MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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Mizzou researchers sued for blinding, killing beagles in failed experiment

COLUMBIA, Mo. – A rescue organization is suing researchers at the University of Missouri – Columbia, alleging they purposely blinded six beagles and then killed them after the project failed.

CBS St. Louis reports that the deaths of the dogs came to light after the Los Angeles-based Beagle Freedom Project, a non-profit that finds homes for animals who survive medical research, sued the university for attempting to charge the group an estimated $82,000 to make copies of its current research projects.

While waiting on the suit, Kevin Chase, Beagle Freedom Project’s vice president, says they looked through the universities published animal research. One particularly “disturbing” study published in the 2016 Journal of Veterinary Ophthalmology caught their attention.

“[The university researchers] killed these six beagles after purposefully damaging their corneas pouring an experimental acid into them and then killing them when they’re done because the experiment failed,” Chase says.

The researchers poured an experimental acid into the dogs’ corneas to test a treatment for corneal ulcers. However, they only had the capacity to use six out of 24 beagles.

“And so if the acid they dripped into the cornea of these dogs had proven successful … it still would have been considered, by their standards, ineffective research or invalid research because the population study was too small to be studied,” Chase says.

Chase calls it the most troubling experiment he’s come across in the four years he’s been with the organization.

“This research was flawed before even one dog was procured, blinded or killed,” he says.

The university sent a statement saying in part, “All studies were performed in accordance with the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Statement for the Use of Animals in Ophthalmic and Vision Research and were approved by the MU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.” The statement also says the animals were treated humanely and “every effort was made to ensure dogs were as comfortable as possible during the tests to study the effectiveness of the new drug treatment.”

Chase says the research industry primarily uses beagles for the same reason they make good family pets: “They’re docile, easy to handle, people pleasing and forgiving.”
There are 65,000 dogs in U.S. labs right now, and over 90 percent are beagles, he says, adding that there are speciality breeders who sell beagles exclusively for lab experiments.

Chase says Beagle Freedom is trying to find common ground between those who feel animal research is a tragic necessity, and those who think it’s a moral outrage.

“That common ground is finding homes for dogs and cats who make it through the experiments,” he says.

**Here is the statement released by the university, in its entirety:**

“*Without animal research, we would not be able to answer some of the most important medical questions.*

*Researchers at the University of Missouri are working to develop painless or non-invasive treatments for corneal injuries to the eyes of people and dogs, including search and rescue dogs and other service animals. Common injuries to the cornea can include force trauma, chronic defects and surgical procedures, and can lead to blindness. Since dogs share similar eye characteristics with people, they are ideal candidates for corneal studies, and veterinarians have provided vital information to physicians and veterinarians treating corneal injuries – which ultimately benefit other dogs, animals and humans, including many of our U.S. veterans who have sustained corneal injuries while defending our country.*

*All studies were performed in accordance with the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Statement for the Use of Animals in Ophthalmic and Vision Research (as seen here) and were approved by the MU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. The animals were treated humanely and every effort was made to ensure dogs were as comfortable as possible during the tests to study the effectiveness of the new drug treatment.*

*Animal research is only done when scientists believe there is no other way to study the problem, and our researchers respect their research animals greatly and provide the utmost care.*

*Research in vision and ophthalmology improves the quality of life for both animals and humans.*”
Mizzou under fire after 6 dogs used for research are killed
By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 3 hrs ago

A California-based group and its supporters nationwide are taking issue with research at the University of Missouri-Columbia that resulted in the deaths of six dogs.

After filing a lawsuit against Mizzou over access to documents for animals used in research on the Columbia campus, organizers at the Beagle Freedom Project started looking into the university’s published research and found a study that raised a red flag for the group.

The study, published in the 2016 Journal of Veterinary Ophthalmology, was testing treatment for damaged corneas. Beagles were used in the study because dogs’ eyes are similar to human eyes.

According to the research, the dogs were given anesthesia and the cornea in each dog’s left eye was damaged intentionally by one of the researchers. The dogs were then given a topical acid treatment for their eyes to try and heal the damage. The hyaluronic acid treatment is a moisturizing agent.

The treatment didn’t work, and the dogs were later euthanized; their corneas were removed and used for additional research. University spokespeople would not comment on whether it was common practice to euthanize animals after a study.

A university statement said the study was approved by the campus’ Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and followed the rules of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology.

The university said in a statement that the dogs were not in pain during the study.
The dogs “were anesthetized during the procedure and received pain medications during and following if any signs of pain were observed,” the statement said. “The dogs also received daily socialization and husbandry needs.”

Kevin Chase, vice president of the Beagle Freedom Project, disagreed.

“No reasonable person can deny that these dogs were in pain following the injury to their cornea,” Chase said in response to the university’s comments. “As everyone knows, the eye is an extremely sensitive part of the body. The (top layer) of the cornea is filled with thousands of tiny nerve endings.”

Chase’s group argues that a better way to go about this research would be to use medication on dogs that suffer from corneal damage independently.

“Caging dogs in a laboratory, intentionally damaging their corneas, and then killing them is about as ethical as picking people off the street and hitting them over the head with a pipe in order to test new concussion treatments,” Chase said in a statement.

In the study’s conclusion, the four researchers acknowledge the small sample size, saying that before the study started it was determined that 24 dogs would be required to detect a significant difference in the healing rates. But, such a study size “was deemed impractical given concerns of animal resources for this pilot study.”

The Beagle Freedom Project filed a lawsuit against the University of Missouri System this summer alleging the university was violating the state’s Sunshine Law for open records.

The suit says the university violated open records laws by creating a “discouraging fee structure” and charging more than $82,000 for public documents. The group asked for records for 179 dogs and cats on Mizzou’s campus.

The organization uses record requests to identify candidates for post-research adoption, Chase said. He said the university filed an extension on the deadline to respond to the lawsuit.
“We are confident we’ll get these records,” he said. “It’s just how long the university will drag out this process.”

Animal activists condemn university for killing dogs used in research

COLUMBIA, Mo. — An organization that seeks to end animal testing is calling out a group of university researchers for euthanizing six young Beagles after a study ended.

According to the study published in the journal Veterinary Ophthalmology, researchers at the University of Missouri sedated the beagles, wounded the dogs' corneas and then tested an experimental acid to see if it sped up the healing process of corneal ulcers.

The Beagle Freedom Project told the Riverfront Times the dogs shouldn't have been euthanized because the group would have found homes for them.

The organization was in the process of suing the university on claims that it violated the state's open records law when it discovered the study.

Beagle Freedom Project was seeking records on the 179 animals that researchers used at the university. The school apparently responded by saying it would cost the animal rights group over $82,000 to produce those records.

The study concluded the acid didn't speed up the healing process. Beagle Freedom Project said the study was unnecessary since researchers themselves reportedly acknowledged the sample size was too small to "detect a clinically significant difference in healing rates."

A university statement provided to the Riverfront Times reads in part: "Without animal research, we would not be able to answer some of the most important medical questions. ... Veterinarians have provided vital information to physicians and veterinarians treating corneal injuries — which ultimately benefit other dogs, animals and humans, including many of our U.S. veterans who have sustained corneal injuries while defending our country."
Rescue organization alleges MU researchers blinded, killed beagles in experiment

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Researchers at the University of Missouri – Columbia have recently come under fire after an Los Angeles-based research project alleged the researchers purposely blinded six beagles and then killed them after a failed experiment, KMOX reports.

The university tried to charged a Los Angeles-based Beagle Freedom Project nearly $82,000 for copies of its research projects. The project, which is a non-profit that finds homes for animals who survive medical research, decided to sue the university for trying to charge them thousands for the copies.

KMOX reports that while the organization was waiting on the suit, the project’s vice president, Kevin Chase, sorted through animal research that the university published. Chase eventually came across a study published in the 2016 Journal of Veterinary Ophthalmology.
“[The university researchers] killed these six beagles after purposefully damaging their corneas pouring an experimental acid into them and then killing them when they’re done because the experiment failed,” Chase told KMOX.

KMOX reports that according to the published study, researchers were trying to test a treatment for corneal ulcers.

“And so if the acid they dripped into the cornea of these dogs had proven successful … it still would have been considered, by their standards, ineffective research or invalid research because the population study was too small to be studied,” Chase told KMOX.

Chase told KMOX this is the most “troubling” experiment he has seen during his four-years with the Beagle Freedom Project.

Although the study does not explicitly say the dogs were killed following the experiment, Chase alleges they were.

“This research was flawed before even one dog was procured, blinded or killed,” he told KMOX.

The university issued the following statement to KMOX:

“Without animal research, we would not be able to answer some of the most important medical questions.

Researchers at the University of Missouri are working to develop painless or non-invasive treatments for corneal injuries to the eyes of people and dogs, including search and rescue dogs and other service animals. Common injuries to the cornea can include force trauma, chronic defects and surgical procedures, and can lead to blindness. Since dogs share similar eye characteristics with people, they are ideal candidates for corneal studies, and veterinarians
have provided vital information to physicians and veterinarians treating corneal injuries – which ultimately benefit other dogs, animals and humans, including many of our U.S. veterans who have sustained corneal injuries while defending our country.

All studies were performed in accordance with the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Statement for the Use of Animals in Ophthalmic and Vision Research (as seen here) and were approved by the MU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. The animals were treated humanely and every effort was made to ensure dogs were as comfortable as possible during the tests to study the effectiveness of the new drug treatment.

Animal research is only done when scientists believe there is no other way to study the problem, and our researchers respect their research animals greatly and provide the utmost care.

Research in vision and ophthalmology improves the quality of life for both animals and humans.”

Chase told KMOX the reason Beagles are primarily used in the research industry is because, “They’re docile, easy to handle, people pleasing and forgiving.”

According to Chase there are 65,000 dogs currently in U.S. labs and 90-percent of those dogs are beagles.

Click here to read more from KMOX.
MU study resulting in deaths of 7 beagles raises questions

ELIZABETH LOUTFI, 10 hrs ago

COLUMBUS — A non-lethal pilot study conducted by four MU faculty in the College of Veterinary Medicine resulted in seven beagles being euthanized, MU confirmed this week.

The study, published earlier this year by the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists, details how the beagles’ left eyes were purposely injured and then treated with different chemical solutions to understand the effectiveness of hyaluronic acid, commonly found in topical skin treatments, in healing corneal injuries.

But the 0.2 percent hyaluronic acid solution did not make the healing process any faster in the three dogs in group A, the experimental group, than the three dogs in group B, the control group. The seventh dog was given the standard treatment for corneal wounds, which includes an antibiotic, along with drugs that paralyze and dilate the eyes.

According to the study, the beagles, all females between nine and 12 months, were given socialization time and other care normal to a dog’s daily schedule. They were all placed under anesthesia prior to the corneal-wounding procedure and wore Elizabethan collars throughout the study to prevent the dogs from hurting their eyes any further. They underwent examinations after the first six hours and then every 12 hours. The study lasted 96 hours. After the wounds healed, the dogs were euthanized.

The authors of the study acknowledged that their sample size was a “potential limitation.” Twelve animals in each group would have made the experiment stronger, but giving a pilot study such a large sample was "impractical," according to the study.

Despite the failure in the study, MU spokesman Christian Basi said in an emailed statement that the study was still beneficial in treating eye injuries in dogs and other animals.
“Without animal research, we would not be able to answer some of the most important medical questions,” the statement read. “Animal research is only done when scientists believe there is no other way to study the problem, and our researchers respect their research animals greatly and provide the utmost care.”

At the conclusion of most studies, the animals are euthanized and their tissue is kept for future research, according to the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. In this study, all of the beagles’ corneas were removed and stored for possible further scientific uses.

The authors of the study did not respond to requests for comment, and Basi would not say why the university decided to euthanize the beagles.

The study was approved by the MU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and met guidelines outlined in the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology’s Statement for the Use of Animals in Ophthalmic and Vision Research, according to the News Bureau’s statement.

A pending lawsuit

In May, the Beagle Freedom Project sued the university for violating the Missouri Sunshine Law after members of the group submitted at least 27 requests for public records. Under the law, the public governmental body can decide to waive or reduce the fee to produce requested documents if they’ve determined the information was being requested in the interest of the public.

MU allegedly denied the fee waivers and demanded more than $82,000 to hand over records on animals used by the School of Medicine, according to previous Missourian reporting.

Not long after, the Los Angeles-based animal rights group, which specializes in rescuing and rehoming animals from laboratories and testing facilities, learned of the study.

Beagle Freedom Project Vice President Kevin Chase, a 15-year veteran in animal activism, said his initial reaction to the study was that it was “absurd and overly gruesome.”
“If the University of Missouri would have more transparency to the taxpaying public, then maybe projects like this wouldn’t get a rubber stamp (of approval),” he said.

He said that most of the time, lab animals are euthanized since the laboratories do not have the space, resources or time for them following research. Additionally, Chase said, labs don't want to draw public attention to the fact that they are engaging in animal research, which is controversial.

Chase said he and others at the Beagle Freedom Project stumbled upon the study when they were looking at MU’s published research. They were trying to get a sense of the type of research the university performs and how many of its laboratory animals are rescuable. It's part of the organization's initiative, called the Identity Campaign, which allows people to adopt an animal living in a laboratory.

Dan Kolde, a private attorney retained by the Beagle Freedom Project, said the lawsuit is in the early information-gathering phase.

Chase said the organization still hadn’t received any documents from the university about any animal.

Some states — California, Minnesota, Connecticut, Nevada and New York — have laws mandating the adoption of lab animals after completing research. Bills are pending in Illinois and Maryland. The other 43 states, Missouri included, don’t have any sort of requirement by law.

Beagles make up 96 percent of the dogs used by 383 different laboratories in the U.S. The breed makes up such a large portion because they are naturally very trusting of humans. Six of the beagles used in the MU study were purchased by the university from Covance Laboratory in Cumberland, Virginia.

Basi would not disclose how much the university paid for the beagles. He said in a separate email that the statement was all the information he had.
Both Chase and Kolde said had the Beagle Freedom Project known about the beagles, they
could’ve found them new homes easily.

“All they had to do was not kill them,” Chase said.

Activists claim MU researchers killed dogs after experiment

COLUMBIA — An animal-rights group said Tuesday MU researchers killed six beagles
after a cornea experiment.

The California-based Beagle Freedom Project said the research came to light after they filed a
lawsuit over the university's response to the group's open-records request. Kevin Chase, the
group's vice president, said the organization is suing the university for charging $82,000 to
obtain copies of documents related to the use of beagles in research. As the lawsuit has
continued, Chase said activists pulled past research papers which showed beagles had been put to
death after experiments concluded.

In a study published this year in the Journal of Veterinary Ophthalmology and obtained by St.
Louis CBS affiliate KMOX-AM, researches damaged the left corneas of six female beagles and
tried to heal them by using hyaluronic acid. The substance was found to have no effect on how
quickly the wound healed. Chase said the dogs were euthanized after the experiment. He said the
dogs could easily have led healthy lives as adoptees, especially with at least one functioning eye.

When asked for comment on the story, MU officials provided a written statement. Officials
noted animal research lets scientists answer critical medical questions and said animal research is
only done when there is no alternative. They did not directly address allegations concerning the
six beagles.

"All studies were performed in accordance with the Association for Research in Vision and
Ophthalmology (ARVO) Statement for the Use of Animals in Ophthalmic and Vision Research

(as seen here) and were approved by the MU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. The animals were treated humanely and every effort was made to ensure dogs were as comfortable as possible during the tests to study the effectiveness of the new drug treatment," officials wrote.

Chase dismissed the university's internal controls as "a rubber stamp." He said there are other ways researchers could have conducted the experiment.

"Veterinary offices across the country participate in such trials of dogs that already have damaged eyes," he said. "We don't have to purposely blind nine-month-old beagle puppies."

University of Missouri Under Scrutiny for Animal Research: Interview with Beagle Freedom Project

First half: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=084c9adf-65c0-458b-87ee-c7f4257ae845


University of Missouri researchers blinded beagles before euthanization

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=1c77deba-d36a-44b0-b65b-0241cfb6d961
COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri acknowledges its researchers took part in a medical study that included wounding six beagle puppies before they were all euthanized.

The study was published in the medical journal Veterinary Ophthalmology on April 7.

It says six healthy, female beagle puppies (9-12 months) were wounded in their left corneas; three were then given an experimental drug (Optimend, containing 0.2% hyaluronic acid) and the other three received the control product without the acid.

The result of the study concluded the topical drug “did not accelerate corneal wound healing.”

‘Optimend Corneal Repair Drops’ is a product currently on the market for use only by veterinarians.

The Beagle Freedom Project learned of the tests several months ago.

"We identified 179 dogs and cats at Mizzou used by the med school, for research purposes,” said Daniel Kolde, attorney for Beagle Freedom Project.

Beagle Freedom Project’s mission is to adopt beagles from universities and institutions after they have been through medical testing. They requested public records from the animals under testing at Mizzou last year under the Sunshine Law but were met with a large bill.

“They wouldn't give us any records until we gave them $82,222 and some change,” said Kolde.

Beagle Freedom Project then sued the university.

“Daily care logs, research protocol, and euthanasia records ... all just basic, standard stuff that the university should be keeping in an orderly fashion for the government inspectors ... So we think they were just running up the bill to discourage us. That's why we filed the sunshine law.”

The University of Missouri sent 41 Action News this statement regarding the tests:

Without animal research, we would not be able to answer some of the most important medical questions.

Researchers at the University of Missouri are working to develop painless or non-invasive treatments for corneal injuries to the eyes of people and dogs, including search and rescue dogs and other service animals. Common injuries to the cornea can include force trauma, chronic defects and surgical procedures, and can lead to blindness. Since dogs share similar eye characteristics with people, they are ideal candidates for corneal studies, and veterinarians have provided vital information to physicians and veterinarians treating corneal injuries – which ultimately benefit other dogs, animals and humans, including many of our U.S. veterans who have sustained corneal injuries while defending our country.
All studies were performed in accordance with the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Statement for the Use of Animals in Ophthalmic and Vision Research (as seen here) and were approved by the MU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. The animals were treated humanely and every effort was made to ensure dogs were as comfortable as possible during the tests to study the effectiveness of the new drug treatment.

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When asked if the dogs were euthanized following the study, the university did not respond. However, an email obtained from Mizzou’s Mary Jo Banken to Beagle Freedom Project says the animals were put down.

The email partially reads, “The dogs were humanely euthanized, corneas were removed and samples were stored for further research.”

When asked if the dog’s eyes were damaged, Banken also responded, “Yes. To test the effectiveness of the new drug treatment, dogs underwent sedation and their corneas were wounded by a board certified veterinary ophthalmologist under the guidelines of ARVO. However following their wounds they were given medical treatment to heal their eyes.”

Beagle Freedom Project and PETA don’t understand why the dogs couldn’t be adopted.

"The universities and institutions don't want these animals out, then because every day these people look at their family member with one eye taken out and they start thinking about the testing,” said Kolde.

Kathy Guillermo, senior vice president of PETA, said, "We are embroiled in a number of lawsuits with a number of universities on open records issues now. We have to remember, these universities are publicly funded, the documents they have should be open for review by the public and yet they fight tooth and nail to keep us from getting those because they know how bad they look when people see what they do to animals."

"The Animal Welfare Act is really the only federal law offering any sort of protection for animals in laboratories, and its protections are very minimal. You can basically do anything to an animal you want if you get your over-sight committee to approve it. There's nothing that is illegal,” she said.

Beagle Freedom Project says they’ve sponsored five bills.
Stories about animal research also appeared on:


KCTV- Kansas City: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=d15d1e50-9dd0-41bc-87b9-ef94851653e0

Raleigh, NC; New Haven, CT; Los Angeles, CA: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=3a5c74b0-712d-4400-b5ad-d12231b2315a

Audit: Less help from state hurts college affordability

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. -- Students at Missouri's public colleges and universities are shouldering more of the cost of education because of a decrease in state funding that's led schools to hike fees, Auditor Nicole Galloway said Tuesday.

Galloway released a report that found net tuition and fees at public four-year universities rose 25 percent per full-time student between fiscal years 2009 and 2015. The increase was even higher at the flagship University of Missouri-Columbia, where full-time students paid $11,253 in net tuition and fees in fiscal 2015, up 31 percent from $8,605 in fiscal 2009.
Galloway said the audit findings seem to run counter to the intent of a 2007 law that restricted the state's 13 public four-year colleges and the State Technical College of Missouri from raising in-state undergraduate tuition and "required fees" more than increases in the consumer price index.

Since 2008, in-state undergraduate tuition at those schools has increased at the lowest rate of any state, a statistic Gov. Jay Nixon has touted repeatedly and praised again during an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"Being No. 1 in tuition is a good place to be," Nixon said. "There's 49 other states that wish they were there."

While the CPI rose an average of about 1.8 percent per year, in-state undergraduate tuition rates rose about 1.6 percent per year between fiscal years 2009 and 2015.

But Galloway said that's not the full picture of the cost of higher education in Missouri.

Since fiscal year 2009, state funding for public four-year schools has decreased 19 percent per full-time student.

Galloway said that has pushed colleges to find other ways to cut costs and raise money, including hiking certain fees.

"Someone's going to pay for the education, and it is being passed on to students and families," she said.

She called on lawmakers to re-evaluate the 2007 law and decide whether to include additional fees in the restrictions on tuition hikes.

Nixon disputed that public colleges and universities are receiving less state aid, citing other recent investments in higher education, including $200 million in bonding for campus building projects that passed last year.

But he agreed policymakers should consider ways to "keep a downward pressure on fees."

Galloway said colleges were able to increase some fees because of what she described as a loophole in the current law capping tuition increases, which doesn't specify what constitutes a "required fee."

As a result, schools bumped up fees for specific classes or degree programs that are not required university-wide.

During the period covered by the audit, supplemental course fees soared 112 percent per full-time student.
The state Higher Education Department, in a response included in the audit, described those fees as optional because not every student must pay them. The agency cited study abroad and chemistry lab fees as examples.

"A student's choice of degree program will certainly have implications for which courses are desirable or even necessary," the Higher Education Department stated.

The 2007 tuition law "was not intended to cover every potential cost a student may encounter along his or her path toward a college degree," the agency stated.

Galloway's office also noted schools have tried to save money by delaying maintenance on buildings, increasing class sizes, combining or cutting departments, and not filling vacant positions.

"They've taken cost-cutting measures," Galloway said, adding schools can only cut so much before the quality of the educational experience is affected.

The audit said some schools also turned to recruiting more out-of-state and international students, whose tuition is not subject to caps.

**Audit Report Finds Missouri Parents and Students are Paying More for College**

Watch the story: [http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=a3a1b25f-7de2-4b64-a02c-0b56004cc13d](http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=a3a1b25f-7de2-4b64-a02c-0b56004cc13d)

**Proposed freedom of expression policy receives pushback**

RUTH SERVEN, 14 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — For three months, MU faculty, staff and students have been able to redline proposed regulations of free expression on campus.
A proposed MU policy aims to regulate public spaces on campus, protect safety and freedom of speech, and determine how the university can resolve future conflict over those spaces.

Several dozen faculty, staff and students raised concerns Tuesday about the proposed regulations during the first of two forums.

A committee, created earlier this year by MU Faculty Council Chair Ben Trachtenberg and Interim Chancellor Hank Foley, wrote the draft of the policy. The committee was formed to address confusion that arose last fall about protesting on campus, Foley said.

Speakers at the forum in the MU Student Center Tuesday said they worry the regulations place too many limits on protests.

Under the proposed rules, protesters would not be able to camp on university grounds or occupy buildings after they close, both issues that arose last year. Overnight camping would not be allowed but overnight tailgating could be allowed with a permit.

"So basically, you're allowing regulation where people can stay overnight for football games, but they can't protest racial injustice?" asked Jeff Rouder, a psychological sciences professor.

The policy also would forbid use of megaphones and other sound amplifiers. Camping and megaphones were both used in protests last fall, and speakers at the forum expressed concern that the new policy was reacting specifically toward the November anti-racism protests.

Brother Jed, a longtime street preacher who has freely and strongly shared his opinions of perceived immoralities of college students for years, for example, used a megaphone, but the policy did not change to address his actions.

The committee chair, Bob Jerry, reiterated that the policy was designed to be content neutral, not directed toward any particular group on campus, and it was intended to address confusion from the past fall and the passage of a Missouri law that requires universities to keep public spaces open for free speech.
"We have values we want to affirm, and as we go through this, we want to make clear that we're not opposed to dissent," Jerry said. "Those are the things we want to value, and we want to promote them as much as we can, realizing that at some point the university has to have some reasonable rules to prevent disruption to the academic mission."

MU has a "yellow light" rating from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, which rates universities on First-Amendment practices. A "yellow light" rating indicates some restrictions on free speech.

The foundation has issued letters to MU over concerns about campus police requests for speech that could be hurtful and administrative rejection of T-shirts by marijuana reform advocates that featured the MU name and a cannabis leaf.

Public universities are legally bound to uphold students' right to free speech, but in practice, that can get murky. College students also hold conflicting views on their First Amendment rights, which can make rules and regulations difficult, according to a 2016 Gallup poll.

Many students are confident that their First Amendment rights are secure, but many are also comfortable shuttering free speech and impeding the press under certain circumstances, according to the study.

This contrast, then, surfaced in recent instances where students simultaneously demanded the right to protest and defended the belief that journalists should not be allowed into safe spaces.

Other University of Missouri System schools have firm freedom of expression rules in place.

The University of Missouri-Kansas City's policy reiterates its commitment to free expression and debate "where each member of the public has the freedom to speak, assemble peaceably and to petition for redress of grievances." The school has guidelines for how, when and where protests and gatherings can happen, but they don't get very specific.
Another forum to discuss the proposed MU policy will be held at 3 p.m. Sept. 19 in Memorial Union.

Before the policy can be adopted, it will be reviewed by the MU Faculty Council and approved by Foley.

University of Missouri holds forum on speech, protest policy recommendations

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Issues on free speech and campus protesting filled an auditorium at the University of Missouri Tuesday afternoon.

MU interim chancellor Hank Foley led a campus-wide public forum Tuesday to discuss new recommendations on how public spaces should be regulated on campus.

Mizzou's Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Protests, Public Spaces, Free Speech and the Press released the recommendations at the end of May. Foley said in an email inviting the public that they were charged with recommending them "in a way that protects safety, free inquiry, and free expression as well as to suggest how the university might resolve future conflicts concerning the use of public space on campus."

The policy recommendations incorporate and clarify a number of existing rules and policies, but it also included a number of new policy recommendations.

It clarifies that camping is a prohibited form of protest and it also works to clarify where spontaneous protests may or may not take place or what place can be reserved for a protest or any free speech event.

For example, Carnahan Quad and Francis Quadrangle would be available for spontaneous events (if they weren't reserved beforehand), but parking garages and anywhere adjacent to a health care facility would be off-limits.

MU journalism law professor Sandy Davidson told ABC 17 News the school needed to protect its rich history of protest on campus. Large protests took place against the Vietnam War in the
1970s, and a "shanty town" of temporary structures went up on Francis Quad in the late 1980s to push for divestment of University assets in South Africa. Any school restriction on protest or speech should for purposes of "time, place and manner" - a common rule on free speech and protests. Davidson said marches in the early morning hours or in spaces like the hospital lawn or healthcare emergency entrances could be reasonably denied or stopped. However, demonstrations should be generally allowed outdoors, and school officials should be "content neutral" in their judgement of what events can take place, meaning they should go on as long as rules of safety and school operation were followed.

"The default mode is 'freedom of expression should occur,'" Davidson told ABC 17 News. "But, on the other hand, there can be reasonable time, place and manner restrictions."

Attendees questioned the rules regarding camping, likening them to a knee jerk reaction to the protests of last year. The policies reaffirm staying overnight and in buildings past their closing time as wrong, and any tents or structures pinned to the ground would need approval. Members brought up similarities to football tailgaters staying overnight in campers or tents before games, and wondered if they, too, needed the same approval. Davidson admitted that the camping rules needed further review and public comment.

The committee was formed in January as a response to last fall's camp out protest that occurred on Carnahan Quad on the university campus.

The policy also addresses photography, most likely in response to professor Melissa Click's attempt to remove a photographer last fall who was taking pictures of the event.

The policy states that "when a person is in a public space, the person has a right to photograph anything that is in plain view."

A second forum is scheduled for Sept. 19 from 3-4 p.m. in Memorial Union.

MU considers new policy on free speech on campus

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri held a campus-wide public forum today to discuss new recommendations on how public spaces should be regulated on campus.
Mizzou's Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Protests, Public Spaces, Free Speech and the Press released the recommendations at the end of May. The recommendations outline how public spaces could be regulated on campus while the university protects safety, free inquiry and free expressions. It also lays out how the university might resolve future conflict concerning the use of public spaces on campus.

The policy recommendations incorporate a number of existing rules on free speech and recommend new rules for free speech on campus.

"The proposed policy says that the university will not interfere with the expressive activities," Robert Jerry, a professor of law of the University of Missouri, announced.

Jerry also said spontaneous, unscheduled expressive activities are allowed in any outdoor area on campus including Carnahan Quad and Francis Quadrangle.

"The purpose of this forum is to look at the policy on protest and use of public spaces. The goal is to have as much freedom of expression as possible on this university," Sandy Davidson, the curator's distinguished teaching professor of the University of Missouri, said. "Of course, preserving the central purpose of the university, which is the education."

Davidson said the recent concern is the safety issue, meaning how we can both safely protest and still allow the maximum freedom of the expression.

"I think the benefit of the policy will be to provide guidelines to people who are wanting to protest." Davidson said.

A second forum will be held September 19 on campus.

Mizzou faculty questions proposed free speech policies on campus

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri hosted the first of two forums on proposed policies relating to freedom of speech and expression on campus.
"I'm here primarily to listen, and to learn, and to hear what you think of these ideas," said interim chancellor Hank Foley to an auditorium of faculty and administrators Tuesday.

Months after the controversial, campus-wide racial protests rocked the university, The Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Protests, Public Space, Free Speech and the Press put together a list of proposed rules for future demonstrations.

"We're in this phase of taking comments and suggestions, I think the committee put together quite a good report," said Robert Jerry, a law professor at the university who is part of the committee.

One of the rules would require demonstrators to obtain a permit to use certain parts of campus, such as the Francis Quadrangle or Tiger Plaza.

A larger talking point during the forum came when faculty questioned a rule prohibiting demonstrators from camping.

"On a going forward basis, there needs to be a current analysis on health and safety. One thing that's changed a lot in the last five years is that there are a lot more firearms on the loose in America," said Jerry.

Faculty also questioned why people would be allowed to camp out for a football game, but not to protest a social issue.

Even though last fall, hundreds of students packed Tiger and Traditions Plaza for the protests, barely any sat in on Tuesday's forum.

"I think it would be better if there were more student involvement," said Mark Schierbecker, a former MU student and the journalist who recorded the Melissa Click incident. "I don't think there was any kind of notification for the people who would be interested in this meeting," Schierbecker said.

Committee members said an email was sent to students to notify them of the forums. Some students said they received the email, others said they did not.

The next forum is scheduled for Monday, September 19th at Jesse Wrench Auditorium in Memorial Union at 3 p.m.
Exposure to BPA Causes Turtles to Change Gender

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Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=5d5de5f7-7a5f-4a04-b3ac-41c907905df6

New MU Program Aims to Improve Mental Health Care in Rural Missouri

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: Program Will Train Mental Health Providers, Improve Health Care in Rural Missouri

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=f91f56de-6f56-47b9-b14d-ddc00468c96c
Oxford scholar named to Kinder Institute faculty

Generated from a News Bureau press release: MU Kinder Institute Names Oxford Scholar as New Chair in Constitutional Democracy

Tuesday, August 30, 2016 at 2:00 pm

Jay Sexton, a historian who has written extensively about the United States in the 19th century on Thursday will become the inaugural Kinder Institute Chair in Constitutional Democracy, according to a news release from the University of Missouri.

Sexton, a native of Salina, Kan., has been a lecturer and tutorial fellow at the University of Oxford’s Corpus Christi College and director of the university’s Rothermere American Institute. Sexton first went abroad while a student at the University of Kansas and returned to England as a Marshall Scholar at Worcester College, Oxford.

The Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy was created by a $25 million gift from the Kinder Foundation, the philanthropic organization established by Rich and Nancy Kinder of Houston, Texas. The institute focuses on teaching and scholarship about American constitutional and democratic principles, history and traditions.

In the news release announcing his appointment, Sexton said it is important to understand how global influences have shaped U.S. democracy and how the United States has influenced the political development of other nations.
U.S. experiencing historic drought in major hurricanes

It's been 3,963 days since the continental United States has taken a hit from a major hurricane. This drought has been ongoing since Hurricane Wilma made landfall October 24, 2005. This drought shatters the previous record set in 1860-1869 by nearly two years.

But that doesn't mean the United States isn't prone to another hurricane. Many experts say that the country has just been lucky since 2005.

Within the historic drought, there have been numerous storms that formed and some even made landfall, but those that did just weren't strong enough to receive the tag major hurricane.

Lately, eyes have been on the Atlantic, due in large part to Tropical Depression 9. It's a storm that has been poorly organized from the start, yet has received national attention.

It's this attention that has caused panic in some parts of the United States and rightfully so, as the most intense hurricanes often make landfall from mid-August to early September.

Nearly 11 years have passed since the 2005 hurricane season came to a close, and some parts of the country are becoming complacent even as peak hurricane season is in full force.

One professor at the University of Missouri says that the further we get from the last major hurricane to make landfall, the closer we are to the next hit.

"We've just had very good luck in not having any hurricanes hitting the United States," said Professor Anthony Lupo, who teaches meteorology at the university. He says this luck is something that happened just by chance.

"The 11-year drought may be a function of patterns that have set up that allow hurricanes to recurve away from the United States," Lupo said.

This recurve is something that's happened with every major hurricane we've seen develop over the last decade.

Lupo says this hurricane drought makes such storms less of a priority for some people and they tend to forget about preparations.
"When we talk about hurricanes hitting the United States, it only takes one to be a problem," Lupo said. "We can see that back in 1992, which was a very quiet hurricane season, but also produced Hurricane Andrew."

As Labor Day approaches, Tropical Depression 9 continues to gain attention around the nation, but those watching should be wary of inaccurate information. The peak of hurricane season can bring bad information swirling across social media. Lupo and other experts suggest that you find a credible source when trying to understand these storms.

Here in mid-Missouri, Lupo says we are seeing effects of the historic drought.

Typically hurricanes that strike the Gulf Coast states bring ample amounts of rain to the region as they track inland, but as the drought continues to grow we rely on other weather patterns to bring rain. As for the Gulf of Mexico, there is a lot of untapped energy within the water, as it's been well over 1,000 days since the last storm entered or developed in the warm waters.

This is a stretch unheard of, and it breaks the record set in 1886.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Colleges Brace for Impact of Overtime Rule

By Lee Gardner AUGUST 28, 2016 PREMIUM

Colleges are worried about how to cover the costs of overtime pay that dozens of coaches, counselors, and other employees may soon become entitled to under a new federal rule designed to ensure they're paid equitably.

The new law, a change to the Fair Labor Standards Act that takes effect in December, makes more full-time salaried employees eligible for overtime pay. Those employees
who earn up to $47,000 per year will be eligible for extra pay for work over 40 hours a week; now only those who earn up to $23,000 per year are.

Colleges are scrambling to sort out who on their campuses will become eligible for overtime pay and how to budget for the increased costs. Any employee whose primary responsibility can be defined as teaching is exempt, but determining that can be complicated. Many of the people likely to fall under the new threshold have a lot of contact with students and work long, often sporadic hours: student-life coordinators, residence-hall directors, athletics staff members, admissions counselors. Administrators are grappling with how to effectively serve students if they need to reduce the hours of some employees who help them.

Administrators agree that an update to the rule was overdue. While living costs have risen, the salary threshold hadn’t been changed since 2004. But many observers expected a gradual increase. "Doubling it in one step shocked a lot of people," says Scott M. Fitzgerald, director of human resources at Otterbein University.

The rule change is likely to prove especially challenging for small, private colleges, already facing tight budgets, and campuses outside major urban areas, where living costs and salaries are lower and more employees may be affected. Given how many small, rural colleges are already struggling financially, the new rule "has created some really grave concerns on the part of a number of administrators about the type of impact it’s going to have," says James H. Newberry Jr., a lawyer who counsels colleges.

Many of those impacts may remain unknown until after December 1, despite intense efforts from colleges to wrestle with the change. The College and University Professional Association for Human Resources held a webinar about the new rule in May, just after the Department of Labor issued guidance on applying the rule in higher education. A typical webinar hosted by the organization might have 500 virtual attendees, says Andy Brantley, its president and chief executive. The one for the new overtime rule drew more than 8,000.

**Counting the Hours**

The first thing colleges had to do after the rule change became official was to determine how many of their employees would be affected. Some institutions have discovered that as few as 10 employees fall under the new threshold, according to Amy Felix Polefrone, president of HR Strategy Group, a human-resources consulting firm that works with colleges.
At other colleges, the number is much larger. The 23 campuses of the California State University system employ about 20,000 workers who may now be eligible for overtime, says Marc D. Mootchnik, general counsel for the system. That’s about 40 percent of total system employees.

Once employees who fall under the new threshold have been identified, colleges have to determine whether they are exempt from overtime under department-issued guidelines, including the so-called teaching exemption. Any employee whose primary responsibility can be defined as teaching is exempt from overtime, but for some positions that may not be clear from the title. An assistant coach whose job is to help student-athletes improve at their sports could be exempt, while an assistant coach whose primary role involves recruiting could be eligible for overtime pay. A postdoctoral fellow in the humanities who teaches might be exempt. A postdoctoral fellow who works in a science lab would not be.

Since few jobs share the same titles and duties, even within an institution, sorting out eligibility comes down to a position-by-position analysis of all employees under the new threshold, says Mr. Brantley of CUPA-HR.

The new rule also raises difficult questions about how some types of positions will operate on an hourly wage basis. Serving students must remain the priority, "whether it’s 3 o’clock in the afternoon or 3 o’clock in the morning," says Mr. Fitzgerald of Otterbein. If a student shows up at a residence-hall director’s door with a crisis in the middle of the night, the director must respond. But what if a casual conversation with students in the dining hall turns from sports to an issue with parking? Is the director now on the clock? The challenge of providing services when required while controlling overtime spending means that colleges will "really need to review how we conduct business so that we have the most efficient processes in place," Mr. Fitzgerald says.

Keeping track of overtime not only clashes with the hours many college employees often work, it goes against work habits enabled by technology. "No longer can they sit on their smartphones at night reviewing emails and sending emails, because that’s hours worked, and we need to track that time," Mr. Fitzgerald says.

**A Demotion?**

Many college employees whose salaries are just a few thousand dollars shy of the $47,000 threshold will receive raises this fall, in order to keep them exempt from overtime. Employees who fall further under the threshold, and whose positions are not exempt will have to adapt to being hourly workers. Institutions must also adapt.
Colleges are weighing many options on how to handle a new wave of employees who can earn overtime. Public institutions will be able to give employees time off to compensate them for extra work rather than paying them for it. In other cases, the rule change may bring shifts to staffing. If four people on a campus perform a particular function, and each of them works about 50 hours a week, it may make sense to hire another full- or part-time employee and keep everyone's hours to 40 or less to avoid overtime.

The fact that many staff positions at colleges are cyclical, with periods of intense activity sometimes followed by fallow months, presents a particular challenge. East Carolina University is considering converting some full-time employees to nine- to 10-month contracts, or to fluctuating work weeks, says Melissa Bard, associate vice chancellor for human resources.

Campbellsville University, in rural Kentucky, employs about 400 full-time faculty and staff members. About 90 of those employees could be eligible for overtime pay under the new rule, according to Michael V. Carter, the president. In central Kentucky, "a dollar is not the same as a dollar in New York City or Chicago," he says, and the university will be hard-pressed to adjust. Mr. Carter has no idea yet what projected overtime costs will be. "To be honest, we’re nervous about it," he says. "We could wind up with several hundred thousand dollars of overtime that I have not budgeted."

The college is hoping to use more work-study positions and student help to fill potential gaps in services, but otherwise "we’re going to have to do our very best to live within these 40-hour work weeks," Mr. Carter says.

Employees are also uncertain about what’s going to happen. Most colleges have not made final determinations about whether specific employees will be converted to hourly pay. The point of the law is to make sure that employees are paid fairly for their work, but salaried employees at colleges often see a transition to hourly status as a demotion, Mr. Fitzgerald says, even if their pay remains the same or increases. At a previous institution, he adds, he had employees cry in his office when informed of the change.

Stephanie Holcomb-Kreiner, director of corporate and foundation relations at Campbellsville, doesn’t know whether she will be converted to an hourly employee, but she is already wondering how she will be able to do her job if she’s held to 40 hours a week. Her work for the office of development sometimes involves networking at evening events, and a recent application for a state grant meant several long days and nights within a week. "When things like that come up, it’s not just a couple of hours here and there," she says.
Ms. Holcomb-Kreiner says she doesn’t mind long, sometimes irregular hours. Writing a proposal sometimes comes easier on Sunday afternoon than on a Friday morning.

"You are working quite a bit, but the tradeoff is that flexibility with your schedule, and that autonomy," she says. A shift to hourly status wouldn’t feel like a demotion, she says, "but it would certainly, in a lot of ways, feel like I was not treated as a professional."

Lee Gardner writes about the management of colleges and universities, higher-education marketing, and other topics. Follow him on Twitter @_lee_g, or email him at lee.gardner@chronicle.com.

New reporting structure seeks to connect social justice centers

Kevin McDonald, interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity: "This is bringing the centers under one umbrella … My hope is that this will more systematically create a stronger connection with how social justice centers impact the students

In an effort to promote a stronger connection between organizations, MU’s social justice centers will now report to the Division of Inclusion, Equity and Diversity.

The new structure will affect the Accessibility and ADA Education office, Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center, LGBTQ Resource Center, Multicultural Center, Office of Civil Rights and Title IX, Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center and Women’s Center.

This is not a policy, but rather a “national transition,” Director of Academic Retention Services Donell Young said.

By focusing on four nationally recognized areas: access and success, campus climate and intergroup relations, education and scholarship, and institutional infrastructure, the new division hopes to build upon the existing initiatives with a $1.5 million budget for 2016-17, according to a July MU News Bureau news release.

“One of the goals under my leadership is making sure students feel like they have inclusive spaces where they feel like they have, in essence, a home away from home,” Young said.
Kevin McDonald, interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity, hopes this change will connect and serve students better. McDonald also serves as the UM System chief diversity, inclusion and equity officer.

“This is bringing the centers under one umbrella,” McDonald said. “On many campuses, it is a common strategy to more strategically link diversity and inclusion efforts … My hope is that this will more systematically create a stronger connection with how social justice centers impact the students, faculty and staff, but the centers are primarily focused on the students.”

Young also recognizes the effort’s focus on improving students’ academic performance, as well as their well-being.

“Hopefully this will help students realize the importance of what they are here for, and that is the academic piece,” Young said. “We are giving them an environment and a space for them to get advice and be directed to the right places to be successful.”

Missourian

Visitors are buying up Columbia hotel rooms for eclipse next August

MORGAN SEIBEL, 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Some Columbia hotels have already booked the majority of their rooms for a total eclipse of the sun next August.

Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, which doesn’t take reservations more than a year ahead of time, had already booked 92 out of the hotel’s 181 rooms two days after reservations opened for the Aug. 21, 2017 eclipse date, said Zach Gray, the Stoney Creek assistant general manager.

One group coming for the eclipse booked 77 of those rooms, he said.

It's unusual for more than 50 percent of the hotel’s rooms to be booked this far in advance, Gray said.
Columbia is near the center of the path of totality of the eclipse, where the moon will appear to cover the entire sun for 2 minutes and 37 seconds, according to previous Missourian reporting.

**Columbia's central location along the path of totality, coupled with the city’s hospitality industry, will draw national and international visitors, said MU Professor and Director of Astronomy Angela Speck.** Speck estimated the event could attract up to 400,000 visitors.

Columbia has 37,000 hotel and motel rooms available to visitors, said Megan McConachie, Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau’s marketing and communications manager.

Many hotels still have open rooms for the eclipse date, but with visitors traveling nationally and internationally and coming in groups, “it will be an incredibly busy time in Columbia,” McConachie said.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau has not finalized specific viewing venues or events, McConachie said, but these details will be pinned down in the next few weeks.

Sixty-five percent of the hotel rooms in Columbia were booked for the day of the total eclipse, according to the website Expedia.

The Hampton Inn and Suites near MU was sold out for Aug. 21, 2017, because of the eclipse, employee Sydney Kneller said.

Since a total eclipse hasn't occurred in the Columbia area since 1442, no one knows what to expect in terms of crowds, Speck said.

“This is kind of unprecedented,” Speck said. "We don’t know how exactly it’s going to impact us.”

She suggested it's not too early for Columbia residents and visitors to organize viewing parties. She's also recommended public safety officials come up with a plan if skies are cloudy and
people head for other locations along the path or cloudy conditions elsewhere bring more people to Columbia.

Speck has created a website in conjunction with MU that has information about the eclipse including a video by Speck and links to maps of the eclipse path, eye safety information and MU eclipse merchandise.

During the next month, Speck said, more information will be added to the site.