‘WE.ARE.SICK.OF.THIS!’: Students respond after racial slurs are shouted at Mizzou

On Tuesday night, a group of students yelled racial slurs and other insults at a group of black female students at the University of Missouri, where student protests over race last year upended the university administration and sparked demonstrations at campuses nationwide.

The Legion of Black Collegians issued a statement about the incident, which it says was started by a white student who passed a group from their activities committee and shouted, “Look at those [racial slur] looking at us,” and escalating from there.

“To say that we are disgusted is beyond an understatement,” they wrote.

“It is often said that history repeats itself, but the ignorance that occurs on the University of Missouri’s campus always seems to be too familiar. Due to the continuation of an intolerant culture, students of color have been attacked yet again. … Quite frankly, WE. ARE. SICK. OF. THIS!”

According to the Legion of Black Collegians, the incident took place outside the Delta Upsilon fraternity house on campus. Austyn Bair, the chapter president, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Justin Kirk, the executive director of the Delta Upsilon International Fraternity, said in a written statement Wednesday that the organization “is aware of a verbal altercation that took place in front of our chapter at the University of Missouri on Tuesday evening, Sept. 27. We have placed the chapter on an emergency suspension as we work closely with the university to learn more about the incident. Racism and sexism have no place in our Fraternity and we expect our members to be positive contributors to inclusive campus environments.”

Campus police responded immediately and identified the students involved in the incident, according to a statement by Christian Basi, a spokesman for the university. Campus administrators are involved and meeting with students affected, and counseling and support has been offered.

“I am outraged and saddened to hear of this!” Hank Foley, the interim chancellor, said in a written statement. “The safety and security of our campus is our No. 1 priority; the University of
Missouri is committed to fostering an inclusive campus environment where all students, faculty, staff and visitors can live, learn, work and feel safe.”

“We have zero tolerance for actions like this; if any student is found in violation of the Student Code and/or the University’s nondiscrimination policies, they will be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion,” he said. “As we have stated, this is a new day on campus and we take our core values of Respect, Responsibility, Discovery and Excellence seriously.”

The Legion of Black Collegians also did not immediately respond to requests for comment from The Washington Post.

The president of the Missouri Students Association also did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

On social media, the Legion of Black Collegians announced an “emergency town hall” for Wednesday afternoon, to be followed by a prayer session.

Last fall, the university system president and the chancellor of the University of Missouri stepped down amid escalating protests about racial incidents, including a hunger strike and the threat of a boycott by the football team angry that the administration had not done enough to combat racism and other social issues on campus.

It not only forced dramatic change at the state flagship school and the public university system there. But the protests also sparked or intensified efforts on many other campuses across the country, with students demanding changes such as more faculty members of color, mandatory classes on cultural issues for students, faculty and staff, and new names for buildings and sculptures honoring leaders who promoted slavery or segregation.

This school year has started with racial incidents on many campuses, from American University to Kansas State to Eastern Michigan University, where “KKK” and a racial slur was spray-painted on buildings.

At the University of Missouri, the open conversation about race intensified a year ago, when the student body president was called a racial slur. The second time it happened, he wrote about it on social media, challenging the university to change.
A year after protests over race relations at the University of Missouri at Columbia forced its chancellor and the system’s president to step down, the university once again finds itself roiled by anger over racial slurs hurled at black students.

But unlike last fall, when the targets of those insults complained that no one appeared to be listening, the administration moved quickly on Wednesday to express outrage and promise a thorough response.

It temporarily suspended Delta Upsilon, the fraternity whose members reportedly shouted racial epithets and obscenities Tuesday night at two members of a student governing body known as the Legion of Black Collegians.

The university released a statement saying that the campus police had identified the students involved and had notified the Office of Student Conduct.

And the interim chancellor of the Columbia campus, Hank Foley, met with angry students who gathered Wednesday afternoon in the student center to vent and support one another.

Mr. Foley, in the university’s statement, said this is "a new day on campus" where racism wouldn’t be tolerated.
"I can’t prevent someone from making a racial slur like this," he said in remarks to reporters at the student center that were videotaped and circulated on Twitter.

"We can’t be everywhere all the time, but we can raise our expectations of student conduct and behavior."

Students, he said, "are here to study and be educated and feel good about their future. They’re not here to be insulted."

The incident brought back painful memories of the events that led up to last fall’s turmoil, which inspired protests around the country.

The president of the student body at the time reported having been accosted and called a racist epithet, as did members of the Legion of Black Collegians. Their complaints, they contended, were mostly ignored.

In the wake of the ensuing protests, which included a graduate student’s hunger strike, the university rolled out an ambitious, multimillion-dollar diversity plan. Among the goals: doubling its percentage of faculty members from underrepresented groups over the next four years, to 13.4 percent.

Dashed Hopes

Given the focus on improving the campus’s racial climate, Tuesday’s incident was jarring to many students, but not surprising to others.

And while they were generally encouraged by the statements of solidarity that poured in from across the campus, some questioned whether those would translate to real shifts in attitudes.

Jalyn Henderson, a junior who is majoring in journalism, said she was pleased to see the administration responding more quickly this year in acknowledging the problem. Ms. Henderson, who is black, said she still found the whole incident disheartening. "Racism isn’t going to be eradicated in one year, but I really thought we had made more progress," she said. "Even though it’s one specific incident, it sheds light on the fact that there still are people we haven’t reached."

Reuben Faloughi, a doctoral student in psychology and one of the original members of Concerned Student 1950, the group that led last year’s protests, said he wasn’t surprised by the incident.

He said the university needs to focus more of its outreach on white students who he said have not been engaged in the conversations about race.
"I teach a course in diversity and social justice in the College of Education and a lot of students have never had to critically analyze their identities," he said. "It makes sense that we’d have these incidents."

The Legion of Black Collegians expressed its outrage over the incident in a statement that was widely circulated on Twitter.

The group expressed frustration at what it saw as the lack of progress in changing behaviors and attitudes on campus.

"It is blatantly obvious that all of this superficial work has been nothing more than a discussion with little action behind it," it said. "Quite frankly, WE. ARE. SICK. OF. THIS!"

**Underlying Tensions**

Marquise Griffin, a black graduate student whose focus is on higher-education leadership, said he understands that the administration can’t respond quickly enough to satisfy students who would have liked, for instance, to see the students who were responsible for the racist taunts immediately expelled.

But he said he’s "exasperated and apprehensive because it feels like it’s happening all over again." The university’s response, he said, "will determine how much unrest is produced by this."

Mr. Griffin also works in the Office of Parent Relations, where he fielded two calls from upset mothers on Wednesday. "Both were very angry and wondering if the school is unsafe for their daughters," he said. "They felt like the school wasn’t doing enough to support black students."

Nerves were already raw this fall for students who experienced last year’s unrest.

"There are a lot of underlying tensions being played out this fall. Students are still healing from last fall, so when something like this happens, it’s like setting off a match at a gasoline station," said Mr. Griffin.

Berkley Hudson, an associate professor of journalism and chair of the Faculty Council Committee on Race Relations, said the university has taken important steps since last fall, but it needs to push harder.

"Given everything we went through last fall, there’s a lot of defensiveness and misunderstanding" that make conversations difficult, he said.
"Movements to make the campus more inclusive feel like forced PC culture to some," Mr. Griffin agreed. "There's resentment there."

Student government leaders also weighed in, condemning the recent "bombardment of blatant racism" and urging students to report incidents of racism and discrimination to the university’s Office for Civil Rights & Title IX.

A statement from the undergraduate student government’s executive cabinet urged students "to take the time to get educated about the social inequities that our peers face every single day" and said that it is time "to show each other that we have learned from our past and are moving toward a more enlightened future."

The university’s Panhellenic Association, which represents its sororities, also registered disgust over the incident.

"To members of the black community present in the Panhellenic Association who search for friendship amongst a community who is content to call them sisters to their faces and racial slurs behind their backs, we acknowledge you," it said in a written statement. "To members of the black community continuously being told that they are lesser by members of our community, we acknowledge you."

Tense Times at Mizzou, Students React to Racial Incident at MU

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=ccf2454a-81b0-4052-b7f3-41115d836684
The Latest: MU suspends fraternity over racial slur reports

10 hrs ago

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The Latest on racial tension at the University of Missouri (all times local): 9:15 p.m.

The University of Missouri has temporarily suspended the Delta Upsilon fraternity after some black students said members used racial slurs.

The university announced the suspension Wednesday evening, joining the national DU organization in sanctioning the fraternity.

A statement says the fraternity had been cited for other violations of campus policy, including alcohol violations.

A suspended fraternity cannot use university facilities or participate in campus activities such as Homecoming and social events.
A fraternity at the University of Missouri has been suspended while officials investigate reports of racial and sexist slurs directed at black students.

The Delta Upsilon national organization suspended its chapter at the university Wednesday after an incident in which members were accused of shouting slurs at black students late Tuesday, The Columbia Daily Tribune reported (http://j.mp/2duagAs).

Justin Kirk, executive director of Delta Upsilon International, said in a statement that the emergency suspension would be in effect while the incident is investigated.

The incident began late Tuesday night when a group of white students walked past two members of the Legion of Black Collegians' Activities Committee.

The legion said in a statement that one of the white students yelled a racial slur at the women.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Mizzou Chancellor Is ‘Outraged’ After Black Students Report Racist Incident

Two black students at the University of Missouri at Columbia say they were verbally assaulted outside a fraternity house late Tuesday night when students yelled racial slurs and obscenities at them, according to a statement by the university’s Legion of Black Collegians.

The reported incident has echoes of the events that preceded the turmoil on the campus last year, when protests and a boycott by the football team led the system president and the flagship chancellor to step down. The president of the student body at the time reported being accosted and called a racist epithet, as did members of the Legion of Black Collegians.

In the wake of the protests, which included a graduate student’s hunger strike, the university rolled out a series of diversity initiatives.
“I am outraged and saddened to hear of this!” Hank Foley, interim chancellor of the Columbia campus, said in a written statement. “The safety and security of our campus is our No. 1 priority; the University of Missouri is committed to fostering an inclusive campus environment where all students, faculty, staff, and visitors can live, learn, work, and feel safe.”

The university said in a statement that the campus police had identified the student involved and that the Office of Student Conduct had been notified.

The Legion of Black Collegians said this latest incident shows how much work is left to do.

“It is blatantly obvious that all of this superficial work has been nothing more than a discussion with little action behind it,” the group’s statement read.

The group also said it was working with administrators “to develop policies and identify follow-up actions to eradicate these instances in the now and in the future.”

Mizzou Fraternity Suspended After Slurs Reported

A fraternity at the University of Missouri at Columbia was suspended Wednesday after its members were accused of using gendered and racial slurs against two black women, according to a statement from the university’s Legion of Black Collegians. Missouri’s chapter of Delta Upsilon was “placed on emergency suspension” by its national organization. Students and faculty gathered in the Student Center midday to demonstrate and to denounce the incident.

“We have zero tolerance for actions like this; if any student is found in violation of the Student Code and/or the university’s nondiscrimination policies, they will be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion,” Hank Foley, the university’s interim chancellor, said in a statement released Wednesday.

This is one of a slew of recent racist episodes across U.S. campuses, and Missouri is no stranger to racial controversy. Nearly one year ago, a similar incident occurred: racial slurs were directed at members of the black student legion as they rehearsed for homecoming, and in November, University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe resigned after protests roiled the campus.

The Delta Upsilon chapter has been cited for alcohol violations since the beginning of the semester, according to a news release from the university.
University of Missouri fraternity suspended after alleged racial slurs

COLUMBIA, Mo., Sept. 28 (UPI) -- The University of Missouri announced Wednesday it has suspended the campus' Delta Upsilon fraternity for allegedly yelling racist and sexist slurs at black students.

The temporary suspension, barring the fraternity from using campus activities or facilities, comes the report of slurs is stirring rising racial tensions on campus, the MU News Bureau said.

Delta Upsilon International's Indianapolis headquarters suspended the chapter earlier Wednesday, followed by the university.

Later, the traditionally white sorority group the Panhellenic Association condemned the reports of the fraternity members shouting slurs, and included some self-critical remarks in its statement.

The university's Legion of Black Collegians reported two black female students being called racial slurs Tuesday night outside the fraternity's house.

Some fraternity members then began recording as police arrived.

"It is often said that history repeats itself," the legion said in a statement, "but the ignorance that occurs on the University of Missouri's campus always seems to be too familiar."

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said in a statement he was "outraged and saddened" by the incident.
New racial slur incident at University of Missouri ignites a student clash

By Mará Rose Williams

Racial tensions flared up again on the University of Missouri’s Columbia campus Tuesday night when a group of black students were the target of racial slurs.

A statement from MU’s Legion of Black Collegians said the incident happened outside the Delta Upsilon fraternity house just before midnight. The statement says two members of the Legion of Black Collegians’ activities group were passing a group of six or seven white MU students when racial obscenities were directed at the black students from a member of the white group.

Police were called, a crowd gathered, frustrations flared and additional racial slurs were hurled at the black students from students watching the scene through fraternity house windows.

“Quite frankly, we are sick of this,” the Legion of Black Collegians’ statement said. “Any student that selects to intentionally use hate speech on a campus that pushes the morals of ‘inclusivity’ and ‘diversity’ does not belong, and their presence continues to foster the apparent dichotomy amongst black and white students. ... Enough is enough.”

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said he is “outraged and saddened” to hear about the incident. “We have zero tolerance for actions like this; if any student is found in violation of the Student Code and/or the university’s nondiscrimination policies, they will be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.”

MU police have identified the students involved in the incident. The MU Office of Student Conduct and the Office of Civil Rights & Title IX “are taking appropriate action,” the university statement said.

Kevin McDonald, interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity, is meeting with the students affected, and the university Counseling Center staff has been alerted to reach out to affected students today.

A similar incident occurred last September, when the N-word was hurled at then student body president Payton Head — he has since graduated — and in a separate incident the same racial slur was used toward members of the Legion of Black Collegians as they prepared a float for the campus homecoming parade.
Those racially charged incidents sparked a series of campus protests last November led by a predominantly black student group, Concerned Student 1950. A tent encampment was erected in the center of campus as a protest against racism and systemic oppression of minority groups on campus. Graduate student Jonathan Butler went on a week-long hunger strike, and Mizzou football players threatened to boycott a game unless campus leaders stepped down. Ultimately, the university system president and MU’s chancellor resigned.

The problems last November at MU hurt the university’s reputation and were partly responsible for a 5 percent enrollment decline this fall.

Two weeks ago, MU leaders invited media on campus to spread the word about $4.2 million they will spend to fund new diversity and inclusion initiatives.

Campus leaders talked about mandatory cultural competency training for incoming freshman and faculty, beefing up recruitment of minority faculty and infusing diversity and inclusion issues into the campus curriculum.

In Wednesday’s statement, Foley said, “It is a new day on campus and we take our core values of Respect, Responsibility, Discovery and Excellence seriously.”

But some faculty have warned university officials this year not to begin patting themselves on the back just yet about accomplishments with regard to quelling racial tensions, because the campus still has a long way yet to go.

Missouri fraternity suspended after being accused of racial slurs

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Sept 28 (Reuters) - The University of Missouri said on Wednesday a fraternity accused of making racial slurs toward a group of black students had been suspended, less than a year after allegations of racism on campus ignited protests.

The university's Legion of Black Collegians said in a statement that two black students were in front of the Delta Upsilon fraternity house late on Tuesday when several white students passed by and one uttered a racial obscenity.

As police officers arrived at the scene, additional racial slurs were heard from the white students by the black students, according to the group.
"To say that we are disgusted is beyond understatement," the Black Collegians said. "It is often said that history repeats itself. But the ignorance that occurs on the University of Missouri's campus always seems to be too familiar."

The university said the fraternity had already been cited this semester for other violations, including alcohol offenses. The suspension means the fraternity cannot use school facilities or take part in homecoming or other campus activities, according to the university's statement.

In a statement on Wednesday, Delta Epsilon International Fraternity said it issued an emergency suspension of its Missouri university chapter and was working with the school to investigate the incident.

"Racism and sexism have no place in our Fraternity and we expect our members to be positive contributors to inclusive campus environments," fraternity Executive Director Justin Kirk said in the statement.

Unrest at the school, widely known as "Mizzou," was sparked last September when black student and Missouri Students Association President Payton Head said on his Facebook page he was repeatedly racially abused on campus by someone riding in a pickup truck.

Head's post went viral and students demonstrated over what they said was the lack of a strong reaction from university President Tim Wolfe.

One student waged a hunger strike pending Wolfe's departure, the university's football players refused to practice or play until Wolfe stepped down, and some teachers and students threatened to boycott classes. Wolfe resigned last November.

DAILY NEWS

University of Missouri fraternity suspended after black students report members hurled racial slurs

Members of a University of Missouri fraternity yelled the n-word and other obscenities at a group of black students on campus, a student organization said.

Delta Upsilon suspended its Mizzou chapter after students from the school’s Legion of Black Collegians said DU brothers hurled the slurs and called them “Mizzou PC,” “c---s,” and “b-----s” on Tuesday night. University administrators pledged they would punish the responsible students.
The black students from the university marked in the past year by racial conflict said two Legion members heard a white woman who passed them in the street at 11:50 p.m. shout, “Look at those n-----s looking at us.”

The black students called two other members of the Legion to join them, and campus police soon arrived outside the frat house. DU brothers then began filming the Legion members on their cell phones and yelling at them from the mansion’s windows, according to the black student group.

“To say that we are disgusted is beyond an understatement,” the Legion said in a statement. “It is often said that history repeats itself, but the ignorance that occurs on the University of Missouri’s campus always seems to be too familiar. Due to the continuation of an intolerant culture, students of color have been attacked yet again.”

“Quite frankly,” the organization added, “WE. ARE. SICK. OF. THIS!”

University officials said MU police have identified all of the students involved. The student conduct and civil rights offices of the flagship public university in Columbia, Mo., are investigating.

Mizzou’s vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity is slated to meet with the Legion members, and university staff also offered counseling for the students targeted by the slurs.

“We have zero tolerance for actions like this; if any student is found in violation of the student code and/or the university’s nondiscrimination policies, they will be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion,” interim Mizzou chancellor Hank Foley said in a statement.

“As we have stated, this is a new day on campus and we take our core values of respect, responsibility, discovery and excellence seriously.”

Justin Kirk, the executive director of Delta Upsilon International Fraternity, said officials at headquarters had been made aware of the encounter.

“We have placed the chapter on an emergency suspension as we work closely with the university to learn more about the incident,” Kirk said in a statement. “Racism and sexism have no place in our fraternity, and we expect our members to be positive contributors to inclusive campus environments.”

DU brothers moved into their new $5.5 million frat house in August, according to an admiring post on the Total Frat Move blog. The brick mansion sleeps up to 78 people and includes a parking garage, a formal foyer, a library with a grand piano, spacious lounges and a patio.

“It is a castle,” a tipster gushed in an email to the blog.

Signs supportive of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump could be seen in photos posted to social media on Wednesday.
"Those men living in the chapter house will continue to live there during the suspension, however, all chapter activities have ceased as a result of the suspension," Delta Upsilon spokeswoman Ashley Martin said in an email.

Similar incidents provoked protests that ultimately led MU’s chancellor and university system president to resign last year, The Kansas City Star reported.

Student government president Payton Head, who is black, said in September 2015 that people driving by him in a pickup truck had called him the n-word. Other students discovered a swastika drawn in feces on campus later in the semester.

Protesters occupied the main quad, one student held a hunger strike, and the Mizzou Tigers football team boycotted practices until the officials stepped down.

The Latest: MU suspends fraternity over racial slur reports

COLUMBIA, Mo. – The Latest on racial tension at the University of Missouri (all times local):

9:15 p.m.

The University of Missouri has temporarily suspended the Delta Upsilon fraternity after some black students said members used racial slurs.

The university announced the suspension Wednesday evening, joining the national DU organization in sanctioning the fraternity.

A statement says the fraternity had been cited for other violations of campus policy, including alcohol violations.
A suspended fraternity cannot use university facilities or participate in campus activities such as Homecoming and social events.

6 p.m.

A fraternity at the University of Missouri has been suspended while officials investigate reports of racial and sexist slurs directed at black students.

The Delta Upsilon national organization suspended its chapter at the university Wednesday after an incident in which members were accused of shouting slurs at black students late Tuesday, The Columbia Daily Tribune reported (http://j.mp/2duagAs ).

Justin Kirk, executive director of Delta Upsilon International, said in a statement that the emergency suspension would be in effect while the incident is investigated.

The incident began late Tuesday night when a group of white students walked past two members of the Legion of Black Collegians’ Activities Committee.

The legion said in a statement that one of the white students yelled a racial slur at the women.

University of Missouri fraternity suspended after report of racial, sexist slurs

The Delta Upsilon chapter at the University of Missouri was suspended by its national organization Wednesday after an incident where members were accused of shouting racist and sexist insults at black students.

Delta Upsilon International, headquartered in Indianapolis, issued a statement from Executive Director Justin Kirk that the temporary suspension would continue while the incident is investigated.

"Racism and sexism have no place in our fraternity and we expect our members to be positive contributors to inclusive campus environments," Kirk said.

The incident began about 11:50 p.m. Tuesday when two black female MU students were verbally assaulted by white students shouting racial and sexist slurs as they were passing the Delta
Upsilon fraternity house on Maryland Avenue. The two members of the Legion of Black Collegians' Activities Committee were passed by a group of white male and female students, one of whom shouted “look at those niggers looking at us,” the legion said in a news release.

The women contacted other members of the activities committee, asking them to join them, and police approached to quell the disruption.

“It was at this moment, outside the Delta Upsilon Fraternity house, that while police were attempting to de-escalate the situation, members of the fraternity began recording the interaction, as well as shouting a variety of obscenities at the Committee,” the news release said. “These obscenities included, but were not limited to, ‘Mizzou PC, c..ts, b.....es, niggers' with a plethora of other micro-aggressions.”

The MU Office of Student Conduct and the Office of Civil Rights & Title IX have been notified, the university said in a news release issued Wednesday morning in response to the incident.

“I am outraged and saddened to hear of this!” interim Chancellor Hank Foley said. “The safety and security of our campus is our No. 1 priority; the University of Missouri is committed to fostering an inclusive campus environment where all students, faculty, staff and visitors can live, learn, work and feel safe.”

The university has “zero tolerance” for racist or sexist behavior, Foley said. “If any student is found in violation of the Student Code and/or the University’s nondiscrimination policies, they will be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.”

The incident shows problems of racial animosity on campus have not improved, the legion said in its news release. Racial issues dominated the fall 2015 semester beginning with disruption of the Homecoming parade and followed by a hunger strike by student Jonathan Butler and a boycott of athletic activities by the Tigers football team. The university has attempted to respond by creating a new UM System diversity and inclusion office, elevating the status of campus diversity officers, revising campus free speech policies and funding increased minority recruitment of faculty and students.

“To say that we are disgusted is beyond an understatement,” the legion's news release said.

System Chief Diversity Officer Kevin McDonald, who is also interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity, will meet with the students and MU Counseling Center staff will offer support to the students involved.

The legion declined to make members available for interviews Wednesday morning. MU Police Department spokesman Maj. Brian Weimer was not immediately available for comment. Austyn Bair, president of the Delta Upsilon undergraduate executive committee, did not respond to an email seeking comment.

As a result of the incident, leaders of the legion and other black MU students posted on Twitter a call for all black students to wear black for the rest of the week.
The news release included criticism of police who responded, reporting “some attempted to control members of the Legion as opposed to controlling those yelling out of the windows; another officer used excessive verbal force WITH his hand on his gun, in attempts to calm down one of the Legion’s members, who was rightfully infuriated about the events that had just transpired.”

MISSOURIAN

MU fraternity suspended after slurs against 2 Legion of Black Collegians students

JACOB SCHOLL, RUTH SERVEN, 17 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Almost one year after members of MU's Legion of Black Collegians were targeted by racial slurs, members said they were again harassed Tuesday night outside an MU fraternity house.

The fraternity, Delta Upsilon, was suspended by MU and by its governing body Wednesday.

According to a statement from the Legion, female members of the Legion were walking outside of the Delta Upsilon fraternity at Rollins Street and Tiger Avenue when a group of white students passed. One of the white women shouted, "Look at those niggers looking at us."

Other Legion members arrived and MU Police responded, according to the statement. Fraternity members then began recording the interaction and shouted obscenities at the Legion members, including racist and sexist slurs. Some police officers worked to disband the growing crowd, while others "attempted to control members of the Legion" instead of focusing on people yelling from the fraternity house, the statement said.

"Another officer used excessive verbal force WITH his hand on his gun, in attempts to calm one of the Legion's members, who was rightfully infuriated about the events that had just transpired," the statement read.

MU Police Maj. Brian Weimer said Wednesday that police were investigating all of the events. Weimer said no official reports have been filed against the responding officer.
Austyn Bair, president of the local chapter, declined to comment early Wednesday. The fraternity will not be able to use university facilities or participate in university activities, including Homecoming, until the suspension is lifted, and all chapter activities have ceased for the time being. The Delta Upsilon International Fraternity will work with the university to investigate if members were involved, a fraternity spokeswoman said.

The Legion said in its statement that it was working with members of MU’s administration to address the incident. The group was also adamant that any student who intentionally uses hate speech on campus should be expelled.

An MU statement said police identified the students involved, and the offices of Student Conduct and Civil Rights & Title IX have been notified.

Throughout the day on Wednesday, black students held hands, prayed and talked about their experiences at a protest in the MU Student Center and at a town hall at the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center.

Demonstrators at the Student Center wore black and filtered into the first floor study area, standing around tables near the fireplaces. Three students read statements through a megaphone.

"It is 2016, and I am still made to feel like I don't belong on this campus," Legion President Shelby Anderson said.

The crowd chanted, "It is our duty to fight for our freedom! We will love and support each other!"

Foley briefly spoke to news media and onlookers at the Student Center.

"I can't prevent someone from making a racial slur like this — you can't be everywhere all the time," he said. "But we can raise our expectations of student conduct and behavior."

In a written statement, Foley said any student found in violation of MU’s nondiscrimination policies "will be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion."
At the town hall Wednesday night, hundreds of students and faculty packed the auditorium at Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center and spilled out into the hallways. Those gathered shared their fears, questions and suggestions with university administrators, a representative from MU Police, representatives from the Missouri Panhellenic Association and the Interfraternity Council.

The Legion said it would continue to take action.

"To say that we are disgusted is beyond an understatement," the Wednesday Legion statement read. "It is often said that history repeats itself, but the ignorance that occurs on the University of Missouri's campus always seems to be too familiar. Due to the continuation of an intolerant culture, students of color have been attacked yet again."

In October 2015, members of the Legion of Black Collegians were targeted by racial slurs while rehearsing for Homecoming events on campus. The incident was followed by a month of protests, student demands and a hunger strike that resulted in the resignations of the University of Missouri System president and MU chancellor. Since then, MU has launched several diversity initiatives and has pledged more than $2 million for recruiting and retaining faculty members of color.
Fraternity suspended at University of Missouri during investigation of racial slur


COLUMBIA, MO. - **The University of Missouri is investigating after African-American students said white students yelled racial slurs at them.** Details of the incident were released in a letter Wednesday by the student group Legion of Black Collegians.

The alleged incident happened just before midnight on Tuesday. Throughout the next day, students gathered at protests, prayer groups and town hall meetings, trying to make sense of it all.

The Legion of Black Collegians allege that a group of white students walked past two of their members. One white student apparently shouted a racial slur to the black students. The crowd grew. Campus police then approached the group, near the Delta Upsilon fraternity house. As police attempted to de-escalate the situation, the Legion alleges that fraternity members started recording the incident, and shouting racial obscenities as well.

The letter also states that police tried to restrain the Legion members instead of the alleged harassers, and one officer allegedly "used excessive verbal force WITH his hand on his gun."

University officials confirmed that campus police did respond to the incident, and they’ve already identified the students involved. Interim Chancellor Hank Foley stated, “We have zero tolerance for actions like this; if any student is found in violation of the Student Code and/or the University’s nondiscrimination policies, they will be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.”

The Delta Upsilon Fraternity is also taking action. The Fraternity’s Executive Director Justin Kirk stated, “We have placed the chapter on an emergency suspension as we work closely with the university to learn more about the incident. Racism and sexism have no place in our Fraternity.” Emergency suspension means all chapter activities have been cancelled for the time being.
Racial slurs force Mizzou to address continuing problems, a year after protests

The University of Missouri is investigating a report by two black female students who said other students yelled racial slurs at them on its Columbia campus.

According to a statement from the Legion of Black Collegians, the incident began late Tuesday night when a group of white students walked past two members of its Activities Committee.

The legion said one of the white students yelled a racial slur at the women, who then contacted other legion members. Campus police arrived, but the legion said members of a fraternity then began shouting other obscenities and slurs at the legion members. It also said some officers used what it called "excessive verbal force" in trying to de-escalate the situation.

"Any student that selects to intentionally use hate speech on a campus that pushes the morals of 'inclusivity' and 'diversity' does not belong and their presence continues to foster the apparent dichotomy amongst Black and white students," Legion members wrote in a statement.

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley wrote in a statement the university has "zero tolerance" for racism or sexism. The university also says discipline for students who violate the university's nondiscrimination policies may include expulsion.

"I am outraged and saddened to hear of this!" Foley wrote. "The safety and security of our campus is our No. 1 priority; the University of Missouri is committed to fostering an inclusive campus environment where all students, faculty, staff and visitors can live, learn, work and feel safe."

The university's statement also indicated that Kevin McDonald, the interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity is meeting with students who were affected, while the Counseling Center is also offering assistance.

Justin Kirk, the executive director of Delta Upsilon International Fraternity, said the organization is "aware of a verbal altercation that took place in front of our chapter at the University of Missouri on Tuesday evening, Sept. 27. We have placed the chapter on an emergency suspension as we work closely with the university to learn more about the incident. Racism and sexism have no place in our Fraternity and we expect our members to be positive contributors to inclusive campus environments."
The Legion said it would be working with Mizzou's administration to develop policies and "follow up" actions. But in its letter, the students expressed disappointment that this incident followed several months of attempts to improve race relations on campus. Last year, a series of racial confrontations triggered weeks of protests, the resignation of high-level administrators, and the hiring of McDonald.

"To say that we are disgusted is beyond an understatement," Legion members said in a statement. "It is often said that history repeats itself, but the ignorance that occurs on the University of Missouri's campus always seems to be too familiar. Due to the continuation of an intolerant culture, students of color have been attacked yet again."

University reports incident of racial slurs used on MU campus

COLUMBIA — UPDATE

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=e08c8a3b-8c9a-4a01-b3cc-1784b91a3947

Alleged racial slurs on the Mizzou campus led to the suspension of a fraternity and an investigation by the MU Police Department.

MU officials reported some members of Mizzou’s Delta Upsilon fraternity shouted the "N” word at two African-American female students on Tuesday night.

Members of Mizzou’s student group called The Legion of Black Collegians said Delta Upsilon fraternity members shouted the racial slurs the two black female students walked through MU’s Greek Town.

University officials identified the students who were involved in the alleged racial slurs.

Students who violate the university's nondiscrimination policies could face expulsion.
Some black students weren't surprised racial tension remains on their campus after last fall’s turmoil and protests.

MU Senior James Bender said, “The fact that they called us [the N word], that’s not appropriate. We’re going to say something about it every time. Every time that someone is called a n*****r on campus and it goes unnoticed or every time a cop does something like racial profiling like pulling his gun, we’re going to say something every time.”

Members of The Legion of Black Collegians said an MU Police Officer used excessive verbal force with his hand on his gun in an attempt to calm one of the harassed black female students.

MU Police Captain Brian Weimer said there is not a formal complaint against any of his officers. However, his department is looking into the matter.

**ORIGINAL STORY**

University of Missouri police responded to a report of an incident on the MU campus Tuesday night, in which racial slurs were used.

Police have identified the students involved in the incident, according to a release from the university.

“I am outraged and saddened to hear of this! The safety and security of our campus is our No. 1 priority; the University of Missouri is committed to fostering an inclusive campus environment where all students, faculty, staff and visitors can live, learn, work and feel safe,” interim chancellor Hank Foley said in the release. “We have zero tolerance for actions like this; if any student is found in violation of the Student Code and/or the University’s nondiscrimination policies, they will be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion. As we have stated, this is a new day on campus and we take our core values of Respect, Responsibility, Discovery and Excellence seriously.”

The Legion of Black Collegians said in a release that two black students were verbally assaulted in an obscene manner due to their racial identity. The LBC claimed the incident took place in front of the Delta Upsilon fraternity house.

The group claimed while police attempted to de-escalate the situation, members of the fraternity began recording the incident and shouted obscenities.

According to the release, some police officers attempted to control the growing crowd, while others tried to control members of the LBC. The release stated one officer used excessive verbal force with his hand on his gun in an attempt to calm someone from the LBC.

The group stated on its Twitter that it would not speak to the media about the incident.
The Delta Upsilon International Fraternity placed the University of Missouri chapter on an emergency suspension, releasing the following statement:

"Delta Upsilon International Fraternity is aware of a verbal altercation that took place in front of our chapter at the University of Missouri on Tuesday evening, Sept. 27. We have placed the chapter on an emergency suspension as we work closely with the university to learn more about the incident. Racism and sexism have no place in our Fraternity and we expect our members to be positive contributors to inclusive campus environments."

The university stated that anyone with information about the incident is encouraged to contact either the Office of Student Conduct (573-882-5543) or the Office of Civil Rights & Title IX (573-882-3880).

LBC announced it would host a town hall meeting Wednesday at 5 p.m. in the The Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center.

**Delta Upsilon Fraternity Temporarily Suspended After Alleged Racial Slurs at MU**

Two black women at the University of Missouri say they were called a racial slur during a confrontation with white students outside the Delta Upsilon fraternity house Tuesday night.

According to a statement from the university's Legion of Black Collegians, a group of white students passed the two women and a member of the group called the women a racial slur. Members of the legion and university police were arriving to assess the situation when the statement says members of the Delta Upsilon fraternity began recording interactions between the police and black students while shouting slurs and obscenities.

“It is often said that history repeats itself,” the legion's statement reads, "but the ignorance that occurs on the University of Missouri’s campus always seems to be too familiar."

In a written statement, Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said he was “outraged and saddened” to hear of the incident.

"We have zero tolerance for actions like this," Foley said.
A separate release from the University of Missouri News Bureau Wednesday afternoon reported that the university's Delta Upsilon chapter has been temporarily suspended. The fraternity's international organization has also placed it on suspension.

The university says it is still investigating individual students involved in the Tuesday night incident, and that those found in violation of Student Code may be subject to discipline, including suspension.

Students met at the Gaines-Oldham Black Culture Center on Wednesday evening for a town hall discussion about the incident.

Members of the Panhellenic Association, the Interfraternity Council, the University Police, faculty and administrators including Mike Middleton were in attendance. The Legion of Black Collegians tweeted that MU Counseling Center employees were also there to provide counseling services for students.

Najeebah Hussain, the chair of the MSA Senate Social Justice Committee, said the meeting was an opportunity for rarely-heard voices to share their thoughts.

“It’s raw. Multiple people cried. You see what people are dealing with firsthand and how it’s affecting them,” Hussain said.

Hussain also said much of the discussion focused on keeping Greek life accountable and putting in place policies that would prevent similar incidents in the future.

The Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Association both released statements on Wednesday afternoon condemning the behavior of the Delta Upsilon members.

Sean Earl, MSA President, said the administrators’ quick response and presence at the meeting shows slight improvements have been made, but that “severe consequences” are necessary going forward.

“This is a situation that affects every student on this campus, not just black students,” Earl said. “We need to realize that how we treat each other ultimately determines how our university is set up and how we operate as an institution.”
MU fraternity suspended following reports of racial slurs on campus


COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri is addressing reports of racial slurs being used on campus Tuesday night.

Around 11:30 this morning, MU tweeted a release saying MU police officers responded to an incident where racial slurs had been used. The university said the students involved have been identified, and Office of Student Conduct and the Office of Civil Rights & Title IX are taking action.

"I am outraged and saddened to hear of this!" said Interim Chancellor Hank Foley. "The safety and security of our campus is our No. 1 priority; the University of Missouri is committed to fostering an inclusive campus environment where all students, faculty, staff and visitors can live, learn, work and feel safe."

The MU Legion of Black Collegians sent out a release earlier Wednesday morning, referencing an incident on campus that happened just before midnight. The release says six to seven white students used racial slurs against a few black students. A "disruption" followed, and MUPD approached the scene at the Delta Upsilon fraternity house.

The statement said members of the fraternity began using racial slurs and other obscenities.

"It seems like I've only been on campus for like a month and it just seems like it's a reoccurring thing," said freshman student Sidne Fonville.

"I was kind of sad," said freshman student Thomas Cater. "I thought it was over with, but it wasn't."

It also claims while officers tried to control the crowd, one officer used "excessive verbal force" and put his hand on his gun while interacting with an LBC member.

Delta Upsilon's national organization suspended the MU chapter Wednesday afternoon.
"Delta Upsilon International Fraternity is aware of a verbal altercation that took place in front of our chapter at the University of Missouri on Tuesday evening, Sept. 27," Executive Director Justin Kirk said in a statement. "We have placed the chapter on an emergency suspension as we work closely with the university to learn more about the incident. Racism and sexism have no place in our Fraternity and we expect our members to be positive contributors to inclusive campus environments."

The university has also placed the fraternity on suspension following the allegations. According to MU officials, the fraternity has already been cited for alcohol violations this semester. While on suspension, Delta Upsilon isn't allowed to use university facilities or participate in campus activities such as Homecoming and other social events.

The Legion of Black Collegians organized a town hall meeting Wednesday night at the Black Culture Center for students to come together and support each other.

Both Fonville and Cater attended the meeting and said the talk was a step in the right direction, but said more needs to be done.

"I feel like it would be way more productive if there were people there who don't think this is a problem," Fonville said.

"We can talk about it amongst ourselves, but if we want to come together as a schools and as a community it needs to be talked about with everyone, not just a specific group of people," Cater said.

MU said anyone with information on the incident is encouraged to contact the Office of Student Conduct or the Office of Civil Rights & Title IX office.

**Update: MUPD investigating harassment of LBC members**

Two members of the Legion of Black Collegians Activities Committee were called the N-word late last night, according to a letter posted by LBC on Twitter this morning.

At approximately 11:50 p.m. Tuesday night, a group of six to seven white students passed the LBC members and shouted, “Look at those n------ looking at us,” according to LBC’s statement. The MU Police Department was notified and called to the scene outside of the Delta Upsilon fraternity house.
Fraternity members shouted obscenities and recorded the interaction between LBC members and the police, according to the LBC statement. Additionally, LBC members expressed disagreement with the police’s conduct in deescalating the situation.

According to the statement, one suspect has been identified and will be called in for questioning about last night’s events.

**LBC referenced similar incidents that occurred during last fall, writing: “... history often repeats itself, but the ignorance that occurs on University of Missouri’s campus always seems to be too familiar.”**

Delta Upsilon International Fraternity has placed the MU chapter on emergency suspension as they “work closely with the university to learn more about the incident,” according to a news release.

“Racism and sexism have no place in our Fraternity and we expect our members to be positive contributors to inclusive campus environments,” Delta Upsilon International Fraternity Executive Director Justin Kirk stated in the release.

According to a statement from the MU News Bureau, the university has placed the fraternity on temporary suspension due to both Tuesday’s incident and previous violations, including alcohol violations. Due to the UM Collected Rules and Regulations, the fraternity will not be able to participate in Homecoming activities while suspended.

Last fall, multiple incidents of students being called racial slurs occurred, fueling a semester of protests from student activist group Concerned Student 1950. Former Missouri Students Association President Payton Head spoke out in a Facebook post that went viral, as did LBC Homecoming Royalty Court and other students who also experienced similar acts of racism.

“To say that we are disgusted is beyond an understatement,” LBC said in the statement. “Quite frankly, WE. ARE. SICK. OF. THIS!”

A town hall will be held at the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center at 5 p.m. to answer students’ questions and provide updates on the situation. The Counseling Center will be present, and a prayer session will be held after the town hall.

The Office of Student Conduct and the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX have been notified of the incident, according to a statement from MU on Wednesday. Kevin McDonald, interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity, is meeting with students affected by the incident, according to the statement.

In the statement, interim Chancellor Hank Foley said he was “outraged and sad” to hear of the incident.

“We have zero tolerance for actions like this; if any student is found in violation of the Student Code and/or the university’s nondiscrimination policies, they will be subject to discipline, up to
and including suspension and/or expulsion,” Foley said in the statement. “As we have stated, this is a new day on campus and we take our core values of respect, responsibility, discovery and excellence seriously.”

The incident sparked an outpouring of responses on Twitter.

Students express concern over racist incident

COLUMBIA - Some University of Missouri students said they are saddened and embarrassed by the racist incident that occurred on MU's campus Tuesday night.

On Wednesday, the fraternity Delta Upsilon was temporarily suspended by the University of Missouri, and by the fraternity's national chapter, following an incident that occurred the night before outside the fraternity house.

The Legion of Black Collegians tweeted several black students were verbally assaulted with racist slurs.

MU student Caleb Klein said the incident is hurting the Mizzou's image.

"We already look really racist," Klein said.

Kate Wadley, another MU student, said she too is upset by the incident.

"It honestly makes me feel ashamed to be part of the community, especially after everything that happened last year. I thought we were moving forward and being progressive with everything, but obviously there is still a lot of hate and ignorance out there," Wadley said.

Klein said he is not surprised and believes "these kinds of things go on all the time."
"I mean, if you walk around Greek Town chances are someone is going to shout something. So an easy target is probably race," Klein said.

He said he would have liked to see the MU Police handle the situation differently.

"I don't think the police handled it really well either, they just escalated things. Especially reaching for your weapon in that sense, no one is armed, there is no sense for that. We shouldn't even have guns on the college campus period even for the cops," Klein said.

Delta Upsilon's executive director, Justin Kirk, issued this statement: “Delta Upsilon International Fraternity is aware of a verbal altercation that took place in front of our chapter at the University of Missouri on Tuesday evening, Sept. 27. We have placed the chapter on an emergency suspension as we work closely with the university to learn more about the incident. Racism and sexism have no place in our Fraternity and we expect our members to be positive contributors to inclusive campus environments.”

Klein said he thinks shutting down the chapter might be the only way to incite change.

"Shut down Delta Upsilon. I mean I feel like that is the only thing that will make a point, I guess. I don't think either party is innocent though. If someone is harassing you, don't go try to incite more violence," Klein said.

MU students report racial harassment, town hall meeting scheduled in response

COLUMBIA - The Legion of Black Collegians, a student organization at the University of Missouri, reported two of its members being racially harassed late Tuesday.
A statement by LBC on Wednesday said a group of white males and females walked past members of the Legion's activities committee, with one of the females yelling a racial slur. Other Legion members joined the two students out of safety concerns, and MU police approached them to see what was going on. This apparently happened near the Delta Upsilon fraternity.

At that point, according to the LBC's statement, some Delta Upsilon members started shouting other racial slurs and obscenities while recording what was happening.

LBC's statement claims MU police then tried to restrain the Legion members instead of the alleged harassers, with one officer apparently "using excessive verbal force WITH his hand on his gun."

LBC scheduled a town hall meeting for Wednesday evening at 5 p.m. to discuss what happened. Members also posted an offer for counseling on the group's Twitter account.

Dr. Stephanie Shonekan, an MU Black Studies professor, said the students are currently trying to process everything that happened and what it all means for the future.

"Every time something like this happens it takes us back spiraling down in history. All the history becomes present," Shonekan said.

Students on campus were also very concerned about the incident and felt unsafe.

"I'm in the middle of farm town Missouri, and I'm black. I mean inherently I feel uneasy when I'm walking around. I feel safer at home in St. Louis downtown, in the city, than I do in Columbia right now," Craymon Mays said.

Other students are upset because they feel like the past is repeating itself.

"I was honestly kind of upset to hear about it. After last year, I thought that we were taking steps to improve and kind of fix everything that happened. It's just kind of sad to hear that's just not taking as much of effect as we thought it would," Elizabeth Etling said.

MU officials released a statement in response to the statement from LBC. They said The Office of Civil Rights and Title IX as well as the Office of Student Conduct had been notified.

According to the statement, Interim Vice Chancellor for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Kevin McDonald is reaching out to the students affected by the incident. The MU Counseling Center staff is also reaching out.

The statement included a response from Interim Chancellor Hank Foley:

“"I am outraged and saddened to hear of this! The safety and security of our campus is our No. 1 priority; the University of Missouri is committed to fostering an inclusive campus environment where all students, faculty, staff and visitors can live, learn, work and feel safe," said Hank Foley, interim chancellor. “We have zero tolerance for actions like this; if any student is found in
LBC President speaks out about MU campus racist incident

COLUMBIA - Following a racially charged incident on the University of Missouri campus on Tuesday night, the Legion of Black Collegians held a town hall meeting. The meeting was private and only open to MU students and faculty.

Following the meeting, students and faculty were emotional about racial tensions on campus.

University of Missouri Legion of Black Collegians President Shelby Anderson said, "I think our hopes for the town halls are healing. A lot of times as students this day and age we take to social media a lot, but often those face to face conversations can be a lot of healing and instant answers."
The University of Missouri's chapter of Delta Upsilon Fraternity was placed on emergency suspension following Tuesday night's incidents involving racial slurs.

The Legion of Black Collegians, a student organization at the University of Missouri, reported two of its members were racially harassed near the fraternity.

According to the LBC's statement, released Wednesday, some Delta Upsilon members shouted racial slurs and obscenities at the LBC members. The statement said some Delta Upsilon members also recorded a police interaction with the members and a group of white students who also harassed the black students.

MU spokesperson Christian Basi said the university has placed the fraternity on temporary suspension. Basi said fraternity has received citations for other violations since the beginning of the semester. Basi said a fraternity on temporary suspension cannot use university facilities or participate in campus activities, including Homecoming and social events.

"Racism and sexism have no place in our fraternity and we expect our members to be positive contributors to inclusive campus environments," Delta Upsilon Executive Director Justin Kirk said.

Kirk said the fraternity will work with the university to learn more about the incident.
Another donation for Mizzou football facility

By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 18 hrs ago

COLUMBIA, MO. • Shortly before Missouri coach Barry Odom took his turn on the SEC teleconference Wednesday, MU announced another anonymous donation for its new football facility.

The gift is worth $1.675 million, with $1 million earmarked for the proposed football building planned for the south end zone of Memorial Stadium. Earlier this month, MU received a $10 million donation from the Kansas City Sports Trust for the same project. Mizzou estimates the facility will cost around $75 million. At the time of the $10 million gift, athletics director Jim Sterk said MU was roughly $20 million away from reaching the price tag.

“We are so grateful for this very generous gift,” Sterk said. “It is critical to keep momentum building with our drive for new facilities, and this is exactly the shot in the arm we need to keep that moving forward. Our donor is really pleased to be involved in helping us transform our facilities, and is excited about the future of our football program.”

“Our donors are amazing with the passion they have for Mizzou and for our program,” Odom added. “This is the type of support we need to keep things rolling, and I can’t thank our donor enough for their generosity.”

As the Tigers (2-2, 0-1 SEC) get closer to Saturday’s game at Louisiana State (2-2, 1-1), Odom touched on a few more topics during the SEC teleconference …

• On preparing for the noise at Tiger Stadium:
“I don’t know if there’s any one magic thing we can do to absolutely get us ready for that environment. It’s one of the best in college football. We’re anxious and excited to have the opportunity to play there. Just like any venue in this conference, it’s such a great opportunity for our student athletes. … This would be one they remember forever.

“There’s things we’ve done as a program since we started practicing in spring ball on making our practices as high tempo and challenging as we can. We pipe in noise and music and all kinds of things to try to affect and make our guys over-communicate in all the ways you can do that. We’ve cranked it up this week in those regards. For home or away games we put our guys in position to communicate at a high level to have a chance to operate. We’ll see if we can get that somewhere close to what we’ll see Saturday night.”

• On offensive coordinator Josh Heupel:

“Just because you’re a great player in college doesn’t translate into being a great coach. But Heup is one of those guys. We played against each other and I had such great respect for him as a competitor. … (His teams) are so well coached fundamentally. They didn’t make mistakes very often to put themselves in a bad position. Those are the same qualities he’s provided our offense. He’s been a great leader in that room putting together and building the schematics week in and week out. … he’s such a great teacher and leader for young guy.

• On quarterback progress under Heupel:

“Those guys in the quarterback room, since we’ve started in January, they’ve outworked everybody in the program. To play really well at that position you need 10 guys playing well around them also, but there’s ownership in protecting the football. There’s ownership in making sure that you’ve done everything in the week to prepare yourself to lead an offense. Those guys have embraced that. They know what it takes to put in the time that’s needed to play efficiently. Because josh was such a great quarterback and he’s coached a lot of really good ones over the years, he’s got a pretty good plan on what they have to get done on a Sunday, the checklist you have during the week to have a chance.”
• On freshman running back Damarea Crockett:

"He’s a talented kid. For us his running style has fit into what we’re doing schematically. He’s 220, 225 pounds. He’s learning to run with the right pad level. A lot of times you get guys who had success in high school and they’re able to run away from guys. Damarea has got good speed. He doesn’t have great speed. It’s been a learning process for him to know when to put foot his foot in the ground and get north and south and get his pad level right. He’s picked up the offense. His football IQ is really, really high. He’s got the ability to end up being a really good player. He works the right way on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in practice. He understands this team is leaning and relying on him. he’s going to play meaningful snaps as we move forward."

• On LSU’s midseason coaching change from Les Miles to Ed Orgeron:

“I’ve got such great respect for Coach Miles and respect for Ed. I know he’ll have them ready to play. It’s a great environment like everyone’s talked about. Our kids are anxious to have the chance to go compete. … I’ve been through a coaching change during the season. I understand how that goes. At the end of the day at 6:30 on Saturday night I’m suggesting both sides will be ready to play."

• On adjusting to LSU’s offensive changes:

“Just like ay week you go into the game with what you think you know, what you game plan, what you study, what you see, what you know. The percentages, you match them up, take all the information you can get from their previous games. You mix and match and go back and study as much as you can from previous years, see if that matches up to what they’re doing currently. Then you always have to make in-game adjustments. You’re making adjustments every drive — or I did as coordinator and still feel the same way. You’ve got your core beliefs and systems and values in how you run things, but then also you’ve got to do such a great job being a great teacher and putting your kids in position to have success. There’s sometimes it’s a chess match. The change on the other side varies. That’s every week.”
Mizzou’s proposed free speech policy is constitutional but confusing
By Catherine Sevcenko, 7 hrs ago

“Less is more,” as my 10th grade teacher used to say. It’s advice the University of Missouri should take as it solicits feedback this month on a newly revised free speech policy.

The nonpartisan Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, where I work, rates university policies that regulate speech. We would give Mizzou’s draft policy a “green light” rating — our highest — because students generally are allowed to speak their minds on campus. Mizzou deserves kudos for paying attention to student speech rights.

But we have our concerns. Our worry is that the policy as a whole will end up chilling speech because of its sheer complexity. The proposed free speech policy spans 30 pages. While attorneys may find this length perfectly reasonable, students shouldn’t have to wade through a tome to express themselves. After all, the law of the land governing free expression — the First Amendment — is only 45 words long.

At the very least, the university’s detailed policy could be made more accessible to students by including frequently asked questions or an executive summary. But it’s one thing to critique a policy and quite another to write one. To do our part, FIRE has created an edited, streamlined draft of the policy to make it easier to understand. Check it out on our website. And if you like our version more, encourage Mizzou to adopt it.

Our edits took aim at three main sources of lawyerly verbiage.

First, we cut unnecessary provisions. Students don’t need repeated warnings against destroying property, causing injury, creating safety hazards or engaging in other unlawful action. They
should presumably know better — and if they don’t, other university regulations already prohibit such behavior.

Second, we dialed down the excessive detail. Trying to anticipate every contingency ends up creating more confusion. The draft policy contains prohibitions banning “flashing signs” and forbidding “demonstrations, protests, rallies, vigils, or assemblies.” What about sit-ins, conferences and get-togethers? Again: Less is more, and a little common sense can go a long way.

Third, we ditched the rules that would just expand the university bureaucracy. For instance, the policy designated seven different “coordinators” who approve use of university space under their control. If a student wants to set up a table outside the student union, she must notify one person; if she wants to do the exact same thing someplace else, she must deal with another administrator. A centralized sign-up system would be easier for students, avoid confusion and make more sense.

The committee’s task wasn’t easy. In addition to navigating student demands, political pressure following last fall’s protests, and an apparent need to placate existing bureaucratic fiefdoms, the committee also had to comply with the Campus Free Expression Act. The act drastically changed the landscape for free speech at Missouri’s public colleges when it was passed in summer 2015, with bipartisan support and input from FIRE.

By prohibiting public universities from establishing “free speech zones” — tiny areas on campus where students must go to express themselves — the law paved the way for the student protests last fall that sparked a national conversation on race.

On the other side, student activists want more leeway, demanding the right to camp out or occupy buildings. The policy’s restrictions, such as forbidding tent cities or requiring students to leave buildings after closing hour, are reasonable because those activities may raise health and safety concerns or result in property damage.
In the end, however, the clash of ideas is not something to be fixed or managed — it is the university’s contribution to society. Mizzou’s draft has much that should be commended. But it can and should be improved. Mizzou should lead the way by revising its draft policy so that students can easily follow it, thus creating a model for other schools to emulate.

**Mizzou athletics receives $1.675 million gift for football stadium, other projects**

By Tod Palmer

Missouri athletics announced a $1.675 million gift Wednesday from an anonymous donor. The bulk of that money — $1 million — is earmarked for the planned football-specific facility to be built in Memorial Stadium’s south end zone.

Last week, new Tigers athletic director Jim Sterk said that project, which received a boost with a $10 million donation from the Kansas City Sports Trust earlier this month, would be designed by Kansas City-based HOK.

“This is exactly the shot in the arm we need to keep that moving forward,” Sterk said. “Our donor is really pleased to be involved in helping us transform our facilities, and is excited about the future of our football program.”

The proposed $75 million upgrade is expected to include infrastructure improvements, additional premium seating, locker rooms, meeting rooms, a weight room, training facility and coaches’ offices.

“Our donors are amazing with the passion they have for Mizzou and for our program,” first-year Mizzou coach Barry Odom said. “This is the type of support we need to keep things rolling, and I can’t thank our donor enough for their generosity.”

According to a release from Mizzou, the remaining $675,000 will “be used for other Athletics initiatives,” which were specified.
MU receives $1.7 million donation; most will go to Memorial Stadium expansion

HAOTIAN MAI, 16 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — An anonymous donor has given $1.7 million to the MU athletics department, MU announced in a news release Wednesday.

The largest chunk of the donation — $1 million — will go toward the construction of a new facility at the south end of Memorial Stadium. The remaining money will go to other athletics initiatives.

Earlier this month, the department received a $10 million gift from the Kansas City Sports Trust, an anonymous group known for its long history of big donations to MU Athletics.

"We are so grateful for this very generous gift," Athletics Director Jim Sterk said in the release. "It is critical to keep momentum building with our drive for new facilities, and this is exactly the shot in the arm we need to keep that moving forward."

The department is waiting to approve and finalize its plans for the facilities before revealing them at a later date.
Rebecca Bustamante, an associate professor of educational leadership at Sam Houston State University, says students have a tendency to shut down when talking about race during class discussions, which can be a challenge when you are teaching a course about diversity issues. And the challenges increase when the course is taught online.

Ms. Bustamante has developed some strategies over the years, but she wondered if other professors had come up with approaches to make online discussions on touchy subjects go smoothly. So she put the question on our continuing feature where we ask readers to suggest stories.

Courses about understanding diversity are standard in education and educational-leadership programs. The professors who teach them say they haven’t had many
problems in their online courses, but they are aware that personal attacks and conflicts are a possibility. To them, building an online community and establishing trust are critical to keeping the courses on track.

The professors also say their students are more open and honest about their thoughts and experiences, something they chalk up to the online environment, where students are freed from the awkwardness of confronting difficult topics in person.

And while it might seem counterintuitive to teach diversity through an online format, Ricardo Montelongo, an assistant professor of educational leadership at Sam Houston State, says it’s doable. "You just have to do it innovatively and in a way that isn’t what you probably think an online course is," he says.

But the online environment isn’t ideal. Shavonna Holman, an assistant professor of educational administration at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, says she would prefer to teach her course, called "Diversity and Equity in Education," in a face-to-face setting.

"Being face-to-face, you are actually able to hear and see the passion," she says. "Not having that face-to-face connection inhibits the class a little bit."

**Using Video**

Mr. Montelongo and the other professors argue that for diversity courses, it’s particularly important for students to see and hear their instructor and one another. They turn to video to bring body language into the online classroom.

Erin McHenry-Sorber, an assistant professor of higher-education administration at West Virginia University, says some weeks, she requires students to all gather at the same time over an online videoconference system, which allows them to have a real-time discussion and get to know one another.

"While at first it might seem that the online format is a little distant in terms of creating community, in fact, we are seeing each other in our spaces," Ms. McHenry-Sorber says. "I have students who are participating from the kitchen table. I have students who are participating from their bedrooms. It’s actually a really intimate space where we get to know one another in ways that we wouldn’t in a brick-and-mortar classroom."

Paul Eaton, an assistant professor of educational leadership at Sam Houston, teaches a course called "Diverse College Students" in which he allows his students to respond to discussion-board prompts by recording a video.
"I’m finding that some of my students are starting to gravitate toward the video responses because it does allow them to put a face to a name," Mr. Eaton says. "It allows them to engage in a conversation that feels more real, as opposed to just like reading static text on a page."

Ms. Holman, at Nebraska, wants her students to know that she’s a real person rather than a robot who posts topics and grades assignments. So when she records a video, she says that if she messes up or if the phone rings, she keeps recording and leaves in those imperfections.

In Mr. Montelongo’s class, students know that they are going to see his face each week, when he previews the lesson and in the discussion boards. He says professors cannot be invisible while teaching this type of course. "Let the students see who you are," he says. "Let the students see and hear your emotions. You have to share some bits of yourself."

**Setting Expectations**

It can be a challenge, however, to get the students to participate in class discussions over video chat, says Ms. McHenry-Sorber.

Sometimes students prefer to write their thoughts in online discussion boards, where they have time to think through and edit their responses, and hopefully avoid off-the-cuff remarks that unintentionally offend others.

Whatever the medium, professors argue that it is important to set expectations early about class behavior and civility, defining clear ground rules. That way, students feel they’re in a safe space.

For instance, Ms. McHenry-Sorber says she begins the term by telling her students: "We are going to be talking about things that are really sensitive to certain people, and we may not even realize it. And we all come from different backgrounds and have different experiences. We need to think that while this space might not always be comfortable, it needs to be respectful. If someone says something that offends you, let’s have a conversation about it."

Mr. Montelongo says he includes a respect-for-diversity statement in his syllabus, which is hard to miss, since it shows up in the first lesson and in a quiz.

Beyond that opening talk, Mr. Montelongo and others say they are actively involved in the discussion boards.
"I tell my students, I’m the ghost in the discussion boards,” Mr. Montelongo says. "I’m always hovering. I’m there, and if you don’t participate, you are going to find out because I’ll send you an email."

In Ms. Holman’s course, she assigns different roles to the students. Someone might play devil’s advocate in the discussion board one week, while another would be assigned to kick off the thread in a creative way.

These days there’s no shortage of real-world examples when discussing issues of diversity, and engaging with those makes the course more relevant to students.

Mr. Montelongo and his colleague Mr. Eaton are looking to conduct a study on the experiences of students who go through online diversity courses. They hope to start collecting data at the end of the year.

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**When Conference Speakers Offend**

After controversial remarks about reproduction at one conference and gay people at another, scholarly groups consider whether they have an obligation to apologize for what was said or whether doing so constitutes censorship.

**No MU Mention**

Philosophers are used to hearing and debating controversial ideas. But recent keynote speeches by philosophers at two different conferences -- including one talk that referred to being gay as a “disability” -- have some scholars wondering where the boundary between controversial thought and bigotry lies. Others say criticizing invited conference speakers amounts to censorship.

In the first instance, at the Society for Analytical Feminism’s annual conference two weeks ago, Tommie Shelby (right), Caldwell Titcomb Professor of African and African-American Studies and of Philosophy at Harvard University, based his address on his forthcoming book, *Dark Ghettos*. Part of his argument was that ethical responsibilities, including those related to procreation, can’t be ignored because one is oppressed.
Shelby did not respond to a request for comment, but some accounts of the event suggest that he was most offensive not during the talk itself, but during a question-and-answer period. One self-identified “poor black woman who was there” wrote in a comment on the popular philosophy blog Daily Nous that when asked about his methodology and the context of his arguments about reproductive ethics, Shelby dismissed such questions by saying he was “just trying to do philosophy.” It came across as “effectively demeaning the questions being posed to him and implying that those (black women) who were raising particular issues were not doing philosophy,” the attendee wrote.

“Last time I checked, metaphilosophical and intrinsic critiques do qualify as philosophy,” she added. “No, the issue is not the notion that ‘the oppressed have moral duties, too.’ Shelby actively silenced and belittled black women during a keynote where black women’s bodies were the object of discussion. That is offensive.”

Other attendees balked at the discussion, at least enough so that conference organizers sent out an email asking for feedback. It’s been reported that they apologized for Shelby’s talk, which has prompted another wave of criticism that such an apology amounted to censorship of an invited speaker.

Conference organizers maintain that they did not apologize for controversial philosophy, but rather apologized more generally about how the discussion was handled.

**Distance vs. Censorship**

The second instance happened at last week’s Society of Christian Philosophers’ Midwest conference. Richard Swinburne (right), professor emeritus of philosophy at the University of Oxford, reportedly referred to being gay as a “disability” and an “incurable condition.”

J. Edward Hackett, a senior lecturer in philosophy at the University of Akron, was in attendance and wrote that he was immediately offended. While Swinburne said he did not think homosexuality was intrinsically wrong in the same way that adultery was wrong, Hackett explained in a blog post, “he argued (if that’s the right verb under some principle of charity) that homosexuality was extrinsically wrong. Homosexuality was a disability in the lacking of the ability to have children, and God’s commands of abstaining from homosexuality might prevent others from fostering this incurable condition in others.”

Hackett said he told Swinburne that he’d effectively “medicalized being gay in the same way that phrenology medicalized racism.”

In a public Facebook post, Michael Rea, professor of philosophy at the University of Notre Dame and society president, expressed his “regret regarding the hurt” Swinburne’s comments caused. Rea said those views are not those of the society itself, and while its membership “is broadly united by way of religious faith, the views of our members are otherwise diverse.”

Rea said that society president, he is “committed to promoting the intellectual life of our philosophical community. Consequently (among other reasons), I am committed to the values of
diversity and inclusion. As an organization, we have fallen short of those ideals before, and surely we will again. Nonetheless, I will strive for them going forward.”

Rea received praise for his comments, but also criticism. More than 70 scholars signed an open letter saying that while Swinburne’s “disability” reference was fraught, it’s a violation of academic freedom to chide an invited speaker to a conference on Christian philosophy for defending traditional Christian views on sexuality.

“Given that the [society] feels the need to apologize when one of the world’s premier philosophers defends what has been the standard Christian view for two millennia,” the letter says, “one wonders if the apology is meant to suggest that papers defending any doctrine or philosophical view that might prove offensive to someone wouldn’t be welcome at [society] conferences in the future.”

Yoram Hazony, a Jewish philosopher and president of the Herzl Institute, a research institute in Jerusalem, also said, as reported by The American Conservative, that it “hurts to see [Swinburne] being shamed in this way for taking a side in a philosophical and religious controversy. What are we trying to do -- create a world in which philosophers are only permitted to express certain views? Isn’t the traditional response to write an essay arguing with him, rather than posting an apology?”

Rea declined immediate comment on the matter, and Swinburne did not immediately respond to a request for comment.


Shared Governance, Not Shared Power
Survey of presidents and trustees shows they value relationships with faculty members and want to improve them, but within some limits.

No MU Mention
When it comes to shared governance, is OK good enough? That’s the question behind -- and the title of -- a new report from the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. It’s based in part on input from a focus group of faculty members, conducted earlier this year in conjunction with the American Association of University Professors. Three hundred presidents and several thousand board members weighed in via surveys; their feedback makes up the bulk of the report.

The answer to the shared governance question? Not quite. While most presidents and board members from both public and private institutions believe that shared governance is working adequately, they believe it could be more effective. Some 95 percent of board members said that shared governance is a very important or moderately important component of decision making on their campuses, and they also overwhelmingly said that it’s important or moderately important to higher education overall.

At the same time, very few presidents or board members see shared governance as sharing “equal rights” with other constituencies, including faculty members. The majority of respondents said it should work as a system of aligning priorities.

More than 80 percent of trustee and president respondents said they support faculty members’ role in overseeing academic programs. A smaller percentage, but still a significant majority, said that faculty members respect their role in overseeing their institutions. Interestingly, board members had a less positive view of administrative support for their authority.

“If it ever worked easily in the past (and such an assumption is speculative), in today’s environment, shared governance requires renewed effort to function well,” reads the report. “Governing boards and presidents report strong interest in developing high-functioning shared governance,” which “should be an essential institutional asset.”
Yet “careful board, president and faculty leadership is needed to prevent it from becoming a liability,” the report says.

The majority of presidents and board members also reported that discussions of difficult matters among the board, faculty and administration are conducted in good faith, with trust.

At the same time, the survey also made clear that presidents think board and faculty members would benefit from better understanding each other's roles. Only about 30 percent of presidents reported that the typical board member understands the work of the faculty well or very well, and only about 20 percent said that the typical faculty member understands the work of the board well or very well.

“That is, presidents perceived board members to have greater awareness of faculty responsibilities than the reverse, although in neither case was the answer impressive,” the report says. “Perhaps more remarkable is the tepid degree to which presidents believed members of either group typically understand the work of the other.”

One major area of concern is how the changing faculty role -- namely the decline of full-time, tenure-line positions -- is affecting shared governance. Some 50 percent of presidents at both public and private institutions said their policies related to shared governance haven’t changed, despite the dramatic shift toward part-time, non-tenure-track instructors, who historically have been shut out of institutional decision making.

Improving shared governance is major focus for AGB at the moment; it’s working on a white paper on the topic and has commissioned a book. Calling the matter “puzzling” in light of the changing faculty role, Susan Whealler Johnston, AGB’s executive vice president and CEO, said, “We know it’s particularly important to have effective shared governance, but we’re not sure how effective it is right now.”