MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

October 4, 2016
Many Moms Still Face Major Barriers to Breastfeeding at Work

*Despite Affordable Care Act regulations, employers still aren’t proactive about giving women the time and space they need.*

Generated from News Bureau press release: **Rural Employers Failing to Meet Needs of Working Breastfeeding Mothers**

Despite national requirements designed to protect the rights of breastfeeding moms in the workplace, many women still face an uphill battle when it comes to pumping on the job.

**Most employers in rural, low-income communities are aware of breastfeeding regulations, finds a new study by University of Missouri researchers, but aren’t making resources available to their employees unless they’re directly asked. The study also found that many women are met with unsupportive attitudes—even ridicule—when they do bring it up.**

This shouldn’t be the case, of course: The Affordable Care Act requires companies of more than 50 employees to provide space and time for mothers to breastfeed during the first year of their babies’ lives. That means designated lactation rooms and “reasonable breaks” for pumping; bathrooms aren’t good enough, the law states, not even private ones.

But four years after the ACA’s implementation, when researchers interviewed 17 workplace managers and 17 female employees in a rural Missouri community, they found that employers often did not comply with the law, did not provide information to new mothers about their rights, and did not foster environments that were accepting or encouraging of breastfeeding.

The study focused on low-income mothers: All of those interviewed were beneficiaries of the federal WIC assistance program who had breastfed in the past two years. They all had at least a high-school education, were between 20
and 30 years old, and worked in a variety of job sectors, including education, health, retail, and manufacturing.

While new moms of all demographics and economic status can face challenges to breastfeeding—including rude coworkers and lack of accommodations—this group may be particularly vulnerable, says study co-author Wilson Majee, Ph.D., assistant professor of health sciences in the MU School of Health Professions.

“I think most of it has to do with the education of these women, and them not knowing what their rights are,” he says. “Many of their coworkers are not well educated, as well, so the value they attach to breastfeeding is of less importance when compared to people with more education.”

Most of the employers interviewed said they wanted to provide assistance to their employees, but only did so on a case-by-case basis. “If requested, most of them are willing to support breastfeeding,” Majee says. “But they’re looking at it from a business and a financial perspective: If they don’t ask for it, why worry about it.”

None of the managers interviewed proactively encouraged the practice of pumping at work. “We found that employers often saw breastfeeding as a personal decision, and therefore were unwilling to bring up the issue to their employees,” Majee says, “even at crucial moments, such as when mothers file the required paperwork for family medical leave.”

In some cases, bathrooms were offered as spaces for women to pump. (In others, employers volunteered the use of their own offices.) Some mothers reported being reprimanded for taking longer than their allotted 15 minutes off-the-clock, or having to choose between pumping and eating during their one break of the day.

One of the study’s most disturbing interviews comes from a woman who worked at a retail grocery store. “[My coworkers] use it as a joke,” she wrote. “When I’m pumping they... knock on the door and... move my stuff ... I have to pump in a bathroom, I have an extension cord from our break room into the bathroom, and ... they ... unplug it on me.” Her supervisor also reportedly told her, “Must be nice to ... sit in the bathroom and not have to do anything ...”

Majee says that collaborations between rural health agencies and local employers are needed to help create family-friendly environments. He also says that workplaces should initiate discussions with their
employees *before* they give birth, instead of relying on new moms to bring it up themselves. “These women often feel that their breastfeeding needs are a burden for their employers, rather than a workplace right,” he says.

He also encourages employees in all types of workplaces to speak up. “Women need to be informed and be able to ask if they need support from their employer—they should have that voice to be able to get the services required for them,” he says.

Just over half of American infants born in 2012 were breastfed for six months, and only 29 percent for a full year. (The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends breastfeeding exclusively for the first six months of life, with continued breastfeeding up to a year or longer.) Rural mothers are less likely than their urban counterparts to breastfeed in the first place, especially those participating in the WIC program.

“Although the decision to breastfeed is usually a personal one, the choice not to breastfeed is often shaped by an interplay of multiple factors,” the study authors wrote. Among those factors, they cite poor education and living conditions, lack of workplace support, and lack of community collaboration on social issues.

And while there are a lot of myths and misconceptions about breastfeeding out there, the science is clear that there are real health benefits—for both baby *and* mom.

In fact, a new study from the University of North Carolina suggests that breastfeeding could literally save lives: Those researchers estimated that, compared with the United States' current “suboptimal” breastfeeding rates, breastfeeding as recommended could prevent more than 3,340 premature deaths every year.
The Truth About The Alkaline Water Trend

Generated from a News Bureau expert pitch

As soda taxes go into effect and fancy juices get called out for being sugar bombs, people are more aware than ever that when it comes to healthy beverages, water is best. But lest we leave well enough alone, there’s a new trend claiming to make the healthiest beverage even healthier: alkaline water.

Chances are you’ve seen it gracing the front shelves of your grocery store (especially if you shop at an all-natural, organic joint), and heard about celebrities like Miranda Kerr and celeb trainers like Anna Kaiser drinking it in bulk. But why? What’s the deal with this special H2O and should we choose it over the regular stuff? We break it down, drop by drop.

What is alkaline water and what does it do?

Simply put, alkaline water has a higher pH than regular water. “PH is the measure of the hydrogen ion concentration in a solution,” explains Pamela Hinton, Ph.D., associate professor of nutrition and exercise physiology at the University of Missouri. “The pH scale ranges from 0 to 14. The more hydrogen ions, the more acidic the solution, and the lower the pH.”

Anything with a pH below 7 is considered acidic and anything above a 7 pH is referred to as basic. Pure tap water that comes out of your faucet has a pH level of 7, which is considered neutral—neither acidic nor basic. Bottled water can vary by a few pH units ranging from 6.5 to 8.5.

The story continues: http://www.self.com/story/alkaline-water-benefits-myth-fact
University of Missouri presidential search meetings to be held in Kansas City

The effort to hire a new University of Missouri president continues this week with two days of meetings at a Kansas City airport hotel followed by the regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Curators on Thursday and Friday.

The 16-member Presidential Search Committee, which includes the nine curators who will make the final selection, will begin meeting with a brief open session at 8 a.m. Tuesday at the Kansas City Airport Marriott Hotel, followed by closed sessions Tuesday and Wednesday.

The curators are scheduled to meet on the University of Missouri-Kansas City campus.

Exactly where the search stands is unclear after four days of candidate interviews last month in St. Louis. The committee met with about a dozen semi-finalists. The next step is supposed to be re-interviewing finalists, but university spokesman John Fougere was unable in an email to say whether that phase has been reached.

“The committee continues to move forward in the process and are feeling very good about progress being made,” Fougere wrote.

The search committee is led by former curator Cheryl Walker, a St. Louis attorney, and Jim Whitaker, an orthopedic surgeon from Kansas City. Walker and Whitaker are alumni representatives on the committee, which also includes two faculty representatives, a staff representative, the student representative to the curators and a second student. All members will vote on the finalists and the candidate recommended for the job, with the final selection up to the curators.

The committee set a goal of selecting a permanent replacement for Tim Wolfe by the end of the year. Wolfe resigned Nov. 9 under pressure from Concerned Student 1950 protests over racial issues on the Columbia campus. Interim President Mike Middleton, called from retirement to take over the university, has said on several occasions that he does not want the job on a permanent basis.

One element of the time pressure on the curators is the election of a new governor. Two curators will leave the board when their terms expire Jan. 1, and three others are serving under appointments made by Gov. Jay Nixon after the General Assembly adjourned for the year. The
governor elected Nov. 8 will have the power to withdraw those three appointments after being inaugurated and select a majority of the board immediately.

The committee will not have any public events with finalists, instead intending to keep the names of candidates and the individual selected a secret until the curators have voted.

Mizzou suspends fraternity for 'hazing incident' involving alcohol

Columbia, Mo., police are investigating an incident that led the University of Missouri-Columbia to temporarily suspend a fraternity Monday.

Mizzou officials were mum about what happened during “a hazing incident” involving the Kappa Alpha fraternity.

According to Columbia police, an assault was reported Thursday at the fraternity house at 1301 University Avenue “for a subject from the house drinking to the point of being transported by ambulance to a local hospital.”

The subject was 18 years old, police said. The drinking happened about 11 p.m. Tuesday, and the subject was taken to the hospital about 10:30 a.m. the next day.

Officer Latisha Stroer from the Columbia Police Department said the subject’s condition was unknown. She couldn’t say who reported the incident.

“On Thursday, Kappa Alpha Order temporarily suspended our chapter at the University of Missouri to investigate an alcohol incident, and allegations of hazing,” the group said in a statement. “Misuse of alcohol, and hazing, are each contrary to our values and are strictly and expressly prohibited by Kappa Alpha Order. We are in close cooperation with the University in this situation.”

Suspension by Mizzou means the fraternity cannot participate in homecoming events later this month.

In a statement, Mizzou officials said, “The action will not affect individual member’s abilities to attend classes and continue their academic progress this semester.”
Another Fraternity At Mizzou Temporarily Suspended


COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri-Columbia says it has temporarily suspended a fraternity after a hazing incident.

The university on Monday announced the action against the Kappa Alpha fraternity but provided no details about the alleged hazing that occurred last week.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports the action comes after police investigated a report last week of an underage student who was taken from the fraternity to a hospital with alcohol poisoning.

Police spokeswoman Latisha Stroer says the investigation into that incident is ongoing.

A second fraternity, Delta Upsilon, was temporarily suspended last week after members were accused of yelling racist and sexist slurs at black students outside the fraternity house. That investigation also is ongoing.

Similar broadcast stories ran in the following areas:

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Columbus, GA
University of Missouri suspends fraternity over hazing incident

A University of Missouri fraternity was temporarily suspended Monday for a hazing incident less than a week after police investigated a report of an underage student who was taken to a hospital with alcohol poisoning.

The Columbia Police Department received a call Thursday to investigate an assault at Kappa Alpha fraternity, 1301 University Ave., for a “subject from the house drinking to the point of being transported by ambulance to a local hospital,” department spokeswoman Latisha Stroer wrote in an email to the Tribune. “The subject was 18 years old.”

The investigation is ongoing, and Stroer did not provide additional details.

At 10:19 a.m. Wednesday, Columbia firefighters and emergency medical personnel responded to the Kappa Alpha house for a medical emergency. At the scene, firefighters assisted EMTs in lifting an unconscious patient onto a stretcher and drove the ambulance to University Hospital so medical personnel could work on the patient, fire department Battalion Chief Brad Frazier said Monday.

A statement issued Monday by the MU News Bureau did not give any details of the events that were considered hazing.

“What is in the statement is what we have right now,” spokesman Christian Basi said in an interview. “The office of student conduct will be reviewing the incident and taking appropriate action.”

The temporary suspension is the second imposed on a fraternity within a week. The Delta Upsilon fraternity was temporarily suspended Wednesday while the university investigates an incident in which members were accused of directing racist and sexist slurs at black students outside the fraternity house on Tiger Avenue.

The MU student handbook defines hazing as “an act that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or an act that is likely to cause physical or psychological harm to any person within the University community, or that destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization.”
A state law passed in 1987 made hazing a crime. Hazing behavior, as defined in law, includes “physical brutality, whipping, beating, branding, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or forced smoking or chewing of tobacco products.”

A violation that endangers the life of a student is a Class C felony, punishable by as much as seven years in state prison.

Jacob Lee, president of the Kappa Alpha chapter, declined to comment on the incident or the suspension. “Please contact our National Office for information regarding the matter,” he wrote.

**MISSOURIAN**

**UPDATE: Hazing incident results in Kappa Alpha suspension at MU**

ALEXANDER RANSOM, Updated 19 hrs ago

Updated Information:

This story was updated to describe the hazing incident and to include a statement from the Kappa Alpha Order.

COLUMBIA — **MU has suspended the Kappa Alpha fraternity for a hazing report.**

*Columbia Police Department spokeswoman Latisha Stroer said police responded to a report of an assault Thursday at the fraternity house on 1301 University Avenue.*

The 18-year-old subject had been "drinking to the point of being transported by ambulance to a local hospital," Stroer said in an email.

The investigation is ongoing.

Jesse Lyons, the Kappa Alpha Order's assistant executive director for advancement, said in an emailed statement: "Misuse of alcohol, and hazing, are each contrary to our values and are
strictly and expressly prohibited by Kappa Alpha Order. We are in close cooperation with the University in this situation."

Fraternities that are suspended are not allowed to participate in campus activities, including Homecoming or social events, according to a news release from the MU News Bureau.

Individual members, however, are not prohibited from attending classes.

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=ef95aa2c-12bf-4200-bd23-78b55ae50195

COLUMBIA, Mo. - University officials confirmed on Monday an MU frat has been temporarily suspended because of a hazing incident.

That means Kappa Alpha fraternity can no longer be a part of campus activities like Homecoming. However, students can still go to class.

Leaders said they will start the "appropriate procedure" to decide the future status of the fraternity within seven business days.

ABC 17 dug into dispatch reports and confirmed, Columbia Police Officers also responded to an assault report last week at Kappa Alpha.

Police say officers responded to 1301 University Avenue around 1:46 p.m. Thursday for a subject who had been drinking to the point of being taken in an ambulance to a local hospital.

Police say the subject is 18 years old and the investigation is ongoing.

It is still unclear if this incident is related to the reported hazing incident that led to Kappa Alpha's temporary suspension.
In 2015, the interfraternity council banned hard liquor from fraternity houses. ABC 17 reached out to the council today but was unable to get an answer.

ABC 17 News reached out to the Kappa Alpha National organization for comment in a statement that reads," Kappa Alpha Order temporarily suspended our chapter at the University of Missouri to investigate an alcohol incident, and allegations of hazing. Misuse of alcohol, and hazing, are each contrary to our values and are strictly and expressly prohibited by Kappa Alpha Order."

Although Greek organizations live off campus, they are still sanctioned by the University. Christian Basi, MU spokesperson, said in the instance of a fraternity getting suspended, "means they can no longer use our facilities, they can no longer take part in school activities, and those types of things. This helps us keep some control over some of their actions." The University says punishment can range anywhere from a written warning to a ban of the organization.

To get back to 'active' status, all depends on the outcome of the investigation.

MU suspends fraternity for hazing

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=83d8f46b-b66b-4bfc-bb08-cb01dc897a35

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri announced Monday that it will temporarily suspend the Kappa Alpha chapter in response to a hazing incident.

The news release did not specify the nature of the hazing incident, or the number of fraternity members who may have been involved.

Jesse Lyons, Assistant Executive Director for Advancement for Kappa Alpha, sent the following statement to KOMU 8 on Monday:

“On Thursday, Kappa Alpha Order temporarily suspended our chapter at the University of Missouri to investigate an alcohol incident, and allegations of hazing. Misuse of alcohol, and hazing, are each contrary to our values and are strictly and expressly prohibited by Kappa Alpha Order. We are in close cooperation with the University in this situation.”
While under suspension, the chapter of the Kappa Alpha Order will be barred from participating in campus activities. Most notably, the fraternity cannot participate in Homecoming festivities later this month.

The suspension does not encompass daily academic activities; individual members of the fraternity can still attend class.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said the procedure to determine the future of the chapter will begin within the next seven business days.

On Monday, the Columbia Police Department confirmed that last week an 18-year-old at Kappa Alpha drank so much he had to be hospitalized. Police said it's unclear whether this was the same incident which led to the fraternity's suspension.

**MU temporarily suspends fraternity after hazing report**


COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri officials announced Monday that the Kappa Alpha fraternity has been temporarily suspended due to an alleged hazing incident, according to a university release.

The university had just temporarily suspended the Delta Upsilon fraternity Wednesday after a reported incident of students using racial slurs.

A fraternity on temporary suspension is no longer allowed to participate in campus activities, including Homecoming and social events, the release stated.

The action does affect individual members’ abilities to attend classes and continue their academic progress this semester.
Teen hospitalized after drinking at Mizzou fraternity house

COLUMBIA — The Columbia Police Department has opened an investigation into an incident at a University of Missouri fraternity house that sent a teenager to the hospital.

According to Public Information Officer Latisha Stroer, at around 1:45 p.m. on September 29, officers were called to the Kappa Alpha fraternity house at 1301 University Avenue for a report of an assault. When officers arrived, they found an 18-year-old who had been drinking and needed to be taken to a local hospital.

Stroer said the drinking incident occurred on Tuesday, September 27 at around 11 p.m.

The day before, officers were called to the same location to assist the fire department and EMS. However, firefighters and paramedics later disregarded the need of officers.

National fraternity suspends University of Missouri Kappa Alpha chapter over hazing charge

The national fraternity office of Kappa Alpha Order on Thursday temporarily suspended its University of Missouri chapter after allegations of hazing and a report of an alcohol overdose.

The national organization is investigating the allegations, Jesse Lyons, assistant executive director for advancement, wrote in an email.
“Misuse of alcohol, and hazing, are each contrary to our values and are strictly and expressly prohibited by Kappa Alpha Order,” Lyons wrote. “We are in close cooperation with the university in this situation.”

Columbia police on Thursday afternoon were called to the chapter house at 1301 University Ave. to investigate a report of an 18-year-old student who was hospitalized because of alcohol intoxication. A patient was put on a stretcher at the chapter house and taken by ambulance Wednesday morning to University of Missouri Hospital, though a fire department spokesman did not elaborate about the student's medical problem.

MU announced Monday that it had placed the fraternity on temporary suspension, the second temporary suspension against a fraternity within a week. A temporary suspension means the fraternity cannot participate in campus events such as Homecoming or use campus facilities. The Office of Student Conduct will investigate the incident.

University of Missouri fraternity temporarily suspended for hazing

The University of Missouri in Columbia said it has temporarily suspended a fraternity after a hazing incident.

The university announced Monday the action against the Kappa Alpha fraternity but provided no details about the alleged hazing that occurred last week.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports the action comes after police investigated a report last week of an underage student who was taken from the fraternity to a hospital with alcohol poisoning.

Police spokeswoman Latisha Stroer said the investigation into that incident is ongoing.

A second fraternity, Delta Upsilon, was temporarily suspended last week after members were accused of yelling racist and sexist slurs at black students outside the fraternity house. The school’s investigation into those allegations is ongoing.
Kappa Alpha suspended after alleged hazing incident

The Kappa Alpha fraternity has been temporarily suspended following an alleged hazing incident, according to a statement released by the MU News Bureau.

Police were dispatched to the Kappa Alpha fraternity house at 1:46 p.m. on Sept. 29, Columbia Police Department. Police say an 18-year-old subject from the was transported to a local hospital by ambulance for alcohol poisoning. The investigation is currently ongoing.

It is unclear at this time how long the fraternity will be suspended.

“We don’t have a timeline on that,” MU spokesman Christian Basi said. “That will depend on how long the review or investigative process will take.”

While under suspension, the fraternity is banned from using university facilities or participating in social events, such as Homecoming. However, the suspension will not impact the ability of individual members to attend classes or participate in academic activities.

The incident will be investigated by the Office of Student Conduct, which will determine whether there is sufficient evidence to hold a hearing. The organization will have an opportunity to appeal the decision if it disagrees with what is found in the hearing.

Hazing is defined by the MU Student Handbook as “an act that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or an act that is likely to cause physical or psychological harm to any person within the University community, or that destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization.”

Kappa Alpha released a brief statement Monday supporting MU’s decision.

“Misuse of alcohol and hazing are each contrary to our values and are strictly and expressly prohibited by Kappa Alpha Order. We are in close cooperation with the University in this situation,” said Jesse Lyons, assistant executive director of the national Kappa Alpha Order.

The Interfraternity Council and MU’s Kappa Alpha chapter declined to comment on the incident.
School of Medicine students report incidents of sexist treatment from faculty

MU School of Medicine students reported over twice as many incidents of student mistreatment than the national average in 2015.

According to the 2015 Association of American Medical Colleges Graduate Questionnaire, in the School of Medicine, 22.4 percent of students reported occasional public humiliation during their time of enrollment. The national average is 10.3 percent.

Fifteen and a half percent of students reported feeling occasionally subjected to offensive, sexist remarks and names, compared to a national average of 7.63 percent, and 8.62 percent reported occasionally denied opportunities for training or rewards based on gender compared to a national average of 3.23 percent.

Although the survey reports that slight improvements have been made since the 2014 AAMC GQ, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education reported that student mistreatment reports do not meet expectations. Student testimonies were not provided in the document.

The LCME determined the School of Medicine to be unsatisfactory in the area of student treatment as well as diversity/pipeline programs and partnerships, curricular management and affiliation agreements in a June 2016 report. If no progress is made within a year, the school could be put on probation; in two years, it could lose its accreditation.

The 2015 questionnaire reported progress in faculty diversity since the 2008 survey. The number of African-American faculty doubled to 2.3 percent and Hispanic faculty grew to 2 percent. Previously, there had been no Hispanic faculty members and only one African American faculty member, equaling 1 percent of the faculty population in that area.

In the School of Medicine, any student that identifies as African American, Hispanic, Native American, socioeconomically disadvantaged or rural is considered a minority student. Minorities comprised 10.5 percent of first-year students in 2013.

Teresa Snow, the MU health corporate director of strategic communications and media relations, said in an email that the School of Medicine has seen a “marked increase” in the number of minority applicants in the past year.

“A total of 2,167 applications were received in 2016 for 104 open spots,” Snow said in the email. “Of this class, 27 percent of students self-identified as an ethnic minority.”
Dean Patrick Delafontaine said in a statement that the school has assembled a taskforce comprised of faculty, staff and students to make improvements. Delafontaine will hold a press conference in October to further discuss specific improvements being made.

“In June 2016, the University of Missouri School of Medicine received full accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education and we do not expect that to change,” Delafontaine said in the statement.

MISSOURIAN

Rowden aims to strengthen ethics in Missouri legislature

JANIE MATTHEWS, 16 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Rep. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, spent this past legislative session working to improve the ethics in Missouri's legislature.

Those efforts were met with mixed success, and political scientists question whether the end result will have much impact.

Rowden, currently in the running for the Missouri Senate, guided two major ethics bills through the legislature during the last session. He co-sponsored one that would ban lobbyist gifts, and sponsored another that would close the "revolving door" between being a legislator and becoming a lobbyist.

The House passed the bills with little resistance, but both stalled in the Senate. The Senate watered down Rowden's original proposal for a two-year "cooling-off" period for legislators to six months. The lobbyist gift ban was taken up for debate but never passed.

Rowden said he's hopeful the gift ban will have more success during the next legislative session.

"It's my hope that if we pass it this year, that's the form that it stays in, and we just kind of rip the Band-Aid off, and we ban them and move on," Rowden said.
Under current law, there is no ban on lobbyist gifts in Missouri. Other states have more stringent laws. In Kansas, gifts cannot exceed $40, according to the Kansas legislature's website.

**MU political science professor Peverill Squire said a gift ban is ultimately just for show.**

"It won't dramatically change anybody's behavior," Squire said.

Rowden said lobbyist gifts have decreased considerably since the bill first came into play in January.

"I think it being more in the spotlight, I think has caused some behaviors to change," Rowden said.

According to the Missouri Ethics Commission, lobbyists spent $484,619.34 on gifts for legislators during the 2015 legislative session. In 2016, that amount went down to $395,483.50.

Squire said Missouri's ethics laws are weaker than other states, a sentiment Gov. Jay Nixon has echoed. He cited ethics reform as a priority during his January State of the State address.

"Most states have stronger ethics laws than Missouri does," Squire said. "They're not perfect, and they don't cure all the problems, but Missouri is suffering from certainly the appearance of a great deal of impropriety."

Beth Rosenson, a political science professor at the University of Florida, said gift bans are full of loopholes. For example, even with a ban, a legislator could take a gift from a friend who is also affiliated with the legislature.

"It gets into a gray area when a legislator says he was taking the gift strictly as a friend and was not influenced unduly," Rosenson said.

Rosenson said the strength of a state's ethics laws depends on the strength of the state's ethics commission.
"If the commission is weak, then it really doesn't matter what the laws say," Rosenson said.

Thad Kousser, a professor of political science at the University of California-San Diego, said he thinks Missouri's lack of legislation on lobbyist gifts could lead to corruption.

"It leaves wide open one door of potential corruption from interests groups," said Kousser, who used to be a legislative staffer. "But, there are, of course, many other doors."

Rowden's revolving door measure took effect Aug. 28, but there is no consensus about whether it will be effective.

Kousser said revolving door bills have caused controversy across the nation because some think they may not be effective. Even if Rowden's original two-year "cooling-off period" had passed, lobbyists and legislators might still maintain their connections, he said.

"In six months, will everyone have forgotten their personal relationships? Absolutely not," Kousser said. "But, after two years, they still won't have forgotten their relationships. In 10 years, they'll still remember those people."

Squire said that the six-month ban is insufficient. He called it a "token gesture."

Rep. Tony Dugger, R-Hartville, resigned on Aug. 19, nine days before the six-month ban took effect.

Rowden said he's disappointed the Senate reduced his proposed two-year waiting period.

"It certainly wasn't what I had hoped for. I think there were a lot of people in the House, me included, who were a little disappointed," Rowden said. "The Senate, I think, has some different ideas about what we should be doing in the ethics reform realm."

Rowden said he thinks, ultimately, the final version of the bill came down to the Senate simply wanting to pass something.
"I think more times than not, when you're faced with a decision of whether you're gonna pass something or pass nothing, I think more times than not it makes sense to pass something," Rowden said.


In the past, Webber has said he supports a gift ban, but has also said ethics reform is not complete without limits on campaign contributions. Webber did not respond to multiple requests to comment.

**Our Compelling Interests**
In new collection of essays, scholars make the case for diversity as essential to higher education and society generally.

**No MU Mention**

This summer, advocates for diversity in American higher education won a major victory when the Supreme Court upheld the right of colleges to consider race and ethnicity in admissions. This fall, American colleges have experienced numerous racist incidents, leaving many minority students angry and feeling unwelcome.

In this environment, leading scholars on race and the economy have contributed essays to a new collection, *Our Compelling Interests: The Value of Diversity for Democracy and a Prosperous Society* (Princeton University Press). Contributors include Marta Tienda of Princeton University, Kwame Anthony Appiah of New York University and Anthony P. Carnevale of Georgetown University.

The editors of the volume (who are also contributors) are Earl Lewis, president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Nancy Cantor, chancellor of Rutgers University at Newark. They collaborated on answers to questions about the collection and its themes.

**Q: What is your aim with this collection of essays?**

**A:** This is the inaugural volume of a multiyear book series mounted by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to explore the value of our growing diversity for the American democratic project -- the enactment of individual and civil rights, the social and civic
connections that unite a diverse polity into one (e pluribus unum), and the realization of full participation in the economy, in educational systems, in voting and the law and politics more generally, that undergirds prosperity and the legitimacy of our institutions. While there is little doubt that diversity is here and growing (America will, for example, be a majority nonwhite nation by midcentury) and that many dimensions of difference (racial, ethnic, cultural heritage, class, regional, language, indigeneity, sexuality) characterize this diversity, there is reason to question at this ostensibly highly polarized time whether America can rise to the task of leveraging this diversity to meet our compelling interests to spur creativity, productivity and prosperity, as Kwame Anthony Appiah notes in his commentary. Numbers alone will not suffice to turn the tide; it will take concerted dialogue, thoughtful analysis from many directions, honest questions and questioning, to move us as a nation toward envisioning our diversity as an opportunity, rather than as a threat to be managed. In this inaugural volume, the essays set the table, so to speak, for this much-needed dialogue, placing both our diversity and our compelling interests in context -- demographic, historical, social and economic. As important, the volume queries our readiness to empathize as a nation with the value and dimensions of that diversity, as well as asks, are we prepared to commit the “social” work to be done and the human capital investment required? Through such questions the inaugural volume paves the way for future volumes on religion, the arts, educational access and testing, organizational productivity, and much more.

Q: Leaders of American higher education (and much of American society) say they embrace diversity. Yet campuses are full of racial incidents and our political discourse is full of stereotype and denigration of minority groups. How do you explain this?
A: What we see on college campuses is precisely the paradoxical landscape that makes this dialogue so pressing for America (and the world). On one hand, our “exploding diversity,” as one essay calls it, reflects a complex, nuanced, intersectional identity map, and yet we live with the accumulated impact on our psyches, our daily life practices, our policies and our laws, of decades, if not centuries, of the rigid and yet pervasive architecture of segregation, and the “hibernating bigotry,” as Rupert Nacoste poetically labels it, that results when we don’t live together, go to school together, find jobs together, share our faiths, our dreams and our aspirations. It should not surprise us, even as it calls us to reflection and to action, that that hibernating bigotry is awakening even on college campuses in the face of what we see happening on every street corner, in every community -- urban and rural alike -- on every news channel, in tortured relations between police and community, in the dashed dreams of so many youth disconnected from educational attainment and so many adults coming head-on against economic dead ends. Now, if ever there was a time, is the time for universities to build bridging ties that erode boundaries -- first by honest conversation, then by the good hard work of inclusion, seeing talent expansively, empathizing with each other rather than turning our backs, and making the investments that our students and communities alike are asking us to undertake.
Q: Many critics of traditional definitions of diversity (race and gender) say that the real measure should be economics -- an emphasis on inclusion of those from low-income backgrounds. How do you respond?
A: As the essays in this inaugural volume clearly trace, the divide-and-conquer approach to race (or gender) versus class will never suffice to either describe the patterning of what Charles Tilly called “durable inequalities” -- consider, as Tom Sugrue does in his essay, the nuances of residential and educational segregation and economic status for blacks and Hispanics over the last many decades -- or to chart the way for the kinds of bridging ties that Danielle Allen urges us to learn to create as we aspire to a more socially connected society, not to mention more inclusive college and university environments. Reductionism when it comes to diversity doesn’t bode well for social change, for pragmatic policies and practices to move the needle on opportunity, whether one focuses on race or class, and it can distract us from the real work ahead.

Q: The essays place the emphasis on the benefits of diversity for all (not just those who are from various groups that might make an institution more diverse). How do you define that benefit?
A: The benefits are both individual and collective. Working across difference can make each of us better at what we do, better able to see things from different perspectives, better able to empathize with our fellow citizens and participate in public problem solving, as our series contributor Patricia Gurin has demonstrated in extensive longitudinal data on intergroup dialogue courses at nine colleges and universities. Moreover, as our colleague Scott Page has demonstrated so vividly, and will write about in the next volume in this Our Compelling Interests series, working across difference also benefits us collectively because we are more likely to arrive at better solutions to complex problems when we harness a diversity of talents in assembling teams.

Q: Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the way Americans consider the issue of diversity?
A: As we noted in our introductory essay in this volume, we draw our optimism from the voices, dreams and commitments of this next broadly diverse and talented generation of students in our very midst. Hailing, as they do, from so many cultures, faiths, backgrounds, neighborhoods, their sense of self is highly nuanced, as are their identities and aspirations to change the course of opportunity for so many others they have known and will meet. Will this be hard work, for them and for us, no question it will be. Yet optimism comes because they have already achieved so much and done so much hard work to scale the walls of inequality, indifference and divisiveness that our authors document in this volume, and that they know so well on the ground. This next generation of change makers will tell us if our faith has proven rightfully placed, and we bet on it being so, because we bet on them to make the corrections in real time that may be required.