COLUMBIA — Missouri House Speaker Todd Richardson, R-Poplar Bluff, appointed four more people to the UM System Review Commission on Wednesday, completing the eight-member committee that will analyze various aspects of the university system including administrative structure, rules and regulations, research activities and diversity programs.

The Missouri legislature created the commission when it passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 66 in May in response to a perceived lack of university leadership.

The first four members were appointed on June 16 by Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, R-Joplin. His appointments included radio personality Renee Hulsholf, Neal Bredehoeft, a farmer in Alma and former MU student, Legacy Pharmaceutical Packaging Chairman Dave Spence and Michael Williams, a partner in the law firm of Williams, Dirks and Dameron, LLC.

The last four members of the committee include:

- Gary Forsee, a graduate of Missouri University Science and Technology and former CEO of Sprint Nextel. He served as the UM System president starting in 2008. He resigned on Jan. 8, 2011, to help take care of his wife, who had been diagnosed with cancer, according to previous Missourian reporting.

- Pamela Washington, an adjunct professor at Maryville University. She graduated from St. Louis University with a Doctorate of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction. Her research focused on gifted education and social justice issues.

- Robert Duncan, from St. Joseph. He was MU's Vice Chancellor for Research before he became Vice President for Strategic Research Initiatives at Texas Tech University in Jan. 2014. According to his Texas Tech University online biography, Duncan was recently a
member of the Visiting Committee that recommended curriculum revisions at the United States Military Academy at West Point in New York.

- Jeanne Sinquefield, who served on the MU's Steering Committee and the "Missouri 100," a UM System Committee created to advise the system's president in promoting the university's reputation. She is also a board member of the "All We Call Mizzou" committee, which raised $1 billion dollars in five years for scholarships at MU.

House member Jacob Hummel, a Democrat representing Missouri's 108th district, spoke out against the appointments in an emailed press release, saying they are "geared toward advancing a Republican political agenda."

"The commissioners, who were solely chosen by Republican legislative leaders, include one failed GOP gubernatorial candidate, a right-wing radio talk show host who is the spouse of another failed GOP gubernatorial candidate and a person whose family essentially owns the Missouri Republican Party due to the tens of millions of dollars they have given in support of its candidates and agenda," Hummel said.

Hummel said the decisions were made with a political agenda doing nothing more than wasting taxpayers' money.

When making his selection, Richardson searched for individuals who have "a passion for seeing the University of Missouri succeed, but who can also provide unbiased, objective feedback and criticism," his release said.
House leader Richardson names final members of University of Missouri Review Commission

By Rudi Keller

Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at 3:10 pm

Former President Gary Forsee and major contributor Jeanne Sinquefield are the best-known names among the four members of the University of Missouri Review Commission named Wednesday by House Speaker Todd Richardson.

Richardson’s appointments completed the commission, created by state lawmakers after administrative turmoil that gripped the university amid racial protests, unrest among graduate students over health insurance and infighting between the Columbia campus and system offices. Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, R-Joplin, made his appointments to the eight-member commission June 16.

Richardson, R-Poplar Bluff, also appointed Pamela Washington, an adjunct professor in the Graduate School of Education at Maryville University, and Robert Duncan, former MU vice chancellor for research now employed as the vice president for strategic research initiatives at Texas Tech University.

“I am confident these are the right individuals to provide the kind of guidance and constructive criticism that university leadership can greatly benefit from as they look to create a stronger, more stable learning environment for all students,” Richardson said in a news release.

The commission will work with a $750,000 appropriation. The resolution creating the commission, sponsored by state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, directs it to review the university’s “collected rules and regulations, administrative structure, campus structure, auxiliary enterprises structure, degree programs, research activities, and diversity programs.”

The commission is to complete its work by Dec. 31.

Richardson’s announcement brought a sharp rebuke from House Democratic leader Jake Hummel of St. Louis. Unlike most boards and commissions created by state government, there is no requirement for partisan balance.
The members named by Richard were Dave Spence, 2012 Republican candidate for governor and CEO of Legacy Pharmaceutical Packaging; Renee Hulshof, host of the Morning Meeting program on KFRU radio and wife of 2008 GOP nominee for governor Kenny Hulshof; Neal Bredehoeft, of Alma, president of Bredehoeft Farms, Inc., and attorney Michael Williams of Kansas City.

Including Hulshof, Spence and Sinquefield signal that the commission will advance a Republican political agenda rather than conduct an unbiased review of the university, Hummel said in a news release.

“This commission is a product the ongoing Republican temper tantrum over the UM System that likely won’t do anything but waste $750,000 in taxpayer money,” Hummel said.

Forsee, a graduate of Missouri University of Science and Technology, was president of the UM System from 2008 to 2011, when he resigned to help his wife recover from cancer. Forsee was chairman and CEO of Sprint Nextel from 2003 to 2007.

Sinquefield currently is a member of MU’s Steering Committee, a member of the “Missouri 100,” an advisory body to the president and a donor who gave $10 million in April to support a new building for the School of Music.

Duncan assumed his current position with Texas Tech in April after a little more than two years as vice president of research. Duncan, a physicist, was vice chancellor at MU from 2008 to 2013.
House speaker fills other half of UM System review group

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - House of Representatives Speaker Todd Richardson chose four people for a state-sponsored review group of the UM System.

Former system president Gary Forsee, Maryville University professor Pamela Washington, former University of Missouri vice chancellor Robert Duncan and prominent Mizzou donor Jeanne Sinquefield round out the eight-person UM System Review Commission. Senator Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, sponsored the resolution to form the board, in order to review, among other things, the UM System's rules, campus structure and satellite facilities. The group will report back to the state legislature and UM System by December 31.

The four picks from Richardson, R-Poplar Bluff, join four others chosen on June 16 by Senate Leader Ron Richard, R-Joplin. Those include Blackburn farmer Neal Bredehoeft, Columbia radio host Renee Hulshof, pharmaceutical executive Dave Spence and lawyer Michael Williams.

Hulshof graduated from the Missouri School of Journalism, and co-hosts a news talk show on KFRU in Columbia. While she doesn't consider her selection as "weighty" as someone as Forsee, she told ABC 17 News she hopes to bring a level of "common sense" as someone who has closely watched the University of Missouri for several years. She said Senator Richard's office wanted her as someone who knew when to criticize and applaud the school.

"Who's the most critical of you?" Hulshof told ABC 17 News. "Well, it's people that care about you, are the ones that are going to hold you to the highest standard. And so we care about that institution in this state."

House Minority Leader Jake Hummel criticized the choices Wednesday in a statement as "advancing a Republican agenda" more than helping the UM System.

“The commissioners, who were solely chosen by Republican legislative leaders, include one failed GOP gubernatorial candidate, a right-wing radio talk show host who is the spouse of another failed GOP gubernatorial candidate and a person whose family essentially owns the Missouri Republican Party due to the tens of millions of dollars they have given in support of its candidates and agenda. This commission is a product the ongoing Republican temper tantrum over the UM System that likely won’t do anything but waste $750,000 in taxpayer money.”
Hulshof's husband, Kenny, served as a U.S. Representative for parts of mid-Missouri for several years, before running for governor in 2008, when he lost to Jay Nixon. The statement also refers to Spence, he ran for governor and lost in 2012, and Sinquefield's husband, Rex. Renee Hulshof, reduced the statement to "politics," but said

"If he would like to criticize me for my own failures, or accomplishments, he's welcome to do so," Hulshof said. "I find it a little sexist that he would choose to criticize me for my husband's."

"I was my husband's biggest cheerleader, biggest fan when it came to the campaign. But to define me by that would be like to define Hillary Clinton by her husband."

While admitting her personal political beliefs differed from the Democratic presidential candidate, Hulshof said it would be unfair to simply link her to her husband, former president Bill Clinton.

Hummel did not respond to a further request for comment on his statement.

Hulshof's background in communication and public relations sometimes frustrated her while watching the university handle political and campus turmoil last school year. Perceptions of the school from outside Columbia also exacerbated stress of parents looking for college, Hulshof said.

**Team chosen to review University of Missouri after turmoil**

JEFFERSON CITY (AP) — A former system president and a wealthy university donor will help review the University of Missouri following last year's turmoil.
GOP House Speaker Todd Richardson Wednesday named former system president Gary Forsee and Jeanne Sinquefield to an eight-member review commission. Sinquefield and her husband, conservative donor Rex Sinquefield, have given millions of dollars to the university.

The commission will review procedures at the university, which came under scrutiny last year after student protests in Columbia over administrators' handling of racial issues.

Richardson's other appointees are Maryville University adjunct professor Pamela Washington and Robert Duncan, a former Missouri vice chancellor. Republican Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard chose four other members earlier this month.

House Minority Leader Jake Hummel says the commission is political and likely will be ineffective.

University of Missouri study abroad policies amid terror attacks

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri has more than 40 countries available for students in their study abroad program. Belgium, Turkey, and France are included in that list and all three had terrorist attacks in the last seven months.

ABC 17 News spoke with the University of Missouri about their study abroad program and if any policies had changed in light of these terror attacks.

Christian Basi with the University said the program is constantly watching the State Department's warning list and bases decisions on what the State Department deems safe or unsafe.

The University has also formed the Student Travel Abroad Review committee. The committee reviews study abroad programs and proposal for programs and looks at different factors to determine if the students would be safe. One of the factors they look at is location and how near, or far, it is from an area the State Department is warning about. The committee then makes a recommendation to the university on whether or not to go ahead with that program.

Basi also said if a student feels unsafe and wants to come home, the University will do everything they can to accommodate that student.
According to the University of Missouri’s Study Abroad website, the university offers a summer course in Istanbul, Turkey. Just this week, Istanbul's airport was attacked by three suicide bombers. The attack killed more than 30 people.

16 Journalism students from Mizzou were in Brussels when terrorists attacked the city's metro system and airport. All 16 students, as well as faculty, were safe.

Students who have studied abroad say the university forwards them emails from the State Department about potentially dangerous situations.

Melissa Null was studying in England and travelling in Germany when the Brussels attack happened. Null said before they left for the semester, the university briefed the students on safety. Just a few months before, the Paris attack happened.

Null said the University urged the students to be aware of their surroundings and "be present" at large events and gatherings. But she said the University never discouraged them from visiting certain areas.

Null said on the day of the attack, her and her travel partner were a little more nervous but decided to continue on with their plans. Null said the attacks are "so random that you really can't let it stop you from moving on with your life and your plans."

University of Missouri Responds to Istanbul Attack

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=d9e6f58f-0485-4ea7-bd7b-374dcf89a10b
Animal rights group calls for fines after inspection of University of Missouri animal labs

By Rudi Keller

Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at 2:00 pm

Findings from a Department of Agriculture inspection of University of Missouri animal research facilities should result in substantial fines, the leader of an animal rights group said Tuesday.

Michael Budkie, founder of Stop Animal Exploitation NOW!, said incidents that caused the death of a dachshund puppy and a boar, both the result of animals escaping from their pen into adjoining areas, deserve strong punishment. Budkie filed a complaint that triggered the June 6 inspection after reviewing reports on the animal deaths filed by MU with the National Institutes of Health.

In a news release, Budkie called for a fine of $10,000 for each violation of research animal safety regulations.

“Because they broke the law, animals died, and there should be a significant penalty attached to that,” Budkie said. “Otherwise it would mean they negligently killed animals and got off scot-free.”

The call for fines is the latest pressure on MU because of its animal research program. In May, a California-based group called Animal Rescue, Media & Education sued over the university’s demand that it pay $82,222.33 to complete an open records request for information about 179 dogs and cats used in research. MU has almost 3,000 research animals, including about 300 dogs and 550 pigs.

The health and safety of those animals is a priority for the university, spokesman Christian Basi wrote in an email.

“When these incidents happened, we immediately took corrective action and self-reported both events to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, which is the federal office overseeing animal
laboratory care,” he wrote. “They responded and agreed with our assessment along with the corrective actions that we had taken.”

The inspection report confirmed that on June 3, 2015, three adult dachshunds were housed in one animal run adjacent to a run enclosing a litter of recently weaned puppies. One of the adult dogs came through a transfer door and killed a puppy. The report found that the lab had fixed the problem by replacing door latches with pull rings that keep the door in place.

On March 7, an aggressive boar knocked down the pen walls separating it from another boar while personnel were away for the night. One boar died from exhaustion or cardiac arrest and the other was killed by lab personnel because of its aggressive actions. The inspection report directed MU to make sure pens keep animals separated and gave MU until Aug. 6 to correct the issue.

The regular inspection of MU animal facilities, conducted from May 23 to 25, found no problems. Budkie’s group filed the complaint a few days later, resulting in the June 6 visit.

Budkie said his organization has become aggressive in filing complaints because it found that reports made to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare by research labs across the country didn’t result in many follow-up investigations. Based on his group’s complaints, he said, 40 facilities have been cited or fined.

“It seems it wasn’t happening until we were forcing it to happen,” he said.

There are no penalties associated with the findings of the inspection report, said Tanya Espinosa, spokeswoman for the department. Inspectors will visit again after Aug. 6 to make sure the promised improvements have been made, she said.

Inspections are done without notice so the facility does not have time to cover up issues, Espinosa said. Penalties can be assessed and are based on the magnitude of the problems, she said.

The USDA uses fines and other penalties to correct “repeat non-compliances, or if we have a facility with particularly egregious non-compliances,” she said.
Farmers still lament loss of pasture-based dairy, casualty of a crime

LIDIA MOORE, 1 hr ago

MT. VERNON, Missouri — Ten years ago, Mike Meier, a fourth-generation dairy farmer, was about to call it quits. Workdays at his Monett farm were long and tiring, and he wasn't making much money.

Then his friend Tony Rickard, a regional dairy specialist who worked at the Southwest Research Center, told him about a pasture-based dairy operation there: 98 well-manicured acres, grazed and fertilized by 85 content, productive dairy cows.

The dairy operation, which opened in 1999, inspired many farmers to switch to pasture-based farming, where cows roam and graze on pasture rather than being confined and living on mostly dry feed.

Meier decided to give it a try — one last experiment before retiring.

Meier’s father, who'd been a confinement dairy farmer, was skeptical.

“Do you really think this is going to work?” Meier’s father asked Rickard.

Rickard said, “Yeah, he will do better than ever.”

Mike Meier sold his machinery, which he calls the “heavy metal,” and converted his dairy with Rickard's help.
The operation thrived. With conventional dairy farming, he'd needed to give his cows 55 pounds of feed every day to produce 75 pounds of milk. With pasture-based dairy farming, his cows produce the same amount of milk on 10 pounds of feed in addition to grazing.

Meier's father was amazed. Meier couldn't believe he was making money and working less.

He wasn't alone among area farmers in discovering that a pasture-based dairy operation has economic, social and environmental benefits. The designer of the pasture-based dairy operation, Ron Young, said that during his time at the research farm, he helped create over 100 pasture-based dairy farms in southwest Missouri.

"The university rarely has a program that was this successful," Craig Roberts, a state forage specialist, said.

The dairy operation became a hub for local dairy farmers, a place to exchange ideas and experiment with cross-breeding cows and different types of grass. Throughout the year, local farmers met up for pasture walks, going farm to farm learning new styles of dairying.

So in April 2015 when the Southwest Research Center announced it was ending — or "refocusing" — its pasture dairy experiment, Meier and other farmers who had looked to the Center for ideas, collaboration and support on their own farms were more than surprised. It made no sense to them.

They didn't know that an administrative assistant named Carla Rathmann, a friendly woman they'd met at events at the center, had contributed enormously to the pasture dairy's demise. A recent internal audit investigation of the Southwest Research Center showed she embezzled more than $743,000 in university funds over a 15-year period, which contributed to the Center's total deficit of $1,012,629.

Rathmann pleaded guilty to one count each of mail fraud and credit card fraud on June 6 after a federal grand jury investigation that found she'd embezzled $716,665 over nine years.
"They ripped off our research farm. (I'm) really upset with it," Meier said.

The idea

In the 1990s, Missouri lost more than one third of its dairies. There were 2,700 dairy farms in the state in 1993 and just 1,700 in 2000.

That, in part, inspired Rickard and Stacey Hamilton, a state dairy specialist, to do something about the decline. They thought a new pasture-based model would help, so they decided to convert part of the Southwest Research Center to a pasture-based dairy.

They approached the dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the time, Roger Mitchell, and discussed the potential impact a pasture-based dairy at the Center could have.

Mitchell approved the concept and agreed to provide $20,000 and pay part of the labor the first two years — "seed money."

The group also solicited funds from dairy agri-businesses and individual producers.

Once they had what they needed, they began construction in 1998. The dairy operation was launched, and milking began in 1999.

University Extension funded the educational side of the research center to help study and collect data from the dairy operation. Roberts, Rickard and Hamilton were a part of that team.

In 2006, the research farm hosted the first Missouri Dairy Grazing Conference for farmers to share their knowledge about pasture-based farming and new research. The conference attracted 200 people from 21 states, Ireland and New Zealand. So many people showed up that the conference had to hold some sessions at the National Guard Armory in Monett.
The growth of pasture-based dairies slowed the decline in the number of dairy cows, according to an MU Extension report. In 2011 there were 95,000 cows in the state, and in 2013 there were 92,000 cows — 25,000 of them pasture-based cows.

The number declined in 2015 to 88,000 cows, according to the Missouri Dairy Industry Revitalization Study published by MU Extension in January 2015.

Although the number of dairy cows is still falling in Missouri, every dollar of milk sales in Missouri contributes $3.12 to Missouri's economy, according to the 2014 Extension report. From 2005 to 2014 the growth of new dairies created $100 million in new investment, $40 million in annual milk sales and 1,110 jobs, according to the report.

The glowing Extension report was from 2014. The Southwest Research Center's dairy operation closed the next year.

**The closing**

In April 2015, local newspapers reported that the dairy operation was switching its focus, one that didn’t include dairy cows. They based the news on a release from the Southwest Missouri News, an MU Extension publication: “Pasture-based dairy program at Southwest Research Center accomplishes goals, will refocus research efforts."

The news didn't make sense to farmers in the area.

When Meier heard of the closure, he called the dean of MU's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, Thomas Payne. He told Payne he couldn't understand why the pasture dairy was closing.

Payne decided to make the trip to Mt. Vernon, where he met with 20 local dairy farmers. Meier was there. He recalled that the farmers expressed dismay over the pasture dairy's closing. Payne listened, but it was a done deal.
Bernie Van Dalfsen, a pasture-based dairy farmer from Reeds, 22 miles west of Mt. Vernon, recalled Payne blaming the closing on employment issues and financial losses, which seemed vague to Van Dalfsen.

It bothered him that the farmers hadn't had a chance to voice their concerns, that the decision had already been made.

"Where did it all of a sudden go wrong?" Van Dalfsen said.

**A key factor**

It was David Cope, hired as the Center's superintendent in July 2014, who discovered the financial irregularities. Cope has a banking background and didn't think the operation should be losing so much money. He became suspicious about those losses in March 2015, according to previous Missourian reporting.

According to the June audit of the Center, the last year that the dairy was in operation, 2014, it accounted for about one half of the Center's total deficit of $1,012,629. So, the dairy's deficit was $468,784, and the general operations ran a deficit of $543,845. The "successful" dairy operation's deficit didn't add up.

Rickard said that with research, deficits aren't unusual. So it wasn't a surprise that the dairy operation was running a deficit. It was the amount of the deficit that was confusing, particularly because the dairy operation was at or below the level of other pasture-based dairy operations, he said.

“Our dairy was doing economically well. We (Hamilton and Rickard) really didn’t understand how it could be losing that much money,” Rickard said. "We were a little perplexed why they were saying that we were losing more money than we thought we were."

Rickard recalled one of the few instances that he saw the dairy's expenses. He saw a cordless drill billed as a dairy expense — a drill that Rickard never saw. It made him wonder what other expenses were being attributed to the dairy.
But he didn’t have access to the Center’s books. He had to take her at her word when Rathmann said the research farm was losing money.

“We didn’t have access to all that information from the Center. There was nobody for us to argue with,” Rickard said. “In retrospect, now that everything has come out, even though I didn’t see the numbers, it was obvious that we weren’t losing money. It was something else.”

Cope cited other factors in the pasture dairy’s demise. For example, the dairy’s connection to MU meant that it had to adhere to certain labor rules that a privately owned farm wouldn’t have to follow. There also were maintenance issues.

Former research farm manager Steve Stamate, who said he had experience at 10 dairy farms, said the Center's milking barn was the worst he'd ever worked in.

“It was alright for a prototype, but it’s not what it should be,” Stamate said.

For example, the feeders, drains, platforms — even the slope of the floors — were incorrectly designed, he said. Those flaws made the barn hard to keep clean.

It bothered him that the barn was presented as a “model.”

“This is what we started with, and then go to Bernie Van Dalfsen or someone else’s (barn), and look at their barn because it was an evolution-type thing, and it got better and better,” Stamate said.

Rickard said these complaints are new to him. He retired in 2014 and never had an issue with the maintenance.

“I respect their opinion, but (when I was there) two years ago, no one told me we ever had an issue in there,” Rickard said. “I am sure there are always maintenance issues, but no different than that of anyone else’s house.”
Rickard said the maintenance issues would have cost no more than a couple thousand dollars to address and certainly didn't explain the deficit.

Cope said the closure seemed to be the most appropriate course with the information known at the time. By all accounts, he said, the dairy was an "overwhelming success," but it had served its purpose.

**Reactions and repercussions**

Farmers and researchers say the pasture dairy brought farmers together around an idea and was a center of community.

"We got to interact with each other and discuss what works for us and the center and each other," Van Dalfsen said.

It was also a way for farmers to test different types of grass, artificial insemination breeding and other ideas of potential benefits to farmers in the area. The research allowed farmers to experiment on a smaller herd of cows without putting their own milk production at risk.

Van Dalfsen said he misses that sense of community with other farmers.

“We are now off in our own little world,” he said. “It’s a lot easier when you can work together as a team. Because of that, we don’t get together as we once did.”

The closest grazing dairy research is now in North Carolina, he said. But the difference in climates and soil means that research isn’t beneficial to Missouri farmers.

“What applies to North Carolina doesn’t apply here,” Van Dalfsen said.

Meier also sees it as a loss for would-be farmers, including his own children.
"Had that research farm not been there, I probably wouldn’t be milking cows today," Meier said. “With it being closed, you may not have some new farmers to start up grass-based dairies because the information is not available now.”

Through pasture-based farming, Meier said he will able to retire sooner — 2020, probably. But it's too late to persuade his sons. He will be the last of a line of dairy farmers.

Farmers get more time to spend with their families when cows are grazing. Children of farmers are more likely to continue dairy farms because of the higher quality of life pasture-based dairies offer, Roberts said.

Meier agrees with that.

“If we were doing grass-based dairy when the kids were growing up, they might have had a different attitude toward it because conventional (farming) is a lot of labor and not much return on investment,” he said. "They may have wanted to stay.”

Clinic vows to resume abortions in Columbia after Supreme Court ruling

By Blythe Bernhard St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 8 hrs ago

A Planned Parenthood clinic in Columbia, Mo., will lose its abortion license Thursday because its doctor does not have hospital privileges, despite a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that such a requirement is unconstitutional.

In 2005, Missouri became the first state to require abortion providers to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital. The Supreme Court on Monday struck down a similar law in
Texas, saying it places an undue burden on women seeking the procedure in part because clinics were forced to close.

There were seven clinics across Missouri providing abortions in 2005 when the law was passed. The Planned Parenthood in St. Louis is now the only remaining abortion clinic in the state.

Alabama’s attorney general said the state would stop enforcing its hospital privileges requirement based on the court’s decision. The court on Tuesday rejected the defenses of similar laws in Mississippi and Wisconsin.

The impact of the decision in Missouri is still unclear. A spokeswoman for Attorney General Chris Koster said the ruling “calls into serious question the constitutionality of certain Missouri laws” and that his office is investigating because the decision was specific to Texas.

Planned Parenthood officials said they are meeting with constitutional lawyers to prepare a challenge to the Missouri laws that are nearly identical to the Texas laws requiring hospital privileges and hospital-like standards for abortion clinics, which the court struck down.

“Once those laws are not in effect we will immediately reinstate abortion at our Columbia location,” said Laura McQuade, president of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri.

The Columbia clinic stopped providing abortions in December after the University of Missouri revoked the hospital privileges of Dr. Colleen McNicholas. A federal judge then blocked the state health department from pulling the clinic’s abortion license, citing “political intimidation” of department staff by state legislators.

While the clinic’s abortion license expires Thursday, it would have been renewed had a doctor with hospital privileges been available. A spokesman for the state health department said staff are reviewing the Supreme Court ruling to determine whether they can continue to enforce the hospital privileges rule.
Planned Parenthood provided more than 200 medication-induced abortions in its Columbia location between August and November 2015, when McNicholas had privileges through the MU health care system. A hearing is scheduled for July 15 to revisit McNicholas’ application for privileges with the university’s hospital.

Abortion providers at the St. Louis Planned Parenthood clinic have privileges at BJC HealthCare’s flagship Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Boone Hospital Center in Columbia, which is also run by BJC, denied privileges for McNicholas.

A spokeswoman for BJC HealthCare said physician credentialing decisions are handled by each hospital separately.

McQuade of Planned Parenthood said the 2005 law requiring hospital privileges for doctors has been instrumental in limiting access to abortion in the state. That year, there were 7,977 abortions performed in Missouri. By 2014, the latest for which data is available, there were 5,060.

About 3,000 Missouri women had the procedure in 2014 in other states, including Kansas, Illinois and Tennessee, where the laws are less strict.

An investigation that just won't end

By Joe Walljasper

Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at 2:00 pm

The University of Missouri began its investigation of Ehren Earleywine on April 5, when John Kasich was still running for president, the Panama Papers were big news and Prince was one of the world’s greatest living musicians.

Is this a review of a softball coach or the O.J. trial?
As for what could possibly be taking so long, I direct you to the Title IX corner of the university’s website, where you can peruse under the link, “Equity Resolution Process for Resolving Complaints of Harassment, Sexual Misconduct and other Forms of Discrimination against a Student or Student Organization.” It would take a month for me to plow through that procedural information.

Long story short: Depending on whether the university’s Title IX investigators are trying to resolve this through conflict resolution, informal resolution or formal resolution, there can be hearings and appeals. Phrases such as “seven business days” and “usually within one to two weeks” and “four business days” and “at least two business days” start to pile up.

The system is built to ensure the accusers and the accused get the fairest possible shake. It is not built to quickly determine whether a softball coach mistreated his players so the program can move forward with the least competitive disadvantage. This is what happens when an entity outside the athletic department — be it the NCAA or the Title IX office — does an investigation.

The urgency of recruiting is no big concern for a Title IX investigator. Given the apparently divided nature of the team — with some players complaining about Earleywine to Athletic Director Mack Rhoades to force the investigation and others supporting Earleywine and denouncing Rhoades — some players probably will want to transfer depending on whether the coach stays or goes. But the window for finding a new school with available scholarship money is closing rapidly. The players are in limbo, just like their coach and the rest of the staff.

The puzzle of this affair is that the accusations against Earleywine were deemed serious enough to spawn a Title IX investigation but not serious enough to place him on leave until the investigation is resolved. It’s hard to square those two decisions.

I think the best outcome for the softball program and the athletic department would be if the Title IX office delivered a mildly damning report that would allow Rhoades to keep the successful coach with some behavior restrictions.

However, depending on what the report says, it might not be Rhoades’ call. He has bosses, too — even if they all have interim tags — and they have their own concerns about protecting the university’s reputation and avoiding lawsuits.

What we do know is that the first day of fall practices is Sept. 1. Surely this will be resolved by then. Or will it?

A few thoughts on one of the other lingering items on MU’s athletic agenda: The baseball coaching search is in the final stages, with an announcement possible this week, according to a source.

Missouri targeted Oklahoma State pitching coach Rob Walton — who previously had a successful nine-year run as head coach at Oral Roberts — as one of its three finalists, according a source. Austin American-Statesman sportswriter Ryan Autullo and D1baseball.com editor Kendall Rogers tweeted in the last few days that Walton would remain at OSU. A Missouri
source indicated Wednesday morning that Walton was still in the mix for the MU job as of Tuesday night.

While the debate goes on about whether Missouri should upgrade Taylor Stadium or build a new one, a likely change in the next two years is replacing the grass playing surface with artificial turf to allow the team more practice time on the field during inclement weather.

There is no word yet on whether former Coach Tim Jamieson will remain at MU in an administrative role, as was suggested as a possibility in the news release announcing his ouster. He is being paid through Oct. 15, per the terms of his termination agreement. The Tribune requested a copy of Jamieson’s three-year contract extension that Missouri announced in June 2015, but the university’s custodian of records said the contract was never finalized.

A source said Jamieson didn’t sign the contract and worked as an at-will employee last year. That didn’t affect his termination, because the unsigned contract stipulated his buyout was three-month’s salary, which is close to what he wound up receiving as an at-will employee.

Students have new sobriety housing option at Mizzou

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri is now offering students recovering from alcohol or substance abuse a sober housing option.

Students who apply to Mizzou's Recovery-focused Sober Housing, will have the opportunity to live among other students working to overcome issues with alcohol and substance use.

Located in Discovery Hall, eight spaces in the double-suite styled dorm have so far been set aside in anticipation for the upcoming school year.

The director of the university's Wellness Resource Center, Kim Dudes, said the goal is to meet the needs of students who have and wish to continue putting in work towards their sobriety.
"They want to be around other students. It's just they like to be in a living environment that is of people very much similar to them. Going through the same kinds of struggles," Dudes said.

While the space is designated solely for those in recovery, it will not be marked differently with posters or signs than other sections of the dorm.

Dudes said this is to avoid creating a stigma.

MU student and Wellness Resource Center employee Adam Dietrich said this housing option is especially crucial for incoming students trying to recover.

"If we have a freshman that found recovery in high school, and they want to come in and still have a college experience, you know what I mean? That's a lot of people's kind of path these days, um, we have that ability to put them somewhere too," Dietrich said.

According to Dudes, the housing will cost the same as regular dorm housing, and applications will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Governor Nixon Does Not Want UM System Job

Lawsuit challenges St. Louis County's go-to charge for protesters

By Jeremy Kohler St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 8 hrs ago

When does a protester cross the line from free speech to illegal conduct? When she stops walking? Shouts at an officer? Blocks a street? Photographs an arrest? Refuses to clear out?

The problem with St. Louis County's go-to ordinance for charging protesters is that it's a catchall that includes many activities that are protected by the First Amendment, according to a lawsuit that could affect dozens of criminal cases against people who have been charged at demonstrations.

The focus is on an ordinance barring “interference” with law enforcement that does not say what, exactly, constitutes interference. The lawsuit, pending in St. Louis County Circuit Court and filed by Melissa V. Bennett and Rebecca “KB” L. Frazier, both of University City, says the ordinance is unconstitutional because it is too vague.

Bennett and Frazier were arrested on Oct. 22, 2014, near the Ferguson police station, during a demonstration for a National Day of Protest Against Police Brutality. The office of County Counselor Peter J. Krane charged them nine months later, accusing them of having “unlawfully interfered in any manner with a police officer or other employee of the county in the performance of his official duties or to obstruct him in any manner whatsoever while performing any duty.”

The operative words: “In any manner.”

The charge is much like a law the U.S. Supreme Court struck down three decades ago, in Houston v. Hill, which barred interruption of a police officer in his duties “in any manner,” the lawsuit says. In that case, the plaintiff had been arrested after shouting at police who had
stopped to talk to his friend. The court found that the law as written gave police broad power to arrest virtually anyone who annoyed them.

“Police believe that not doing what they say to do is illegal, and ordinances like this, that are vague enough to encompass a whole range of human behavior, encourage the police to believe this,” said Brendan Roediger, a St. Louis University law professor and a lawyer for the plaintiffs.

The Department of Justice has criticized Ferguson police and courts for abusing a similar charge — “failure to comply” with a police officer’s order. A Post-Dispatch story last month showed how Ferguson’s lawyers for hire were refusing to back down from those cases, even those the Justice Department cited as infringements on constitutional rights.

St. Louis County has forged ahead with dozens of summonses for interference stemming from Ferguson-related protests, typically issued by U.S. mail several months after arrests. Dozens more people who were arrested for shutting down Interstate 70 on Aug. 10 are still awaiting possible charges. Krane did not respond to a request for comment.

In its response to the lawsuit, the county argues that its interference ordinance is more like a Mississippi anti-picketing law that prohibited blocking access to government buildings and public spaces, which the U.S. Supreme Court upheld in 1968 in Cameron v. Johnson.

In that case, the high court ruled, the terms “obstruct” and “unreasonably interfere” were sufficiently clear.

But one free-speech expert said the county’s law does not mention picketing, and the Mississippi law was clear that obstructing and interfering meant literally blocking access to spaces and buildings.

“The lack of picketing in the ordinance makes the St. Louis County ordinance much more like the Houston problem than the Cameron problem,” said Christina Wells, a law professor at University of Missouri.
Krane has previously defended the county’s actions in pursuing the protester cases, saying his staff reviewed about 100 reports documenting arrests in Ferguson between August and December 2014. He said his staff considered the accounts of arresting officers along with video and social media evidence before deciding whether to issue citations.

The charges against Bennett and Frazier accused them of “walking and standing in the roadway after being warned not to do so by the police officer,” according to the citation. Each was held for seven hours after the arrest. Through their lawyers, they declined to discuss the case.

On Aug. 25, the county counselor’s staff dismissed the charges. Frazier and Bennett sued anyway.

“They continue to protest, so they continue to be subject to the ordinance,” said an attorney representing them, Maggie Ellinger-Locke. The suit says the terms “interfere” and “obstruct” in the ordinance are too broad “and can mean different things to different people.” So the next time they protest, the ordinance does not guide them as to what police might consider illegal.

Both sides have scored points early in the case. Frazier and Bennett asked the court to immediately invalidate the county’s ordinance, but Judge Gloria Clark Reno said there was no cause for such extraordinary remedy. The county argued that neither Frazier nor Bennett had standing to sue, but Reno ruled they did.

Bennett’s and Frazier’s lawyers said the reason their cases were dismissed — and many others were not — has not been explained.

Dozens more interference charges are pending in St. Louis County Municipal Court, including several for which the county has issued arrest warrants.

One of those defendants is Donnell Johnson, 37, who was one of 26 people arrested Aug. 20, 2014, at 12:01 a.m., at West Florissant Avenue and Canfield Drive. Johnson said he was on the street that night looking after some young men to make sure they were safe.
Johnson said he was told to keep moving by a police officer, but stopped because he had been walking all day and had blisters on his feet. That’s when he was arrested.

“When they arrested me somebody told me they won’t even press charges,” he said in an interview last week. Johnson said he moved to California for a while but was moving back to the St. Louis area. After his release from custody that night, “I never got a court date or anything like that.”

In fact, authorities did send him a court summons after the county counselor’s office charged him with interference in July 2015. But under the court’s procedure, the summons would have been mailed to the address he used at the time of his arrest.

Johnson said he hadn’t lived at his old address for longer than a year and never received a summons.

Now he has an arrest warrant, a reporter told him.

“Really?” he asked.

Max Suchan, of Chicago, was arrested at the same time as Johnson, according to the county police arrest ledger from that night. The county counselor’s office months later sent a court summons, then an arrest warrant, to his parents’ house.

Suchan, who recently graduated from law school, said he had been present on West Florissant as a “legal observer” and was arrested while trying to get the name of someone else who was being arrested at that moment.

“I was standing several feet away from the officers … and wanted to get the man’s name and ask if he needed medical attention. While this happened, officers pushed me to the ground and placed me under arrest.”

Wells said ordinances like the one in St. Louis County are used around the country to corral protesters.
“It’s like, we’re not going to tell you this protest can’t happen but we’re going to come at you with a thousand small cuts, arrest you for jaywalking, tell you that you can’t stop walking,” she said. “So they fly under the radar of the public, who gets upset about First Amendment violations.”

If the county loses the suit, she said, it will have to write a more specific law.

A hearing is set for Sept. 1 at 10 a.m. in Division 19 of St. Louis County Circuit Court.