not respond to messages seeking comment.

The ethics commission investigates complaints of official misconduct as well as of campaign finance and lobbying violations but does not acknowledge receipt of complaints or comment on investigations until it takes action. The foundation sent a copy of the complaint to the Tribune.

Spokesman Scott Paradise said Hawley’s campaign “had nothing to do with this complaint” and was unable to comment on the substance of it.

Whitaker is a former U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Iowa. The complaint takes the evidence and asks for an investigation because he can’t take it any further, Whitaker said.
In June, Whitaker sent the university a Sunshine Law request seeking all emails that mention Schaefer or his then-Chief of Staff Yancy Williams, university political leave policies or Hawley’s tenure status. The complaint includes two emails from that request as exhibits.

“They are the ones that support our theory of what happened here,” Whitaker said. “I don’t have the same tools that prosecutors and ethics investigators have had.”

One email is from UM Vice President for University Relations Steve Knorr, sent Jan. 28, 2015, to Williams and Schaefer and forwarded on Feb. 23, 2015, to Curator David Steelman, outlining the rule on leave for political purposes.

The second email is from Steelman to Wolfe and the other curators, arguing for a change.

Steelman knew when he pushed for change that Schaefer controlled the budget, the complaint says. Steelman said Friday that he wanted policies that did not grant special privileges to university employees considering a bid for political office.

“I don’t believe the university should be granting leaves of absence and guaranteeing positions to run for office,” he said.

The complaint is baseless, Steelman said. Whitaker “is doing what Washington, D.C., political operatives do, which is try to slime people without any facts,” he said.

Whitaker said he is not supporting Hawley. His organization generally targets Democrats with ethics charges.

The response from Schaefer and Steelman “sounds like somebody just lashing out,” he said.

Schaefer and Hawley are the only candidates in the Republican primary for attorney general. The winner will face either Teresa Hensley, former prosecuting attorney of Cass County, or Jake Zimmerman, St. Louis County assessor, as the Democratic nominee in November.

MU's 89th annual Tap Day includes surprise
COLUMBIA — The 89th Annual MU Tap Day began with the march of initiates to the six societies. Initiates wore robes and hoods to hide their faces from a crowded Jesse Auditorium full of fans.

The secret groups in attendance were QEBH, Mystical Seven, LSV, ODK, Mortar Board and Rollins Society.

QEBH gave an honorary tap to newly retired MU head football coach Gary Pinkel.

Pinkel resigned from his position as head football coach following the 2015 football season. He later announced he had been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Greg Stringfellow was a football manager for a couple of years under Pinkel, and he was tapped into ODK today. Stringfellow said he was happy to see Coach Pinkel be honored.

"Honestly, to be tapped means so much," Stringfellow said. "I can't think of someone who deserves it as much. He truly did so much for this campus and this institution."

The event was kicked off by Mortar Board and its initiates because the group is celebrating its centennial.

Students, faculty and staff were all walked onto the stage and their identities were revealed to the crowd.

Some were giddy with smiles, others cried tears of joy, but all of them appeared to be happy to be recognized for their contributions to MU.

Stringfellow said, "It's just so humbling and such an honor to be recognized among all these amazing people. It showed what I am doing on campus is making making a positive difference for people."

MU secret societies welcome new members on Tap Day

ELMER GUARDADO, Apr 22, 2016

COLUMBIA — The identities of the newest members of MU's six secret societies aren't so secret anymore.
Family, friends and mentors celebrated 69 student additions to the secret societies Friday at the 89th annual Tap Day at Jesse Auditorium.

The event, organized by members of the six organizations, unveils and recognizes the newest inductees. New members are chosen based on their service, leadership, and commitment to the MU community.

Many of the societies also induct staff and faculty as honorary members to recognize the positive impact they have on students. Former Missouri football coach Gary Pinkel was an honorary inductee of QEBH this year.

The six societies are Mystical Seven, QEBH, LSV, Mortar Board, Omicron Delta Kappa and the Rollins Society.

Here are the student inductees for each of the six societies:

**Mystical Seven**

- Julia Schaller, undergraduate business marketing and French student from Columbia
- Blake Bremer, undergraduate mechanical engineering student from Springfield, Missouri
- Meg Vatterott, undergraduate documentary journalism student from St. Louis
- Simona Gupta, undergraduate journalism student from Charlotte, North Carolina
- Britanni Savage, undergraduate psychology student from St. Louis
- Aaric Doyle-Wright, undergraduate architectural studies and interior design student from St. Louis
- Walta Abraham, undergraduate civil engineering studies student from Chicago

**QEBH**

- Katelyn Entzeroth, undergraduate business administration student from St. Charles, Missouri
• William Vega, undergraduate business administration and economics student from Savannah, Missouri
• Sarah Vickery, undergraduate human development and family studies student from Kansas City
• Adam Dietrich, undergraduate documentary journalism student from Gilberts, Illinois
• Briana Wilson, undergraduate biomedical engineering student from St. Louis
• Sean Miller, undergraduate journalism student from Darien, Illinois
• Heath Snider, undergraduate classical studies student from Sweet Springs, Missouri
• Aly Friend, undergraduate hospitality management student from Sikeston, Missouri
• Jose Gutierrez, undergraduate and master's accounting student from Dallas

LSV
• Veronike Collazo, undergraduate journalism and political science student from Leesburg, Virginia
• Ipsa Chaudhary, undergraduate biology student from Columbia
• Breanna Parker, undergraduate psychology and sociology student from Chicago
• Sarah Rolufs, undergraduate journalism student from Rolla, Missouri
• Tiana Glass, undergraduate women's and gender studies student from St. Louis

Mortar Board
• Nicholas Bira, undergraduate bioengineering student from Troy, Missouri
• Bishop Davidson, undergraduate history and classics student from Republic, Missouri
• Evan Duft, undergraduate occupational therapy student from Highland, Illinois
• Nora Faris, undergraduate journalism major from Concordia, Missouri
• Carly Garrow, undergraduate bioengineering student from Wentzville, Missouri
Mary Kate Kelly, undergraduate journalism student from Kansas City

Mubinah Khaleel, undergraduate nutritional sciences student from Columbia

Brittany Kwamin, undergraduate clinical nursing student from Park Forest, Illinois

Whitney Kwamin, undergraduate health sciences and sport management student from Park Forest, Illinois

Audrey Marshall, undergraduate psychology and women's and gender studies student from Harrisonville, Missouri

Garrett Romines, undergraduate biological sciences student from Ozark, Missouri

Morgan Seibert, undergraduate biological sciences student from Baldwin, Illinois

Brittany Shollar, undergraduate nursing student from St. Louis

Julia Towler, undergraduate accounting student from Blue Springs, Missouri

Jessica York, undergraduate nursing student from Buffalo, Missouri

**Omicron Delta Kappa**

Lauren Alexander, master's student in accounting from Springfield Missouri

Rachel Bauer, doctoral theatre student from Woolwich Township, New Jersey

Jacob Coffman, undergraduate biological engineering student from Smithville, Missouri

Adam Cooley, undergraduate business administration student from Fenton, Missouri

Allison Doerr, undergraduate education and theatre student from St. Louis

Katherine Hayes, undergraduate biological sciences student from Creve Coeur, Missouri

Kathleen Hinkle, undergraduate finance student from Knox City, Missouri

Cory Jonak, undergraduate biology student from St. Louis

Devon Maguire, undergraduate education student from McKinney, Texas
• Libby Martin, undergraduate animal science student from California, Missouri
• Mariah Matthews, undergraduate business administration student from Weston, Missouri
• Trey McClure, undergraduate electrical engineering and physics student from St. Genevieve, Missouri
• Amanda Mocarski, master's student in occupational therapy from Lisle, Illinois
• Jillian Mullin, undergraduate journalism student from Lenexa, Kansas
• Zack Newman, undergraduate journalism student from Ellicott City, Maryland
• Shayna Painter, undergraduate business administration student from Highland, Illinois
• Alison Pierce, undergraduate journalism and women's and gender studies student from Fulton
• Jessica Reid, undergraduate business administration student from St. Charles, Missouri
• Emily Russell, undergraduate journalism student from Bloomington, Illinois
• Brianne Schmiegeland, undergraduate biological sciences student from Lockwood, Missouri
• Tanner Stitzer, master's student in accounting from Moberly
• Gregory Stringfellow, undergraduate business administration student from Southlake, Texas
• Elizabeth Triplett, undergraduate business administration student from Lee's Summit, Missouri
• Mikko Dane Viudez, undergraduate biological sciences and nursing student from Downers Grove, Illinois
• Katie Wells, master's student in health administration from Sullivan, Missouri

**Rollins Society**

• Anne Cafer, doctoral candidate in rural sociology from Bowling Green, Missouri
• Elizabeth Consentino-Vonderahe, master's student in public affairs from Jefferson City
• Reuben Faloughi, doctoral candidate in counseling psychology from Atlanta, Georgia
D. Heddings II, law student from Carrollton, Missouri

Ta’janette Sconyers, doctoral candidate in counseling psychology from Chicago, Illinois

Dina van der Zalm, master's student in social work and public health from Greenville, South Carolina

Evonnia Woods, doctoral candidate in sociology from Pulaski, Illinois

Anahita Zare, doctoral candidate in chemistry from Orlando, Florida

Civil rights pioneer remembered during inaugural Unbound Book Festival

By Caitlin Campbell

Sunday, April 24, 2016 at 12:00 am

During the inaugural Unbound Book Festival on Saturday, a panel of University of Missouri faculty and administrators discussed a new book about a landmark Supreme Court civil rights decision with local ties, as well as social justice challenges remaining in the United States.

About 150 people gathered Saturday afternoon at Stephens College for a discussion about the book “Lloyd Gaines and the Fight to End Segregation,” which two MU professors researched and wrote. The panel was composed of authors James Endersby and William Horner, interim UM System President Mike Middleton and interim Columbia campus Vice Chancellor for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Chuck Henson.

Endersby spent about 30 minutes detailing Gaines’ court case and story for the audience, saying he decided to research and write the book with Horner because there was no complete work about Gaines or the historic civil rights case he spurred. Aside from the Supreme Court ruling in Brown v. Board of Education in 1954 — which paved the way for school desegregation — Endersby said the civil rights lawsuit started in Columbia was the most important case regarding education to go before the Supreme Court.
Gaines was a black man whose 1936 application to the MU School of Law was denied by the UM System Board of Curators because of his race. The curators voted on a resolution to specifically deny Gaines admittance to the law school based on the fact “that no colored student should be admitted to the University of Missouri,” Endersby said, quoting directly from the resolution.

“Missouri was an innovator in separate but equal” injustices, Endersby said, noting the state had set up exceptionally exclusionary policies to stop black students from pursuing higher education.

The state only allowed white students to attend its public higher education institutions — with the exception of some smaller black schools — and denied black students the ability to obtain a graduate or professional education. Students who had a problem with this policy could appeal to the Missouri General Assembly, which could then decide whether to use a severely underfunded program to provide them with an “equal” education at a college outside Missouri, Endersby said.

The curators’ decision to issue a resolution denying Gaines admittance to the law school was a “gift” to those fighting to overturn unfair “separate but equal” policies, Endersby said, because it meant they didn’t have to prove he was denied admittance based on race. “The case became much easier to pursue than other cases because the issue was now squarely on the race question,” he said.

Gaines challenged the university’s decision, and after losing in Boone County and the Missouri Supreme Court, his case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. In a surprise decision, the high court ruled in favor of Gaines and said the university had to either admit him or create a separate law school. It was the first in a long line of high court decisions regarding race, higher education and equal opportunity.

Several audience members asked the panel how Gaines’ case might be relevant to students at the university today. More than 75 years after the landmark case, the campus last fall hosted a series of protests over the administration’s response to race-related incidents.

Horner said most of his students had never heard of Gaines before taking his courses — the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center on campus is named in his honor — and the story is an “incredible building block” toward talking about racial injustices in education. On a day when many students skipped class because of death threats related to campus protests, Horner said he recorded a lecture about Gaines and posted it online for his students to review.

The Gaines case helps “show where the university was and where it is going,” Horner said.

Middleton said he believes the book will help educate the students and community. He said the book is a definitive work on race relations in Missouri that will teach people about the “long, long struggle this nation is involved in.”

Sparking a round of applause and cheers from the audience, Middleton said the whole issue of race relations in America “has been a blot on our character and our culture.”
“One of the reasons why we can’t seem to get beyond is because we have a tendency to deny that ugly, ugly, ugly history,” Middleton said. “If we can” learn from the past, “we have a much better chance of moving beyond it.”

The Unbound Book Festival was designed to bring acclaimed authors and passionate readers together to discuss the craft of writing. The event — which started Friday with a kickoff session involving “The English Patient” author Michael Ondaatje and National Book Award winner Mark Doty — included a number of interactive sessions Saturday on the Stephens College campus.

## Students call out MU for lack of sustainable practices

COLUMBIA — **Two MU students are unhappy with how the university has approached sustainability.** Clare Bassi and Brendan Hellebusch wrote a letter to MU addressing the ways the university could do a better job in creating long lasting success with its finances, social community and infrastructure.

The pair said they wrote the letter out of frustration after attending many meetings with sustainability and environmental groups.

"We would have all of these talks, but then not action," Hellebuch said. "We've been a part of these conversations long enough to know what the university is and is not doing well."

The letter lays out three main points of concern: social, financial and infrastructure.

The students are concerned at MU's lack of response to the concerns and issues of marginalized students. They said the university's buildings use up more resources than they put out, and that MU invests in companies that use fuel sources that harm the environment.

Bassi and Hellebusch said MU could be doing more to help the next generation of society be more knowledgeable about how to keep its resources intact for generations to me.
The students have received support from universities across the country but have heard no word from MU's administration.

"It's safe to say we have received more support from other schools," Bassi said. "We have gotten responses from Harvard, UNC and the University of Chicago, but it seems like at Mizzou, no one knows it's happening."

Hellebusch said he is not surprised about MU's lack of response, but has faith that administration will step up in the future.

Bassi said this issue extends past the campus.

"MU is the largest employer in Columbia and is such a huge part of the social climate in this area," Bassi said. "Right now, the university is not acting in a way that will be sustainable in the long run. That is everyone's problem."

MU business school hosts fundraiser for student diagnosed with cancer

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri's Crosby Master of Business Administration Association hosted a fundraiser Saturday for an MU graduate student who has cancer.

Zach Heath, 29, was diagnosed back in October with stage IV colon cancer. His classmates in the M.B.A. program wanted to help him pay his medical bills, which is why they decided to hold the fundraiser, just two days before he is set to start another round of chemotherapy.

"When they first told me [about the fundraiser], I was shocked even at the idea," Heath said.

Heath's classmates sent him an email with a detailed itinerary of everything the fundraiser at Stephens Lake Amphitheater would have, including face painting, live bands, moonbounces, a beer garden, a food truck and a costume contest.
Upon receiving the email, Heath said, "I was like, 'Oh my god.' Like, this is like a very substantial event."

Heath said members of the Crosby M.B.A. Association spent months trying to get the city to allow them to have the event, but eventually it all worked out.

"It turned out to be a perfect day," he said, referring to the 70-degree weather.

While fighting cancer, Heath has performed his MU graduate assistant duties, run a biotech start-up and managed to never miss a day of class.

"I've kind of adopted this 'catch me if you can' mantra for cancer, and I just figured that whenever I feel good, I'm going to do everything I can," Heath said.

He also created a blog to document his journey, as well as a GoFundMe page.

"My blog has a huge gladiator theme to it. Instead of 'cancer fighter' I went with gladiator. It's my favorite movie, and I just like the connotation a little bit better," Heath said.

Staying busy and remaining positive have been helpful in Heath's recovery, he said.

"I feel like when you get dealt a bad hand, you can either accept it and move on and deal with it, or you can sit and wallow," he said.

He continued, "I'm not the person to sit still, and so I decided, 'OK. If cancer wants to pick a fight, let's do this.'"

And it is that positive attitude that makes him an inspiration to everyone around him.

"He's a lot of fun. He laughs a lot. His personality has not changed a bit since he's had cancer, and so that's great to see. He's certainly got a great attitude about it," classmate and Crosby M.B.A. Association Vice President of Finance Ben Beussink said.

Beussink is confident that Heath will beat cancer.

"He's gonna pull through it. No question," Beussink said.

Heath is thankful to have support from friends, family and even people he doesn't know.

"I still can't believe that all this is for little ol' me, but I couldn't be more appreciative of it," he said.

Through his journey, Heath has made friends with other people who also have cancer. He wants to bring awareness to the idea that cancer can happen to anyone: young or old.
"One of the things I heard at the beginning was 'but you're so young' or 'but you're too young to have cancer,’” he said. "There's a lot of people in their twenties or thirties that have cancer, and go through these things."

And Heath has advice for anyone who is going through it.

"You can win. I mean, it's not a death sentence, and it's a sentence, not a story. And you can write your own story," Heath said. "I think the attitude that you have about it makes the biggest difference in everything."