At the End of a Watershed Year, Can Student Activists Sustain Momentum?

After final exams ended this month at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, most students left for the summer — including many of those who had led protests of the campus’s racial climate over the previous six months. But not Kenneth Cole.

Mr. Cole, a senior who plans to take a fifth year of classes, is continuing an internship with United Council, the Wisconsin system’s statewide student organization. In the meantime, he is starting to prepare next year’s agenda for UW BlackOut, the activist group he helped found last fall.

UW BlackOut released a list of demands in the fall focused on making the campus more inclusive to students of color. It followed up with another set focused on police reform this spring, after a black student was arrested in a Madison classroom. At least one key demand has been met, but by staying on this summer, Mr. Cole hopes to learn more about the ins and outs of student governance and university bureaucracy so he and other activists can make further progress.

"One thing they’re counting on is that students will take the summer to relax," he says of administrators at his campus and the system level. But he has big plans. Among them: bringing back many of his peers for a series of workshops led by alumni who protested similar racial-climate issues when they were students.

Over a tempestuous six weeks last fall, a wave of antiracism protests swept dozens of colleges. Nationwide, sit-ins and rallies drew hundreds of people; by late fall, a website had published demands from students at nearly 80 institutions. Most were
inspired by students at the University of Missouri at Columbia who protested under the name Concerned Student 1950. Their tent encampment and one student’s hunger strike drew national attention to the campus’s racial climate and helped push the university system’s president and campus chancellor to step down.

Those resignations were seen as big wins for the Missouri protesters. On other campuses, students like Mr. Cole succeeded in getting administrators to pledge to meet many of their demands; the Wisconsin system, for instance, has created a new racial-climate task force. Now campus activists confront a fresh challenge: sustaining momentum into a new academic year.

Many of the leaders who defined the campus-protest movement are graduating this spring. Their departures have left activists to worry that college presidents who said they would tackle issues like faculty diversity and funding for multicultural groups might be tempted to wait the protests out. So students are shifting their focus. Where they once worked to draw attention, they’re now trying to lay the groundwork for long-term influence.

They are also encouraged that they are now working shoulder to shoulder with their former adversaries. Many activists have joined administrators on task forces and in working groups, strategizing with campus leaders over the best path forward. The underclassmen who are trying to push activist movements forward must learn how to navigate academic bureaucracy, and they face a steep learning curve.

"Now that we have had the protests and the administration knows we want to share governance, what’s the next step?" says Maxwell Little, a member of Concerned Student 1950 who will graduate this month with a master’s degree in educational leadership and policy analysis. "It’s about showing up to meetings."
‘We’ll Be Sitting at the Table’

Mr. Little and other student activists at Mizzou have little fear that their organizations will fall apart over the summer. The university was the site of some of the country’s most intense campus protests last year, when Concerned Student 1950 issued a list of demands that included an increase in black faculty members and more resources for student mental-health services.

But student leaders remain busy. This spring Chuck Henson, the interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity, and equity, convened a working group in which Mr. Little and other student leaders brainstormed about how to improve the campus's racial climate. "You have to come prepared and engage in meaningful dialogue and push your agenda," Mr. Little says.

The group got off to a tense start, he says. Some students complained that it amounted to little more than a series of lectures from administrators. Concerned Student 1950 members pushed back, Mr. Little says, and "the next meeting, we were all sharing ideas and valuable discussion."

Now that graduation is over, he and other student leaders plan to work remotely to help turn Concerned Student 1950, which began as a collective of about a dozen students, into a formal organization with bylaws and a structure. That, he says, will help the group prepare for the fall, when members hope to draw attention back to goals that were sidelined by talk of state budget cuts, including the demands for mental-health services and faculty diversity. This summer and fall, he says, "we’ll be sitting at the table to make sure those demands are met."

Rhodesia McMillian, a doctoral student in educational leadership and policy analysis, says her group, MU Policy Now, plans to remain active on diversity and equity issues, including a push for graduate students to be allowed to unionize.
"There’s no longer pressure in terms of ‘they’re not listening to us,’” she says. "We’re actually being heard."

This summer Ms. McMillian, a school psychologist, will work with Mr. Henson, the interim vice chancellor, to help Missouri send the message to all of the state’s schoolchildren that the campus welcomes people from diverse backgrounds.

But not all student activists feel the administration has invited their views. Danielle Walker, who formed a loose coalition last fall called Racism Lives Here, declined to join the working group because she believes such groups are created "to delay action."

"I refuse to be a part of them," says Ms. Walker, who is finishing her master’s in public policy. "And because of my refusal, I was considered problematic." Instead she worked this spring to make her group more inclusive. "Everything that happened last semester was so focused on black students, a lot of other students of color really felt left out of this narrative," she says.

Ms. Walker is training another student to carry on the coalition’s work after she leaves, planning events for the summer and setting the agenda for the fall. That includes advocating for a stronger response to hate crimes, and for more diversity in homecoming events. She hopes incoming students "are even more active than students last semester, even more demanding, even more impassioned and determined."

**Recruiting Challenges**

Graduation is a significant obstacle for campus activism. Finding ways to keep the momentum going when the core leaders are graduating seniors has always been a challenge, says Angus Johnston, a historian of American student movements who teaches at the City University of New York’s Hostos Community College.
All of the founders of Claremont McKenna College’s six-month-old CMCers of Color, which pushed the college’s dean of students to resign, in November, were seniors. And campus criticism of student protests has hurt activists’ ability to attract younger students, says Denys Reyes, a founding member. "There have been a lot of new students who have approached me and said, I really want to be part of this movement of students of color. I’m just afraid I’ll get harassed," Ms. Reyes says.

Still, she says, the organization has recruited a passionate group of underclassmen to lead next year. Starting this fall, the college will pay stipends to some students to work as leaders in multicultural organizations like CMCers of Color, which was one of the activists’ top demands.

When Ms. Reyes and other group members were leading protests last fall, she says, "it was like working full time while going to school full time." That limited students’ ability to strategize with other campus activists nearby. "It would be like running a nonprofit to coordinate all of these student organizers," she says.

Ms. Reyes gives mixed reviews to the administration’s progress on students’ demands. This fall Claremont McKenna will open a new resource center for cultural-affinity groups. The center, however, will share one floor of a building with both career services and the student government, she says.

The college has also developed small grants for professors who want to diversify their course curricula, and officials are in the process of hiring a new dean of diversity and inclusion. But students’ request for a general-education requirement centered on ethnic studies has gone nowhere, Ms. Reyes says.
Keeping Up the Pressure

By putting their demands in writing and asking for written responses, this year’s wave of activists may have done next year’s protesters a favor. Shaun R. Harper, executive director of the University of Pennsylvania’s Center for the Study of Race and Equity in Education, says there is now "a record of some of the assurances that have been made to student activists and students of color."

"The onus is on college presidents and others to offer, in a proactive fashion, updates for the entire campus community," Mr. Harper says.

That appears to be happening on some campuses. In the fall, students at Amherst College who organized under the name Amherst Uprising issued a confrontational list of demands. The protesters ended a sit-in in November and agreed to work with the college’s president, Carolyn A. (Biddy) Martin, on the campus's racial climate.

Kyndall Ashe, a sophomore and lead organizer, is one of three students who sit on a presidential task force on diversity and inclusion, which met weekly this semester. The task force will continue next fall, the president says.

Participating in working groups and committees is a good strategy for student activists, says Mr. Harper. Meaningful change will require their continued pressure, he says.

"Students are smart enough to realize when institutions are simply giving them the runaround," Mr. Harper says.

Amherst students hope to hold monthly, campus wide forums next fall to discuss the task force’s work and get student feedback. "Having a president who’s on board and so supportive of us has really helped," Ms. Ashe says. Through Facebook, Twitter,
and campus meetings, "we’re going to continue doing everything we can to keep the conversation going."

Some graduating seniors have offered to try to rally support among alumni, who were deeply divided over the group’s demands, and to be "a support system and resource" for next year’s activists, says Ms. Ashe.

**National Groups Step In**

Over the course of the academic year, many protest groups expanded their missions: Activists may now ask campus leaders to disinvest in fossil-fuel companies, provide higher wages to campus workers, and offer better mental-health services.

That’s an ambitious set of goals. "Students are aware that they’re not going to be able to finish their agenda in one academic year," says Mr. Johnston, the historian. "So this semester, students focused on how to build something that’s going to be a multiyear effort."

That means identifying students who could become leaders in two or three years and providing mentoring and training. The United States Student Association does that, he says, by having the vice president each year shadow the president and take over that spot when the president leaves. The national association, which operates year-round and has about 1.5 million members in 10 states, also provides tips and tactics for campus organizers on its website.

The Black Liberation Collective, a nationwide group of organizers that has become a coordinating hub for far-flung student activists, is adopting elements of that approach. It did most of its work this year through Twitter, Tumblr, and conference calls with campus groups, but its structure is becoming more formal, says Yamiesha Bell, a
graduate student at the University of Connecticut who is one of the collective’s 10 founding members.

The collective created regional chapters this spring, Ms. Bell says, and each member of the national leadership is responsible for keeping up with the needs of his or her region. Several of the chapters are in Canada. "Seeing how social media was able to push this out of our country is really fantastic," Ms. Bell says.

In April the collective jointly sponsored a national day of action with Million Student March, a campaign focused on college affordability and student debt. Coordinating with other student-activist movements is one of the collective’s strategies for achieving longevity and for making progress on a list of national demands, which include divestment from private-prison companies.

The collective’s leaders are arranging activism workshops in each region, and the group hopes soon to hold webinars for students who can’t attend the training sessions in person. Eventually, Ms. Bell says, the collective wants to sponsor a national conference for black student activists.

"A lot of students have what it takes, just not the tools and confidence," she says. "That’s where we come in — to really push that."
Researchers discuss Zika at zoonotic symposium

COLUMBIA - Researchers gathered at the Bond Life Science Center on the M.U. campus on Monday to discuss emerging zoonotic diseases, like the Zika virus. The main focus of this symposium was to recognize the challenges associated with zoonotic diseases and to identify opportunities for heath research.

Kariuki Njenga, the head of the One Health research program at the Kenya Medical Research Institute describes the main focus of zoonoses study as understanding the diseases and infections which are spread between animals and humans. He says his work is focused around preventing major outbreaks.

“I am working to increase the awareness but also increase the preparedness so that we don’t have more, and more, emerging outbreaks, that, sometimes arise from elsewhere and end up spreading everywhere in the world and causing a major major concern,” Said Njenga.

He also said that interrupting animal’s ecological systems is a big problem.

“Animals rarely come to us. We go to them. So if you want to ask why we have so many diseases coming from animals it is because we go and interfere with their ecosystem.” Said Njenga.

A main discussion at the zoonotic symposium was the Zika virus. Sharon Deem, the director of the St. Louis Zoo Institute for Conservation Medicine, said its extremely hard to predict the next pandemic.

“Some of the things we are doing, on a global scale, is having programs which look to find the viruses which are in the wildlife habitats. We now have higher abilities to sequence the DNA, to discover these pathogens, before they spill over into the human populations,” Deem said.

Deem said disease are often affected by environmental, political and social factors so this can often cause unpredictable results that scientific models can’t quantify.
Patrick Pithua, an assistant professor at the College of Veterinarian Medicine at MU says there are several ways to fight zoonotic disease moving forward. “One way is though finding cures and vaccines. We don’t have one of those for Zika yet, so the other way to fight it is to use prevention methods,” Said Pithua.

Puthua says using extra bug spray, wearing full length clothes and being educated on areas of travel are the best ways to lower one’s risk of getting the Zika virus.

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**Extreme beliefs often mistaken for insanity in criminal cases**

COLUMBIA, Mo., May 23 (UPI) -- *When violent tragedies like mass shootings and suicide bombings happen, people look for an explanation that often results in an assumption the person is insane -- which is wrong, according to psychology researchers at the University of Missouri.*

The researchers analyzed the case of Anders Breivik, who killed 77 people in two attacks in Norway in 2011, finding a propensity to develop overly intense beliefs allows sane people to justify awful acts.

Breivik was sentenced to 21 years in jail for a car bombing and mass shooting at a youth camp, while claiming to be a "Knights Templar" and "savior of Christianity" with the goal of saving Europe from multiculturalism. Although a psychiatric team initially diagnosed him with paranoid schizophrenia, a second team judged him to have narcissistic personality disorder.

The researchers suggest sane people who develop systems of belief allowing them to commit atrocious acts requires a specific term, and they recommend "extreme overvalued belief" to properly refer to a psychiatric diagnosis relevant to criminal court cases.

"In courts of law, there are not clearly defined, standard methods of diagnosing insanity for legal purposes," Dr. Tahir Rahman, an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Missouri, said in a press release. "This new term will help forensic psychiatrists properly identify the motive for the defendant's criminal behavior when sanity is questioned."

For the study, published in the Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law Online, the researchers analyzed Breivik's rigidly held extreme religious beliefs to differentiate
between criminals with actual mental disorders and those who are aware of their actions and their motivations.

Breivik did not have grossly disorganized behavior, hallucinations, psychological history or cognitive impairment typical of a diagnosis of paranoid schizophrenia. The media also reported on a mass distributed email hours before his attacks in which he was "defending his behavior and clearly relished being the center of what he believed was a political opportunity to further his agenda."

This distinction, the researchers say, makes a difference in how terrorism and mass murder suspects are treated and prosecuted, while potentially offering an opportunity to intervene and prevent some tragic events from happening.

"Certain psychological factors may make people more vulnerable to developing dominating and amplified beliefs," Rahman said. "However, amplification of beliefs about issues such as immigration, religion, abortion or politics also may occur through the internet, group dynamics or obedience to charismatic authority figures. We already warn our youth about the dangers of alcohol, drugs, teen pregnancy and smoking. We need to add the risk of developing extreme overvalued beliefs to that list as we work toward reducing the violence often associated with them."

**MISSOURIAN**

Animal rights group sues MU, claiming university violated Sunshine Law violations

ALEX EDWARDS, 10 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — An animal rights group sued MU on May 16 for allegedly violating the Sunshine Law on more than 200 occasions over records requests about animals used in the School of Medicine.

In March 2015, the Animal Rescue, Media and Education’s Beagle Freedom Project launched a campaign to identify every dog and cat used for medical research and testing in public institutions across the country. The initiative, called the Identity Campaign, aims to raise awareness of the treatment of research animals. The group identified 179 of these animals at MU.

Members of the Beagle Freedom Project initially submitted at least 27 requests for public documents to the custodian of records at MU, Paula Barrett. By filing the requests, the
organization encouraged its members to virtually "adopt" these animals and learn about their lives and fates, according to the group's lawsuit.

Each Sunshine request asked for information on a specific animal, including:

- intake records.
- transfer records.
- daily care logs.
- health records.
- treatment reports.
- progress reports.
- veterinary reports.
- necropsy reports.
- photographs.
- videos.

The nonprofit organization alleges that the university denied the group's requests for fee waivers and asked for about $400 to $700 for each record because of how much time it would take employees to find the necessary information.

After its members' initial fee waiver requests were denied, the Beagle Freedom Project sent 179 requests — one for each dog and cat identified within the MU School of Medicine.

The petition filed in Boone County Circuit Court stated that MU then demanded more than $82,000 for the records.

It goes on to say that Barrett or the university calculated the fees and determined that four or more highly paid employees would be needed to complete each request, ranging from a
"Principal Investigator" to be paid $123.50 per hour and a clerical employee to be paid $22.90 per hour. The university also charged $4 to $7 per page in copying costs.

The lawsuit cited this as a violation of the Sunshine Law because MU denied the fee waivers and should have used the lowest-paid employees and charged only 10 cents per page.

Ryan Gordon, general counsel for the Beagle Freedom Project, said the records the group requested are supposed to be open to the public.

"Usually, I’ve found in my experience, the degree an institution goes to conceal records goes along with something the public would generally be opposed to," Gordon said.

According to the suit, the Beagle Freedom Project believes MU “receives substantial financial benefit from research and testing, including research and testing conducted on animals” and has therefore deterred efforts to acquire the records.

Jean Maneke, general counsel for the Missouri Press Association, has experience working with cases protecting the Sunshine Law. Maneke said she’s interested in seeing how the lawsuit will play out in court because of questions that have been raised in the past about how the university calculates the actual cost of producing official records.

“Because decisions in Boone County impact a lot of people who make Sunshine Law requests of MU, this case has the potential to impact a lot of members of the public,” Maneke said.

Gordon said the project also has pending lawsuits against Stony Brook University, the University of California and the University of Texas for efforts related to the Identity Campaign and the inability to obtain public records related to animal research. He said the records the group requests have to be maintained and available for inspectors under the Animal Welfare Act, and the task of finding them should be easy enough to be given to someone such as a college intern.

On numerous occasions, the project has been able to get the records without a fee, Gordon said.
AAUP report: Academic freedom, shared governance endangered at MU

Two months after beginning an investigation into assistant communication professor Melissa Click’s termination, the American Association of University Professors released its report, finding that academic freedom and shared governance are endangered at MU.

The report was published Wednesday night following an investigation of whether the Board of Curators violated the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure when dismissing Click from MU in February. Click was terminated for conduct during the fall semester’s protests that board Chairwoman Pam Henrickson said “was not compatible with university policies.”

The investigation’s findings will be used to decide if MU’s administration will be censured. MU has been censured twice and investigated four times before, including once for a similar reason — according to AAUP’s report, in 1973, the board “overreacted massively and ominously” in taking disciplinary action … following campus demonstrations.”

The investigating committee, AAUP’s committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure, visited MU in March and met with several people involved with Click’s case, including interim Chancellor Hank Foley, Faculty Council Chairman Ben Trachtenberg and Vice Chairwoman Nicole Monnier, MU’s AAUP chapter members and Click. The Board of Curators declined to meet with the investigating committee, but did provide a 10-page letter on March 17 with input for the investigation.

AAUP’s report details the events leading up to Click’s firing and the process by which she was fired. The purpose of the report, it said, “is not to defend professor Click’s November 9 actions,” but to decide whether Click was afforded due process and if her termination was due to overreach by the board and state government.

Part of the findings discuss the committee’s belief that they “are not convinced” Click’s actions warranted her termination. The committee said in the report that despite their belief, they recognize that a faculty hearing could have potentially yielded the same result as the curators’.

Regardless, the committee said in the report, it’s impossible to know the potential outcome of a faculty hearing because there was no faculty hearing.

In a statement on behalf of the board in response to the published report, board Chairwoman Pam Henrickson said that the board stands behind its decision to fire Click.
“As the AAUP’s report acknowledges, this case did not involve a denial of Dr. Click’s academic freedom,” the statement read. “But the AAUP’s report disregards the seriousness of her misconduct and reaches inconsistent and unsupported conclusions.”

But the investigation found the curators “violated basic standards of academic due process” by denying Click a faculty hearing. Under the UM System’s Collected Rules and Regulations along with the 1940 Statement, dismissal for cause “should be, if possible,” considered by faculty along with the board.

Click never had a faculty hearing because no one — faculty, students, administrators or the board — ever initiated the process, according to AAUP’s report. While the board has the legal authority to not have a faculty hearing, the investigating committee said it believes that an attempt should have been made. One of the curators could have filed a charge to have a faculty hearing, but none did.

“While the board endorses the normative practice of faculty hearings in cases of mid-term dismissal, the board found it necessary to act on its own in this singular instance when existing university procedures failed to address the seriousness of Dr. Click’s conduct,” the board’s March 17 letter read.

The investigation found the board undermined the authority of both the faculty and administrators when it conducted an independent investigation instead of holding a faculty hearing.

“Indeed, by suspending professor Click just two days after Chancellor Foley had publicly declared his faith in existing processes, apparently with no prior notice to the chancellor, the board revealed a remarkable disrespect not only for the faculty in its governance role but also for its own appointees,” the report stated.

The board said in their response that dismissal procedures are not ‘absolute entitlements’ and that they were justified to act in the manner they did.

“According to the report, the board still should have asked faculty to conduct a hearing and waited longer for action,” the board’s response read. “It essentially argues that faculty hearings should be held unless the faculty refuses to hear a case. But even if that were so, the board had waited months for the seriousness of Dr. Click’s well-known conduct to be addressed. The effect on the situation facing the board was the same as a faculty refusal to act.”

The report stated that there was overreach not only by the board, but also by the state government. While there is no “definitive evidence,” the committee believes there were more reasons for Click’s firing than just her actions.

The Missouri General Assembly made several demands for Click’s dismissal and also threatened to cut funding equivalent to the salaries of Click, department Chairman Mitchell McKinney and Dean Michael O’Brien’s salaries. The report stated there is little evidence the curators worked to
keep the university autonomous from the legislature during these events and that the board bowed to political pressure.

“... It is difficult not to conclude that the board’s unilateral decision to terminate professor Click’s appointment without affording her the faculty hearing required under university policies was in some measure a response to inappropriate legislative intrusion and pressure,” the report stated.

AAUP MU chapter member Victoria Johnson told The Maneater that the MU chapter believes state overreach sets a dangerous precedent.

“The national AAUP and MU chapter is deeply concerned about the political pressure that facilitated the firing of a faculty member without due process through which differing perspectives and the context of the situation could be examined,” Johnson said in an email.

Because of the various instances in which committee A believes the board overreached and made mistakes, in addition to “undue political interference,” the committee concluded that faculty cannot “rely on an administration fully dedicated to a robust defense of principles of academic freedom and shared governance.”

Before it was published, the report was sent to both Click and the board, who made comments and recommendations for editing that AAUP took into account when creating the final draft. The board did not agree with most of the report, according to a copy of the letter sent from the board to the AAUP obtained by an open-records request.

While the board agreed with the report on some points, it took issue with multiple claims by the investigating committee. The board asked the committee to revise the report in a number of areas before publishing it.

“... It makes a number of defamatory statements and takes a result-oriented path to reach its conclusions, casting unwarranted aspersions at the university and its investigators, all in an apparent attempt to protect a faculty member who undisputedly engaged in misconduct,” the board’s letter read.

The board also takes issue with the committee’s findings that academic freedom is endangered in its full response to the published report.

“By finding a danger to academic freedom after acknowledging there is no evidence that academic freedom has been denied, the report loses sight of the true purposes of a faculty hearing and treats such a hearing as an entitlement to throw a ‘thin chalk line’ around Dr. Click regardless of her misconduct,” the board’s response read.

Trachtenberg told The Maneater that the conclusions of the AAUP’s investigative report don’t surprise him. He said that Faculty Council stands by its statement made in February following Click’s firing.
Additionally, he said he doesn’t agree with the curators’ belief that they had to act since no one filed a charge against Click.

“That argument does not hold water,” Trachtenberg said. “If the curators thought that was an appropriate process, then they should have followed their rules they created.”

During AAUP’s standing committee A’s June 3–4 meeting, the committee will decide if it recommends censuring MU’s administration. If it’s recommended, delegates will vote during the annual meeting on June 18.

SLU part-time faculty vote to form union
By Koran Addo St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 9 hrs ago

Part-time faculty working in St. Louis University’s College of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences have voted to form a union.

Out of 156 eligible voters, 89 voted in favor of forming a union, while 28 voted against.

The vote is the latest victory in a nationwide push by unions looking to represent part-time instructors, also known as adjuncts.

Unions have found Missouri, and specifically the St. Louis area, particularly ripe for their efforts.

Since 2014, adjunct faculty have voted to form unions at Washington University, St. Charles Community College and St. Louis Community College.

At the University of Missouri-Columbia, graduate assistants — students pursuing advanced degrees, who also teach courses, grade papers and conduct research — also voted recently to unionize.

Adjuncts at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville are currently pushing for a union vote.
So far, the lone setback in the area’s unionization push came in May 2015, when adjunct faculty at Webster University voted against unionizing.

With the exception of the vote at Mizzou, the Service Employees International Union has been driving unionization efforts in the area and around the country.

Adjuncts are pushing for higher wages, access to health benefits and greater job security. On average they make less than $30,000 a year.

The vote at SLU was especially gratifying for Jameson Ramirez. Currently, he makes $3,200 per course teaching in the university's department of sociology and anthropology.

Married and with two young children, Ramirez, 31, also teaches courses at Ranken Technical College and Greenville College in Illinois to make ends meet.

Ramirez, like other adjuncts has an advanced degree and dreams of getting a job somewhere as a full-time college professor.

The problem for many in his situation is that colleges have little incentive to offer full-time work when they can find qualified adjuncts to teach at sharply reduced costs. Industry watchers say adjuncts now make up as much as 76 percent of the faculty teaching in U.S. colleges and universities.

For adjuncts, it means not knowing whether they will have a job beyond the current semester, and paying for health and other benefits on the private market.

“It’s a daily struggle,” Ramirez said, explaining that he drives as much as six hours per week and allots a significant chunk of his income to pay for gas.

Leonard Perez, an administrator with the National Labor Relations Board, said SLU can either accept the vote tally and begin negotiating a union contract or challenge the voting results by filing an objection within seven days.
In a message sent out to SLU faculty, staff and students Monday afternoon, university President Fred P. Pestello indicated that the school is ready to negotiate.

“Now that the ballots have been opened and counted, I anticipate that the NLRB will certify the election results shortly after Memorial Day,” he wrote. “After this occurs, SEIU-Local 1 and the University will begin the bargaining process.

“I can assure you that we will approach negotiations with SEIU-Local 1 in good faith,” he added.

**Board of Curators approves tuition hike for fall 2016**

Nonresident tuition will increase by 3 percent.

On Wednesday, the Board of Curators unanimously approved a tuition hike for all students except Missouri resident undergraduates for the 2016–17 school year, differing from a previously announced decision to not increase tuition.

Nonresident undergraduate tuition will increase by 3 percent, totalling an additional $717 for the academic year based on 15 credit hours. The tuition hike for nonresident graduate students is also set at 3 percent. Based on the consumer price index, resident graduate tuition is set to increase by 0.7 percent, or $60 for the academic year.

Tuition for professional students will also increase for both resident and nonresident students. The increase is between 0.7 and 6 percent, depending on the school and the student’s residency status.

**In April, after Missouri legislators agreed to limit cuts to the UM System and MU, UM System spokesman John Fougere confirmed that there would be no tuition hike for any of the four campuses within the UM System.** But on May 16, the board published the proposed tuition rates, which included tuition hikes for many students.

“We were waiting to see the state action on our state appropriations,” said Brian Burnett, UM System vice president for finance.
Burnett said that the UM System was grateful for the 4 percent performance-based funding increase from the state. He said that while graduate, professional and nonresident undergraduate tuition is increasing, it’s “good news” for resident undergraduate students.

According to the tuition hike proposal, the proposed tuition recommendations are “based on economic and market circumstances of each of the campuses.”

Additionally, the curators also approved fee increases. The information technology fee at MU will increase by 10 cents per credit hour; the student activity, facility, and service fees will increase by $3. Supplemental fees for the Trulaske College of Business and Sinclair School of Nursing are also set to increase.

Curator John Phillips said during the meeting via teleconference that he believes it would be more transparent to have differential pricing of tuition for high-cost programs instead of continually increasing supplemental fees.

Differential pricing would allow students to see upfront how much their education would cost as opposed to having a set tuition amount for every student and then charging varying supplemental fees depending on their program.

“I think that we ought to, for transparency’s sake, take a hard look at differential pricing depending on the cost of education,” Phillips said. “[At] other schools, like nursing, engineering or maybe even the business schools, the cost of providing education is more than at maybe some of the other schools … An engineer may be getting a bargain while somebody in [the College of] Arts and Science is perhaps paying more than they should.”

Curator David Steelman said he agreed with Phillips.

“I think it is imperative to have a conversation on differential tuition, which I believe is much more transparent, much more fair to students,” Steelman said.

Burnett said conversations about differential pricing are occurring and will be discussed at a later date when there are more details.

The proposal to increase tuition came after a May enrollment memo from the Division of Enrollment Management showed that the decline in enrollment for fall 2016 is larger than anticipated. According to the memo, there will be a decline of at least 2,600 students, leading to a larger budget shortfall as well.
License plate scanners coming to MU this fall

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri's Parking and Transportation Services will ditch their sticker permits in favor of license plate scanners as part of a "going green effort."

The scanners, coming this fall, will read license plates to identify whether or not a car is parked legally or not.

Parking and Transportation will email ticket notices to car owners, which can be paid online. If an illegal parker does not have their car registered with the university, their ticket will be mailed to their home.

For University Hospital employee Tariq Enezate, he believes the scanners will be an improvement from the stickers.

"I personally had a bad experience with the stickers. I got tickets more than once because the sticker was not clear to the person who checks some of the stickers so I got tickets more than twice this year. So I believe it should be a good idea," Enezate said.

MU student Corey Gholson said the new system won't decrease the amount of illegal parkers.

"People worried about their spots getting taken will get taken anyway. I don't think whatever method they choose will help," Gholson said.

Enezate disagrees with Gholson when it comes to decreasing illegal parkers.

"I think it should be easier to track illegal parkers," Enezate said.

Gholson says the success of the new system will come down to enforcement.

"I think if it keeps it more organized, that's fine. However, they need to enforce that because people get around that kind of stuff all the time," Gholson said.
Columbia expands to become fourth-largest city in Missouri

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

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New data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows Columbia has leapfrogged Independence to become the fourth-largest city in Missouri.

Population data released Thursday by the U.S. Census Bureau show Columbia has gained about 10,600 residents between 2010 and 2015, a 9 percent increase that brought the population to 119,108. Columbia was the fifth-largest city in Missouri in 2010 with a population of 108,500, according to the census data.

Independence had 116,830 residents in 2010 and a population of 117,255 in 2015.

Columbia was the fastest-growing Missouri city with a population of at least 50,000 residents during the past five years. Only Kansas City gained more residents over the same time frame, adding about 15,600 to a population that expanded to 475,378.

Local leaders celebrated Columbia’s rapid growth.

“It’s a great thing to show that Columbia is growing, that we have a fantastic city that people are moving to,” said Columbia Chamber of Commerce President Matt McCormick.

Two other population surveys confirmed the new Census Bureau estimates based on July 2015 population data.

Part of that growth comes courtesy of the University of Missouri, which saw its campus enrollment balloon to about 35,000 students last fall. Enrollment at MU is expected to decline by 2,600 students in the fall, university officials have said.

Census Bureau officials verified that college students are included in local population totals.

“College kids who are living in dormitories, residence halls or Greek housing” are added to the population of residents, said Sarah Gibb, a demographer with the U.S. Census Bureau. “You’d be counted where you go to school.”
St. Peters lagged behind Columbia as the second-fastest growing city, growing by about 8 percent to a population of 56,971 in 2015. Kansas City, the largest city in the state, grew 3.3 percent. St. Louis lost nearly 3,700 residents and has an estimated population of 315,685.

Since the 2010 census, every Boone County community except the smallest towns — Huntsdale, McBaine, Pierpont and Hartsburg — has grown by about 3 to 4 percent. None of the communities lost population. Rocheport and Sturgeon led out-county growth with 4 percent bumps; Rocheport increased by 10 residents to 249, and Sturgeon increased by 35 to 907.

More Missouri towns have lost residents over the past five years than have gained. Towns that lost residents saw an average decrease of about 30 people, while places that gained had an average increase of 300.