Springfield alumni help Mizzou topple fundraising record

Claudette Riley, CRILEY@NEWS-LEADER.COM 4:47 p.m. CDT July 15, 2016

Generated from News Bureau press release: “Mizzou Breaks Single-Year Fundraising Record, Raises $170 Million”

With help from Springfield-area donors, the University of Missouri set a new fundraising record.

Mizzou officials announced this week that the university raised $171 million in donations this fiscal year, breaking the previous record of $164.5 million set two years ago.

The final amount was $5 million more than Mizzou's fundraising goal for the year and represents a 15 percent increase over the previous year.

"We have a number of major donors there," said Tom Hiles, vice chancellor for advancement at MU. "They've been important."

According to university records, 689 donors from the Springfield area contributed to the fundraising effort. It was not immediately clear how much they donated.

“The University of Missouri has faced unprecedented challenges in the last year,” said Interim Chancellor Hank Foley, in a news release. "However, it should come as no surprise that the Mizzou family has responded with extraordinary generosity. We cannot thank our loyal alumni and friends enough for their support as we continue our mission of educating students and improving the quality of life for people around the world through our faculty’s research."

Hiles told the News-Leader the recent launch of the University of Missouri School of Medicine Springfield Clinical Campus has created a stronger link between Mizzou and this part of the state.
The campus is a partnership between the university and CoxHealth and Mercy Springfield.

"Clearly, we see Springfield area as a key area for recruiting students in terms of the growing economic base," Hiles said. "We feel very linked to Springfield."

According to the news release, the university continued a three-year fundraising trend by receiving 20 or more gifts of at least $1 million.

Nearly 44,000 different donors made donations, pledges or estate gifts to MU from June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016.

Gifts ranged from donations of one dollar to a $25 million gift from the Kinder Foundation to create the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy. The university also raised more than $100 million in cash gifts for the fourth consecutive year.

“Our success this year attests to the strength of the university’s connection with our alumni and friends," Hiles said, in the release. “That’s something that grows over years and it endures through tough times."

Hiles said since November, the university's advancement team scheduled 18 regional kickoff events. Among other things, the team met with donors and sought feedback and support.

"The alumni led the way," he said.

The university’s record-setting year brings the Mizzou: Our Time to Lead campaign total to $762 million — more than halfway to the $1.3 billion goal announced at the campaign’s launch in October 2015. The campaign focuses on raising money for the university’s endowment and its signature centers.
In the wake of turmoil on the University of Missouri campus, doomsayers predicted all sorts of negativism, not least a damaging dip in private financial contributions.

They were half right, sort of.

On Wednesday at Jesse Hall, interim Chancellor Hank Foley was able to announce a highest-ever fundraising total to date, but only because of two unusually large individual gifts that offset a modest decline in smaller donations.

Vice Chancellor Tom Hiles, in charge of fundraising, said he had undergone the most trying five months of his career. He said his office recorded 3,400 negative contacts about the protests of Concerned Student 1950, the football boycott, the resignations of UM System President Tim Wolfe and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, the employment status of Melissa Click, ties to Planned Parenthood, graduate assistant health insurance issues and the ouster of School of Medicine Dean Patrick Delafontaine.

Anger over this unprecedented litany of trouble was continually whipped up by angry alums and Jefferson City politicians who found creative ways to bash university management even though university management had undergone the fastest, most complete turnover possible.

It’s a wonder the university could raise a dime in this atmosphere. Under the circumstances, Wednesday’s news was surprisingly good.

Small donations of $10,000 or less were down by 2.9 percent. Hiles said his office is making a concerted effort to communicate with these donors explaining what’s happening on campus.

As university leaders noted, restoring confidence will take time, but the fundraising totals will help.

From a longer view, patrons of the university need to keep the events of last fall in perspective. The protests were irritating but nonviolent. Management changes were instant. Interim replacements have done a credible job balancing the prerogatives of protesters and the institution. The university is providing a laboratory for other institutions in the nation seeking to handle similar disruptions.

As noted here before, because MU was the site of the first big outbreak, our local campus was first to suffer the fallout and is first to craft reactions. Though this is painful at the outset, it provides an opportunity to emerge better and stronger.

People who really love the university will express their sentiment with support, not standoffish persistent criticism.
DEAR READER: There are suspects out there, but that's about all we know

TOM WARHOVER, Jul 15, 2016

In a moment, I'll be going against Missourian policy in hopes of making a larger point.

On Wednesday, the Columbia Police Department and the University of Missouri held a joint press conference to seek the public’s help in the wake of four armed robberies Tuesday.

Must be a big deal, we figured. Robberies happen, but robberies that prompt press conferences are rare, especially when MU is participating.

We sent a reporter. Columbia Assistant Police Chief Jeremiah Hunter and MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley made statements. Questions were not allowed.

What did we learn? Not much.

Here’s the useful part: All the robberies targeted men between the ages of 21 and 24, and “some of the victims are current or former students,” according to Foley. We can probably infer that he means MU students rather than Columbia, Moberly Area Community or Stephens colleges. The area in which each robbery occurred was also given.

So if a college-aged man reads or hears the information, perhaps he should be pretty careful when out during the late hours. Maybe he should walk with a buddy. Maybe he should call a cab. (As of Friday afternoon, no arrests had been announced.)
What about the suspects? “The assailants in all of the robberies were described as two black males, one armed with a handgun,” the Columbia Daily Tribune wrote. KMIZ used similar wording and quoted Hunter as saying: “At this time, we’re asking the community for their help in identifying the suspects in the cases.”

Well that’s about as useful as saying the sky is blue or the earth is round.

Were these men college-aged themselves or senior citizens? Were they fat or skinny? Light-skinned or dark complexioned? Perhaps they had short hair, but maybe they had the kind of big hair that was common in the ‘60s. Or, shockingly, each could have his own identifying characteristics.

According to the 2010-2014 American Community Survey, there were 5,525 black males in Columbia. As a member of the community, I could use a little help narrowing down the suspect pool from the information provided.

There needs to be at least three other identifying characteristics before the Missourian publishes the race of a suspect. In this case, there was one: male.

There’s nothing magical about three. But it helps us get closer to a more accurate description.

So if the suspect were a white male with graying (OK, gray) hair and a beard who is 6-foot-3, give or take 3 or 4 inches, we would publish the description.

I’ve made a case for how identifying the race of the suspects isn’t helpful. It’s worse, though, in this instance. Language that nurtures negative images of an entire race without an overriding reason is not neutral. It’s harmful.

I can hear the howls. Comments on our articles this week said we were misguided victims of political correctness at best and “a pathetic and spineless shell” otherwise.

But words have power. It’s our job — it’s everyone’s job — to use them responsibly.
Rhoades owes Mizzou more money than university paid him

COLUMBIA, MO. • By leaving the University of Missouri 14 months after he became athletics director, Mack Rhoades owes MU more money than the school paid him in base salary.

Rhoades, who earlier this week accepted the athletics director job at Baylor, must pay MU $800,000 for leaving before the end of his five-year contract. Rhoades’ contract calls for a $1 million buyout if he leaves before the final six months of the deal, though that amount is reduced by $200,000 on each of the first four anniversary dates of his first day in office, which was April 27, 2015.

MU paid Rhoades $600,000 in base salary from his first day on the job through June 30, 2016. After June 30, any salary increase was subject for review by chancellor Hank Foley and interim system president Mike Middleton.

The Post-Dispatch acquired Rhoades’ MU contract Friday via an open records request. Rhoades’ contract had not been previously released and was not finalized until March 4, 2016, according to the document. The school’s custodian of records did not have Rhoades’ separation agreement on file as of Friday.

Baylor plans to formally introduce Rhoades as AD at a news conference Monday in Waco, Texas. As a private university, Baylor is not obligated to disclose Rhoades’ salary, but sources have indicated the Big 12 school will pay him a guaranteed $1 million salary with long-term security. It’s standard practice for schools to help pay the buyout penalty when a coach comes to their school from another program.
Rhoades’ Mizzou contract included two courtesy cars, moving expenses and a housing allowance. He moved to Columbia last year from Houston, where he had been AD at the University of Houston since 2009.

Rhoades was eligible for up to $150,000 in incentive payments for undefined academic achievement and social responsibility benchmarks and another $150,000 for undefined athletic accomplishments for MU teams. It’s unclear if he was paid those bonuses.

On Wednesday, Foley appointed deputy athletics director Wren Baker to serve as interim AD until the school hires Rhoades’ successor. Baker said Foley has not indicated any timeline for the hiring process.

Baylor announced Wednesday that Rhoades would become its AD

The Tigers’ athletic director owes more than his annual base salary for leaving

Wren Baker is now the interim AD for Mizzou

BY TOD PALMER
tpalmer@kcstar.com

Former Missouri athletic director Mack Rhoades owes the university $800,000 in the wake of his return to Texas.

Baylor announced Wednesday that Rhoades had been hired as vice president and director of athletics, ending a 15-month term with the Tigers and trigging the buyout clause, per terms of his contract obtained by The Star.
Rhoades received an annual salary of $600,000 with incentives worth $150,000 each for achieving agreed-upon goals on the field and with respect to “academic and social responsibility.”

He also received two courtesy cars along with allowances for moving expenses and transitional housing in addition to other standard athletic department benefits.

Rhoades’ contract was a five-year dial through June 30, 2020, with each of the first four years guaranteed.

If he left the university on his own before April 27, 2016, Rhoades’ contract stipulates that he would owe Missouri $1 million in liquidated damages.

The figure decreased by $200,000 on each subsequent anniversary of his hire date.

Deputy athletic director Wren Baker is serving as the Tigers’ interim athletic director, MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley announced.

There is no timeline for hiring Rhoades’ successor.

By PETE BLAND
Saturday, July 16, 2016 at 12:00 am

Well, you can’t say people didn’t come out of SEC media days talking about Missouri.

As with almost all things MU these days, though, all that discussion also involved quite a bit of head-shaking.

Credit Mack Rhoades for allowing Missouri to register as more than just the blip it was expected to be during new Coach Barry Odom’s first spin through the annual press gantlet for SEC football coaches in Hoover, Ala. Even as a short-timer in black and gold, the quickly departing athletic director went out in oh-so Missouri fashion Wednesday, hijacking the
proceedings and leaving an already somewhat charisma-challenged — relatively, at least —
Odom unprepared, too, during his introduction.

Although Odom appeared to handle the unforgiving situation to the best of his ability, never straying
too far from the coach-speak he regularly adheres to anyway, his effort at the lectern also left takes
such as the one from AL.com’s John Talty, who put Odom among his “Losers” in his breakdown of
media days.

“The first-year Missouri head coach entered SEC Media Days essentially anonymous and left with
that same distinction. Odom appeared nervous and was overshadowed during his debut by not only”
Alabama’s Nick “Saban and” Arkansas’ Bret “Bielema, but by news of his athletic director leaving for
Baylor just before he was set to take the podium. Odom had an admittedly difficult task of trying to
get people excited about Missouri football, but he still failed in a significant way.”

But those types of assessments of Odom’s performance, fair or not, paled in comparison to the
opinions on the departure of Rhoades, who took the biggest beating in medias both traditional and
social, save for Missouri itself.

The school and the turmoil it’s dealt with in just more than the past year was repeatedly referred to
as a “dumpster fire,” as in it must be one hell of a raging inferno for its newish AD to leave for Baylor.

“If Baylor is a complete mess at the moment, what does that make Mizzou?” Dan Wolken wrote for
USA Today. ... “To date, ... Missouri’s biggest contribution to the SEC is in the off-field drama
department. There seems to be an endless supply.”

The RedditCFB twitter account summed up MU’s situation succinctly: “Missouri currently has no
chancellor, no president, no AD, a rookie head football coach, and a hoops program coming off a
postseason ban.”

As for Rhoades, the shots mostly came from within the MU circle, although there were a handful
from outside who agreed with Chloe Rathburn, who tweeted: “Whatever happened to facing your
problems, not running from them?”

Rathburn was just one of a number of current and former Missouri softball players who weren’t at all
sad to see Rhoades go, thanks to how they perceived he handled a difficult situation with an
investigation into complaints of other players about the behavior of Coach Ehren Earleywine.

“So excited rn. I Y E,” Amanda Sanchez tweeted.
Added Sami Fagan: “And now I’m officially going back to Mizzou to get my masters degree.”

Finally, Emily Crane: “Hit the rhoade Mack.”

Even former MU football standout and current Kansas City Chiefs receiver Jeremy Maclin, not exactly one to stir it up, had something to say on the subject: “I normally don’t speak on stuff like this but glad Mack left...we are a different breed in Como. It’s family first he lacked that mentality.”

By Thursday afternoon, many in the media had moved on from Missouri’s mess while putting a stamp on the four days in Hoover.

The main focus was on the Paul Finebaum-Saban dust-up, issues of player eligibility facing Mississippi State and Alabama, how Hugh Freeze handled questions on the NCAA investigation with which Mississippi’s dealing and/or Bielema once again entertaining the troops.

Closer to home, the tide had already shifted to whom MU’s next AD would be, the man or woman who might finally provide some stability and make Odom’s next trip to Hoover a little less eventful.

“There are good and attainable candidates just among those with Missouri ties,” Tribune editor Joe Walljasper wrote Thursday, citing interim AD Wren Baker, Mark Alnutt and Mario Moccia, with others adding Whit Babcock, Ross Bjork, Nicki Moore, Sarah Baumgartner and Jon Sundvold.

“Around the country,” Rhoades’ departure “is being seen as one more sad day for Mizzou,” The Kansas City Star’s Sam Mellinger wrote.

“But handled the right way,” he added, “this can be the beginning of something much better.”

Panel reviewing University of Missouri has first meeting, despite slashed funding

JEFFERSON CITY • A panel formed to review the University of Missouri met at the Capitol for the first time on Friday, despite its funding being cut by Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon earlier this month.
During the first meeting, members nominated leaders and set goals for the panel, including dividing up certain university issues into smaller groups.

The commission was created to take a closer look at the university after racial justice protests last year had lawmakers questioning cutting funding to the school. The Legislature allocated $900,000 for the task in the 2017 state budget, which Nixon withheld when revenues didn't grow as expected.

The panel includes former Mizzou president Gary Forsee, Pamela Washington, a professor at Maryville University in St. Louis, Robert Duncan, who oversaw Mizzou’s research facilities in his former role as Vice Chancellor for Research, and Jeanne Sinquefield, who serves on the university’s Steering Committee and is married to GOP mega-donor Rex Sinquefield.

Also on the commission: David Spence, the 2012 Republican candidate for governor, farmer Neal Bredehoeft of the Missouri Soybean Association, conservative radio host Renee Hulshof and Kansas City attorney Michael Williams.

Sinquefield was elected chair and Forsee elected vice-chair of the committee, unanimously.

On Friday, the members introduced themselves to one another and shared what they thought were the most pressing issues Mizzou and its satellite campuses faced.

They also chose four areas of focus, and formed subgroups of two to tackle each one: workforce readiness, including an overview of programs and faculty; governance and accountability, looking into administrative leadership and rules; diversity and Title IX; and the university’s extensions and research.

Also at the meeting were chiefs of staff for House Speaker Todd Richardson and Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, who said there was no legislative rulebook in
place, and that lawmakers were just looking for recommendations that would make the university system better.

Sinquefield said the panel should also aim to dispel myths about the university as well, pointing out that the school has been expected to meet growing demands without proper funding.

"Usually when you do more work, you need more money," she said.

Others called for more efforts to lure students to attend Mizzou. Spence said the university "played the victim" after the racial unrest last year, arguing that afterward the school should have stepped up its recruiting efforts. He also encouraged the group to consider recommending three-year funding plans and in-state tuition for neighboring states.

"Let's be aware of our competition," Spence said.

A probe into diversity programs was established as a priority early in the meeting, with Washington arguing that racial relations "set(s) the tone for the entire university."

They also stressed the importance of the task at hand for the state as a whole.

"So much of the well-being of people, so much of the advancement of a region, is now tied to the success of their flagship institutions and academia," Duncan said.

Members agreed to try to meet collectively once a month, but meet in their smaller subgroups far more often.
JEFFERSON CITY — The eight-member UM System Review Commission will focus on four broad areas in its scrutiny of the four-campus system:

- Program analysis and workforce readiness: Dave Spence and Michael Williams will look at which academic programs are succeeding and which are falling behind to determine if any changes need to be made.

- Governance and accountability: Gary Forsee and Neal Bradehoeft will look at how the campuses and the system as a whole are being led and how faculty matters are handled.

- Diversity and Title IX: Pamela Washington and Renee Hulshof will examine diversity and inclusion efforts as well as how Title IX is implemented on each campus.

- Distance learning and extension programs: Robert Duncan and Jeanne Sinquefield will look at how Missourians who cannot travel to a campus are being served by the system.

The commission met for the first time Friday in the Capitol to organize and brainstorm. The public meeting came just a week after Gov. Jay Nixon withheld money from the commission in a larger effort to balance the state’s budget.

The commission is the brainchild of Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, who initially suggested its creation in March as Missouri lawmakers threatened to cut MU’s budget after protests about race relations last fall. Schaefer’s Senate Concurrent Resolution 66 passed a Senate committee on April 4 and a House committee on May 3.
Jeanne Sinquefield volunteered to serve as chair of the commission, and Gary Forsee, a former president of the UM System, volunteered to serve as vice-chair. The other members of the committee voted in favor of their appointments.

When asked about her and husband Rex Sinquefield's political donations, including to Schaefer who originally proposed the commission, Jeanne Sinquefield made a point to separate herself from her husband.

"We don't agree on lots of things," she said. Later, she said she had donated to Democratic as well as Republican causes. The couple has also given millions to MU, notably $10 million in April 2015 toward future renovation of the Fine Arts Building and construction of a new School of Music building.

Jeanne Sinquefield said the commission does not have a political agenda. "I don't understand that," she said.

Sinquefield, who talked to the news media during the commission's lunchtime break, said people should look at the results the commission comes up with as proof that it is fair and straightforward.

During the meeting, members agreed that the commission should not spend too much time dwelling on the past, but rather it should plan for what the university should look like in the future. The group also indicated a desire to do more than point out weaknesses; members also want to use facts to dispel myths about the university.

Forsee said the committee should be careful how it brands itself.

"What do we have to do to ensure that there's a footing for the university going forward for the next 100 years, not to recast what happened and why it happened?" Forsee said.

Duncan, a former MU vice chancellor for research, said he wants the review to be based on analytics.
Several commission members expressed interest in finding ways to make the different campuses work together more efficiently.

Williams asked whether the university's campuses are helping each other succeed or are they just four entities that happen to have the same governing body.

"I think you have to understand whether the system is actually going to work together," Williams said.

Washington, who teaches graduate students about diversity at Maryville University in St. Louis, will look into diversity relations with Hulshof, a co-host for a Columbia morning radio show.

Washington plans to look not only at past information and data but also talk to students and faculty members.

"When you have face-to-face conversations with faculty and students, you are able to look at it from a different lens," she said. "It’s more current."

The meeting began with a discussion about what resources are available to the commission since the governor withheld the funds originally set aside for it.

Adam Crumbliss, chief clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives, told the commission members that House and Senate staff members will assist them but that there are not unlimited resources.

Marga Hoelscher, administrator of the Missouri Senate, echoed Crumbliss' statement about the resources available to the commission and also reminded members that any emails they send to House or Senate staff are subject to Freedom of Information Act requests.

Transparency was a frequent topic during the meeting. Sinquefield expressed her desire for the group to be "totally transparent on all our communications."
The commission's next meeting will be at 10 a.m. Aug. 24 in Columbia. The group agreed to convene once each month so each pair could update the whole group on their progress. The commission plans to hold at least one of these meetings on each of the system's campuses.

The committee was also tasked with preparing a report for the Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the Missouri Senate and president of the UM System by the end of 2016.

Jeanne Sinquefield to lead University of Missouri Review Commission

By RUDI KELLER
Saturday, July 16, 2016 at 12:00 am Comments (9)

JEFFERSON CITY — Major University of Missouri contributor Jeanne Sinquefield and former UM System President Gary Forsee will lead the review of university operations ordered by state lawmakers.

The eight-member University of Missouri Review Commission met for the first time Friday, with commissioners promising an open process and chafing at criticism that they brought a partisan agenda to their work. They selected Sinquefield as chairwoman and Forsee as vice chairman.

Sinquefield, who pledged $10 million to MU in 2015 for a new music school building, also is a major donor to Republicans, both by herself and with her husband, Rex Sinquefield.

“First you have to differentiate that we are separate people,” Sinquefield said to reporters. “Actually I have more education than he does. I speak more languages than he does.”

The commission was appointed by Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, R-Joplin, and House Speaker Todd Richardson, R-Poplar Bluff. It was created amid heavy legislative criticism of the university over administrative turmoil, campus protests over racial issues, the resignations of UM
System President Tim Wolfe and Columbia campus Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and drawn-out decisions about the employment of former Assistant Professor Melissa Click.

The second meeting is tentatively set for Aug. 24 in Columbia.

State Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, sponsored the resolution creating the commission and warned during debate that its recommendations should be implemented or the university could face budget cuts. Majority Republicans voted down Democratic amendments to require partisan balance or give some appointments to Democratic legislative leaders.

Sinquefield said she brings no agenda to the commission and said critics should judge the group by its report, due in December, rather than how it was created.

The commission will not be taken seriously if it is viewed as a partisan body, Forsee said during discussions. Its work must show that, he said.

“We need to make sure we do that with the state of Missouri in mind and partisan issues get cast aside,” Forsee said.

The other commission members are Robert Duncan, a former MU vice chancellor for research who is a vice president of Texas Tech University; Renee Hulshof, a Columbia radio host; Pamela Washington, a teacher for gifted students in Webster Groves School District; Neal Bredehoeft, president of Bredehoeft Farms Inc. in Alma, industrialist David Spence, the 2012 Republican candidate for governor and Michael Williams, a Kansas City attorney.

During a discussion of how to organize the commission’s work, members said it should be more than an investigation of events during the fall semester. Hulshof warned that the commission must address Concerned Student 1950’s protests and concerns.

“I don’t think we can ignore reviewing diversity programs in light of last fall’s concerns brought to bear by the campus and how the university handles those things,” she said. “I don’t think we as a commission can just pretend that is not there.”

The commission formed four two-member groups to divide the work:

- Williams and Spence will study workforce readiness and program performance.
- Forsee and Bredehoeft will review governance, accountability and “administrative agility.”
- Hulshof and Washington will review diversity and Title IX programs.
Duncan and Sinquefield will look into degree completion, research programs, extension and distance learning and auxiliary services.

Gov. Jay Nixon has withheld the $750,000 appropriation to support the commission’s work. When the group convened, House Chief Clerk Adam Crumbliss and Senate Administrator Marga Hoelscher promised the legislature would provide as much support as it could. Members paid for their own lunch Friday.

Under Schaefer’s resolution, the commission will study the university’s collected rules and regulations, administrative and campus structure, auxiliary enterprises, degree programs, research activities and diversity programs. The appropriation withheld by Nixon was intended to reimburse member expenses for attending meetings, pay staff salaries and expenses and give the commission the ability to hire consultants.

The structure of the university will be an important point for study, Williams said.

“Are we in fact one university that has four campuses?” he asked. “Or are we four campuses that just happen to have one governing body?”

Sinquefield promised a transparent process, asking for a dedicated email account for the commission so its business is in one location open to Sunshine Law requests. She also said part of the commission’s duty will be to dispel inaccuracies about the university.

“I think it would be important in our report to provide data, in an English readable format, to focus on the things people may think are true but actually are not,” she said.
University review panel continues despite budget cut

JEFFERSON CITY (AP) — A panel tasked with recommending changes for the University of Missouri system is moving forward despite funding cuts.

The University of Missouri Review Commission met for the first time Friday to discuss how to help a system rocked by turmoil following student protests and leadership changes. The system president and Columbia chancellor resigned amid protests.

Some lawmakers were frustrated about the handling of Columbia protests last year over what some saw as administrators' indifference to racial issues. In response, lawmakers created the commission.

Gov. Jay Nixon in July blocked the roughly $750,000 lawmakers budgeted for commission, citing lagging revenues.

Newly elected chairwoman Jeanne Sinquefield says the commission will continue work despite the cut.

House and Senate administrators say the Legislature will help the panel with funding and other administrative support.

UM review commission holds first meeting

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - The newly formed University of Missouri system review commission held its first meeting Friday in Jefferson City.
The 4-hour meeting included the eight board members outlining the group's goals. The commission is charged with making recommendations to the General Assembly by the end of the year.

Members include:

1. Gary Forsee, a former system president
2. Pamela Washington, a Maryville University professor
3. Robert Duncan, a former University of Missouri vice chancellor
4. Jeanne Sinquefield, a prominent Mizzou donor
5. Neal Bredehoeft, a Blackburn farmer
6. Renee Hulshof, a Columbia radio host
7. Dave Spence, a pharmaceutical executive
8. Michael Williams, a Kansas City lawyer
9. The commission appointed Sinquefield as its chairman and the group decided to hold monthly meetings.

The meeting came a week after Gov. Jay Nixon withheld the $750,000 commission budget. While members said it will affect their work from a logistical standpoint, they said they still believe that the group will be able to do an effective job.

**MISSOURIAN**

**Pat Okker will become dean of Arts and Science — temporarily**

ELISABETH JOYCE, Jul 15, 2016

COLUMBIA — The largest college at MU — and the oldest in Missouri — has a new temporary dean.

Patricia Okker, former chair of the English Department and current senior associate provost at MU, will be interim dean of the College of Arts and Science, according to an announcement Friday by MU Provost Garnett Stokes.

The vacancy arose after the former dean, Michael O’Brien, announced in June that he would leave MU to become provost and vice president for academic affairs at Texas A&M University—San Antonio.
Okker has been a faculty member at MU since 1990. Along with her current position as senior associate provost, she serves as a peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission. She chaired the English Department for six years, and her current research and teaching focus is on 19th-century American literature, according to the MU faculty website.

Stokes said a national search for a permanent dean would begin early in the fall semester.

“They’re going to do a national search, but it’s only been a short time since O’Brien left," MU spokesman Nathan Hurst said. "The provost will be taking the lead on the search committee.”

O’Brien’s official last day was Friday, and Okker will begin her role as interim dean on Aug. 1. Associate Dean Theodore Tarkow will fill the position as acting dean through July 31, according to the official announcement.

O’Brien dedicated himself to maintaining MU’s membership in the Association of American Universities. The prestigious, invitation-only organization comprises 34 leading public and 28 private research universities in the United States and Canada, according to the AAU’s website. MU has one of the oldest memberships, which dates back to 1908.

The College of Arts and Science includes 32 departments and 450 tenured and tenure-track faculty, according to the MU College of Arts and Science website.

Pat Okker named interim dean of MU
College of Arts and Science

COLUMBIA - Pat Okker has been named interim dean of the College of Arts and Science by University of Missouri Provost Garnett Stokes. Okker is currently a senior associate provost for the university.
Dean Okker joined the University of Missouri in 1990 as an assistant professor. Okker was promoted to professor in 2004, then served as the chair of the English department until 2011 and has worked in the provost's office since then.

Dean Okker has won several awards including the William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence and the Faculty–Alumni Award.

Dean Okker has chosen A. Cooper Drury as a new associate dean of A&S.

Drury serves as chair of the Department of Political Science. In an email to A&S faculty and staff, Stokes called Drury’s record of research and teaching, his administrative success as chair of political science, his contributions to the formation of the Kinder Institute and his leadership experience with Faculty Council “tremendous assets.”

Okker will begin her new duties August 1. Associate Dean Theodore Tarkow will serve as acting dean through July 31.

Stokes said the national search for a permanent dean will begin early in the fall semester.

MU assigns another interim position

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri has appointed an interim dean to head up the College of Arts and Sciences, a position left vacant by the resignation of Dean Michael O'Brien.

According to the College of A&S, Pat Okker, a senior associate provost, will hold the position temporarily. Ocher began her career
with the university in 1990 as an assistant professor of English and was promoted to full professor in 2004.

She served as chair of the English Department from 2005 to 2011, and has been with the provost's office since then.

Provost Garnett Stokes says the nationwide search for a permanent dean will begin this fall.

Mental health professionals could face legal trouble if they certify Emotional Support Animals

Elizabeth Duesenberg, Reporter, elizabeth.duesenberg@kmiz.com

Generated from News Bureau press release: “Research Highlights the Legal Issues of Certifying Emotional Support Animals”

COLUMBIA, Mo - Researchers at the University of Missouri are exploring outcomes of what could happen to mental health professionals if they certify emotional support animals.

Emotional support animals are not recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act, unlike service animals who have to go through training to get certified.

Emotional service animals have little or no training. While some may truly need ESA animals to help with their daily lives, others have figured out that they could lower their bills by getting their animals registered.

Landlords can not deny renters from having an ESA animal and they are not allowed to charge them for the pet.
Professionals who do certify ESA animals could face legal trouble if the animal misbehaves in anyway leading to a law suit. They could be called to the stand and asked why they certified the animal in the first place.

Researchers at the University recommend that therapeutic psychologists do not certify any ESA animals and leave that for forensic psychologists.

**MISSOURIAN**

**UPDATE: July 1 named 'Lucile Bluford Day' in Missouri**

LINDSEY JENKINS, Jul 14, 2016

- **Updated Information:**
  *This story has been updated to include that the Residence Halls Association at MU is proposing that a new residence hall be named for Lucile Bluford.

  COLUMBIA — The fight to give Lucile Bluford a day of recognition in Missouri began three years ago, when a state representative started advocating for a way to recognize the influential journalist and civil rights leader.


Bluford, who died in 2003, was one of Missouri's most prominent African-American journalists. In 1932, she started working as a full-time reporter for the Kansas City Call, one of the country's most influential black newspapers, according to previous Missourian reporting. Seven years later, she applied to MU's graduate journalism program. She was admitted to the school, but when she showed up to the campus to register for classes she was told by the university's registrar she couldn't attend after they saw she was black.

Despite the rejection, she continued to work in journalism and eventually became an editor and publisher for the Kansas City Call. She also teamed up with the NAACP to sue the university in an attempt to end Missouri's educational segregation.
In 1984, Bluford was invited back to MU and awarded a Missouri Honor Medal, the School of Journalism's highest honor.

Assistant House Minority Leader Gail McCann Beatty, D-Kansas City, filed House Bill 1559 in January 2015 after she spent months advocating for it. She had filed the legislation twice earlier — once in 2013 and again in 2014. McCann Beatty said she was pleased that her initiative finally succeeded this year.

"She was a leader in the community, someone who fights for what is right. She was not afraid to stand up to something that was wrong," McCann Beatty said. "She was the kind of the person that we all hope to be."

McCann Beatty said she is still working to have Bluford included in the Hall of Famous Missourians. If Bluford's name is added, a bronze bust of her will be displayed in the state capitol in Jefferson City.

"Recognition of Bluford’s dedication to fighting injustice and breaking down racial barriers at the University of Missouri is well-deserved and I am proud that legislation has been signed into law that will do so," McCann Beatty said in a Wednesday news release.

*The Residence Halls Association at MU proposed that a new residence hall be named after Bluford, Matt Bourke, president of the association, said.

“We are playing the waiting game to see if it will be approved by curators,” Bourke said.

The UM System Board of Curators will likely review the proposition by its October meeting, Bourke said.
The implications of Brexit for agricultural markets

By PAT WESTHOFF

Saturday, July 16, 2016 at 12:00 am Comments (1)

Pat Westhoff is director of the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute at the University of Missouri and a professor of agricultural and applied economics.

The United Kingdom vote to leave the European Union sent shock waves around the world. Political choices ahead could have major effects on the world economy and on agricultural markets.

Great Britain is not a major U.S. trading partner when it comes to farm products. The United Kingdom imports less than $2 billion in agricultural products from the United States each year, and annual U.K. agricultural exports to this country total less than $1 billion.

According to U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics, the United Kingdom only ranked number 14 among U.S. agricultural export markets in 2015. That places it behind countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

The implication is that it would take a significant realignment of trading patterns for the British exit from the European Union to have large effects on U.S. agricultural markets. A small increase or decrease in U.K. agricultural exports or imports is not that big of a deal for U.S. farmers or food consumers.

That's not the whole story, though. In the hours and days after the vote was counted, global financial markets were thrown into chaos. Stock markets fell, the dollar strengthened and U.S. interest rates declined.

A weaker global economy, even if it is only temporary, usually translates into reduced demand for high-value food products and reduced farm commodity prices. Many factors drove down grain prices in late June and early July, but the U.K. vote and the resulting effects on financial markets played at least a small role.
How markets will respond in the next few months and beyond depends in part on choices yet to be made by the U.K. government and its current EU partners. One option would be a deal that keeps much of the status quo in place. The United Kingdom might exit the EU but retain access to the common market, and people from other EU countries would continue to be able to live and work there.

Such an option appears the least disruptive, but it might not be politically feasible. The United Kingdom might insist on migration limits, for example, and other EU countries might not be willing to grant access to the common market unless labor can continue to move freely.

Other options could result in much larger changes in United Kingdom and global trading arrangements. Regardless of the outcome, negotiations are likely to take time, extending the uncertainty that currently weighs on global markets.

An important question for the agriculture world is how future farm policy will be set in the United Kingdom. Farmers in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland get much of their income from payments under the EU Common Agricultural Policy.

Payments from Brussels will end once the U.K. exit is complete. While that appears to be at least two years away, a major farm policy debate will need to occur in the United Kingdom, and the result could be significant changes in subsidy levels and rules.

Finally, there is a chance the other shoe will drop. The U.K. vote was a major shock for global markets, in part because it raised fears of how other countries might react. More departures from the European Union or even the division of the United Kingdom itself could cause even greater disruption.

Victim in Columbia robbery arrested on drug charges

COLUMBIA, Mo. -
Police arrested the victim in Thursday's robbery at Todd Apartments in central Columbia, saying he had marijuana and drug paraphernalia in his apartment.
Sergeant Robert Fox told ABC 17 News on scene that two black men barged into Michael Hohe's room with a gun and stole marijuana. Friends of the victim say the robbers also stole his laptop. Neither suspect has been found yet.

While searching the apartment, officers reported finding marijuana, a glass smoking container, and marijuana grinders, one of which had marijuana in it. Police say Hohe later admitted to selling marijuana; officers arrested him on suspicion of distribution of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Residents said they’re shocked something like a robbery would happen at the apartment complex - steps from the University of Missouri. The doors are locked and a pass or electronic code is needed to gain access.

On Wednesday, police announced they were investigating four robberies that happened Tuesday. College-aged men were the victims in each case.

It is unclear if this latest robbery is related to those robberies at this time.

Columbia city leaders exploring tobacco retail license for businesses

The city's Board of Health discussed the idea at Thursday night's meeting. Missouri is one of 10 states that doesn't have state regulations for tobacco sales, only federal. Jefferson City and Kansas City both require a tobacco retail license.

Dr. Kevin Everett, an associate professor at the University of Missouri, presented to board members how he believes a licensing ordinance would help decrease youth tobacco use in Columbia.

The tobacco retail license is similar to an alcohol license. Stores must renew the license annually to continue to sell tobacco products and those caught selling to underage buyers would face fines.

Dr. Everett said the goal of the licensing requirement is to make Tobacco 21 a better ordinance in the Columbia community.

City council passed Tobacco 21 in 2014, which raised the legal age to buy tobacco from 18 to 21.
Board members asked Dr. Everett for more information on how other cities in Missouri operate a tobacco retail license. They will discuss the issue at their next meeting in August.

The board will also hold a public hearing in September.