No, really. This is the most unpredictable debate ever.

Generated from News Bureau press release: MU Expert Says Viewers Will Receive Greatest Benefit in Presidential Town Hall Debate

The last 19 months of the 2016 campaign have featured mind-blowing plot twists and developments, but Sunday night’s debate could be the most unpredictable, high-stakes 90 minutes in American political history.

Yes, the first debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump was more unpredictable than any in history — at the time. And, of course, this is a presidential election that’s been given to some hyperbole.

But the town hall style format of the next debate adds three different dimensions of spontaneity for the candidates: live audience questions, an open stage, and high stakes for conveying an emotional connection.

“This town hall debate is structurally set up to be the most exciting and have the most surprising moments of the whole campaign,” said University of Missouri professor Mitchell McKinney, who has advised the bipartisan Commission on Presidential Debates.

In past presidential elections, the town hall debates have created some of the most iconic unscripted moments in political history.

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush glanced at his watch. In 2000, Al Gore ventured into George W. Bush’s personal space. Four years later, Bush failed to acknowledge any mistakes in his presidency when pressed by a voter. In 2008, John McCain walked around so much on the stage that “Saturday Night Live” made a skit out of it. And, of course, just four years ago, CNN’s Candy Crowley interjected with a fact-check for Mitt Romney during his town hall debate with President Obama.

Here is a detailed look at the more unpredictable aspects of Sunday’s debate:

The moderators
There will be two moderators: CNN’s Anderson Cooper and ABC News’ Martha Raddatz. Some have suggested this might prompt some rivalry between the two because only one moderator can come away shining.

But the dual-moderator situation also prompts several questions: Will one moderator interrupt the other? If so, would it be in an attempt to get the other two to stop interrupting each other?

The audience

Most of the questions will come from a selected group of undecided voters instead of a member of the media. That makes it more difficult for the candidates to criticize the questioner.

Typically presidential candidates are prepared for this format, thanks to the numerous town hall meetings they hold in Iowa and New Hampshire. Clinton is certainly experienced in that format, though most questions in those campaign-sponsored events come from hand-picked local residents who are usually sympathetic to the candidate. But Trump has held only a few town hall style meetings, and in those cases, he would moderate the questions from a large audience.

“As a Republican, the one thing that concerns me the most about the entire debate process are the audience questions, and how Trump handles them,” said Rob Jesmer, a longtime Republican strategist. “If some audience member comes after him with a hard one, Trump cannot take the bait, and I am afraid he might.”

The fact that the conversation is in front of everyday citizens should make the tone more civil than the first debate.

“Trump has hinted that he may bring up Clinton’s personal life, and that will be really tough to pull off in that atmosphere,” said McKinney, the Missouri presidential debate expert. “If he goes there, who knows how the audience will react?”

However, this is where the audience plays a major factor. What if an audience member asks Clinton about her husband’s past infidelity? What if a woman stands up and asks Trump if he thinks she is fat, and what does he think that says about her?

The stage

The lack of a podium means the candidates will be forced to be aware of their space in a new way. How close do they get to their opponent or to the moderators or to the person asking a question? Do they sit back on their stool when they aren’t talking, or remain aggressively standing? Will they hold their microphone in a weird way?

“Just getting rid of the podiums makes it more of a casual setting, and candidates will have a harder time hitting talking points,” said Gabriel Lenz, who researches candidate performance of at the University of California at Berkeley.

The human element
In some ways the town hall debate presents a huge opportunity for these candidates. Both are deeply disliked, and as Clinton found ahead of the 2008 New Hampshire primary, when she shed a tear in response to a voter’s question, a human moment can go a long way.

Will Clinton hug someone in the debate? Will Trump appear sympathetic and relatable?

A human moment could go viral on the internet faster than any other political moment has before. A failed attempt could do the same thing. Either way, such an unscripted moment could fundamentally alter the race.

Local college students and Mizzou professor offer window into millennial voters

Generated from News Bureau press release: College-Aged Survey Participants Indicate Last Night’s Presidential Debate Changed Minds and Influenced Their Support

Reaching younger voters may be one benefit of using college campuses for presidential debates. Which, no doubt, is one of the goals for Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton as they prepare to take the stage Sunday at Washington University.

A recent campus debate at Wash U between the college Republicans and Democrats offers a window into the candidates’ dilemma, as they seek to woo millennials, many of whom don’t align themselves with either major party.

Junior Christopher Hall, a Republican, explained to his audience of a couple hundred students why they are different from generations before.

“You are millennials and all of you defy the traditional left/right spectrum,” Hall said in his opening statement. “You, as a whole, believe in policies that make you neither Republican nor Democratic, but something new.”

During their 90-minute debate, the two-person teams — one Democrat, one Republican — tussled over such issues as health care, immigration and the economy.

But two names weren’t mentioned by either side: Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump.

Instead, the students focused totally on issues.
Junior Lachlan Athanasiou, who delivered the Democratic opening statement, told the crowd that the debate “will not be about big government versus small government. This is about good government. It’s about effective government. What I’m talking about is results-based governing.”

Jimmy Loomis, president of the campus Young Democrats, explained why the debate ignored the presidential contenders.

“We want to give students an opportunity to know the issues, not the candidates,” he said. "Because at the end of the day, it’s not the candidates who change their lives. It’s the issues.”

**Study detects slight shift to Clinton**

*Mitchell McKinney, professor of communications at the University of Missouri-Columbia, has seen that same issue-oriented approach among the students he has been studying for years, as part of his examination of how millennials view politics.*

“These voters are more persuadable and — we know this about millennial voters — are not as committed to an established party or political ideology,” McKinney said.

This election year, as he has in the past, McKinney is conducting scientific surveys of how the presidential debates are influencing college-age voters. Close to 500 students, including about 150 at Mizzou, are surveyed before and after each debate.

The students watch the televised proceedings at campus watch sites, and are encouraged to telegraph their views on social media such as Twitter.

Before the first televised debate September 26, McKinney was struck by the low opinion that the students had of the leading contenders.

The professor explained, “Trump and Clinton have not yet been able to crack that nut, if you will, in the sense of, ‘How can we appeal to these voters?’ ”

But by the end of that debate, Clinton’s standing had improved dramatically. At key reason? Many of the students were turned off by Trump.

“Moving the needle if you will, was simply his performance in the debate, and it was moving in something of a negative way, away from him and pushing folks to Clinton,” he said.

**Women students upset by Trump's behavior**

McKinney said that women students, in particular, were offended.

After the student debate at Washington University, several women also laced their views on the issues with their disdain of Trump.
Take, for example, junior Anna Maurer: “As much as you can understand Trump, I am sure there are policies he believes in, but I cannot decipher them from his language. I do feel like Secretary Clinton has a comprehensive sense of policy. I wouldn’t be embarrassed if she represents us to the world.”

Meanwhile, Washington University junior Max Handler, a Republican, is critical of both.

“I don’t believe either candidate is particularly strong on the economy, I think that Hillary Clinton’s liberal policies are generally things I don’t really agree with,” Handler said. “And I think that Donald Trump, when he talks about policy, he talks about all the things he wants government to do for you.”

Mizzou professor McKinney said that if the election is close, the millennial vote will likely determine who wins the White House.

That’s a point that student Christopher Hall sought to make at last week’s Wash U campus debate: “It is you, each and every one of you, who will define what this Republic will become.”

(The AAU website; (#17 most visited science news website; 1,188,417 unique visitors per month)

**Team watches as fat cells become bone tissue**

Posted by Jeff Sossamon-U. Missouri October 6th, 2016

**Generated from News Bureau press release:** “Watching Stem Cells Change Provides Clues to Fighting Osteoporosis in Older Women”

Scientists can now watch how human fat cells transform into bone tissue cells. Doing so has uncovered information about osteoporosis in older women.

Knowing more about the process by which stem cells transform could benefit research into using stem cells to treat many diseases, including osteoporosis.
“Stem cell treatments and therapies hold tremendous promise in treating a range of diseases and injuries; however, there is still a lot to learn about how stem cells grow and convert to needed tissues,” says Elizabeth Loboa, dean of the University of Missouri’s College of Engineering.

“Sometimes the biggest hurdle is watching the process as it takes place. We need the ability to observe and monitor the process without impeding it; therefore, our team decided to analyze and study a new approach to monitoring stem cells as they transform into tissues we may need to treat disease.”

To watch the cells transform, the team used electrical cell-substrate impedance spectroscopy (ECIS). ECIS currently is used to monitor how cells react to drugs and to assess how cell walls or cell barriers function. The team’s target was stem cells derived from human fat, or human adipose (hASC) cells and the process these stem cells use to convert to bone cells when stimulated to do so.

Using human fat-derived stem cells from young (aged 24-36 years), middle-aged (aged 48-55 years), and elderly (aged 60-81) participants, the team used ECIS to collect complex measurements during the growth and differentiation stages the hASC exhibited as they converted to bone cells. They found that elderly cells made the transition in less time, but younger cells converted more cells that secreted more calcium long-term.

“This is the first study to use ECIS to predict and monitor the potential of adipose cells transforming into bone cells,” Loboa says. “Results demonstrate that ECIS can potentially be used to screen for osteogenic potential of hASC, track the stages of osteogenic differentiation for quality control purposes, and better explain the underlying biological causes of variability among donors.

“And since the results typically are in ‘real-time,’ this technology could be incorporated into future manufacturing to track hASC throughout the process.”

The study appears in the journal Stem Cells Translational Medicine. Funding came from a North Carolina Space Grant Fellowship, UNC Summer Research Fellowship, the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the William R. Kenan Institute for Engineering, Technology, and Science. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the funding agencies.
Enrollment declines at University of Missouri, but not as much as expected

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
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Generated from News Bureau press release: 2016 Official Figures Show Increase in Enrollment from Opening Day

The official numbers are in and as projected, enrollment at the University of Missouri is down this year but not as much as initially estimated when classes began this fall.

Enrollment on the Columbia campus for the 2016-2017 academic year is 33,266. That’s down 2,182 from last year, a 6.2 percent drop.

Enrollment is the lowest it’s been since 2010.

In addition, the 2016 freshman class of 4,772 students is down 22.9 percent from a year ago.

When classes began in August, university officials projected enrollment would drop by nearly 3,000 students and said it could result in a $30 million drop in revenue.

A news release Thursday on the school’s official census for the year showed the university actually gained 489 students since the first day of classes.

“We’re excited to see that since opening day, almost 500 additional students have chosen Mizzou as their home,” Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said in the release.

University officials also boasted that MU’s retention rate — a measure of how many freshman students came back to campus as sophomores — climbed to 85.7 percent, the third-highest in history.

“It shows that we remain a strong choice for students who want to be part of MU’s storied history and bright future,” said Pelema Morrice, vice provost for enrollment management.
The university also noted that the hundreds of students added since opening day included an increase of 92 minority students. And of those students, 58 were African-American.

Still, the African-American student population on the MU campus is down by 242 from last year, to 2,302.

That represents 6.9 percent of the student body. Last year, African-American students made up 7.2 percent of the students on the campus.

For months, university officials have blamed the expected enrollment decline in part on a demographic shift that has led to fewer high school students, thus shrinking the pool of potential college students to pick from. And, to a lesser degree, the racially charged protests that erupted on the Columbia campus last year put MU under a national spotlight for a lack of diversity, equity and inclusion of minority students.

National education officials confirm the demographic shift in high school seniors but said the problem isn’t expected to peak until 2022 or 2023.

When it hits, Missouri in particular is expected to see among the highest level of reduction, “5 percent or more, fewer students graduating in 2023 than in 2010,” said Barmak Nassirian, director of federal relations and policy analysis for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

One factor might soften those potential losses: Since MU is a flagship institution in a state that has managed to keep annual tuition hikes down, Nassirian speculates that it should do well in attracting Missouri residents to its campus.

But, he said, “there is no question that an institution’s reputation has enormous impact in the decision of a student or a student’s family in encouraging or discouraging a particular choice.”

Turmoil on a campus could make students and family “do a double take,” Nassirian said, when looking for a suitable school. “Being on the evening news for turmoil is definitely not a selling point.”

MU was not the only area university to experience an enrollment decline.

At the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, enrollment is down this year from 14,395 to 13,988 with fewer freshman enrolling. Central Missouri had 1,658 students in its 2015 freshman class, and 1,605 enrolled this fall.

And at Kansas State University — including satellite campuses — enrollment is 23,779, down from 24,146 last year. There was little growth in this year’s freshman class over last year.
“Our domestic freshman enrollment is almost flat from last year,” said Pat Bosco, vice president for student life and dean of students. “While that is good news for K-State this year, it is also alarming as we are seeing fewer Kansas high school students going on to any kind of post-secondary education. We are also down in international students, both new and returning, and some current students are not returning because of cost.”

Some other area schools saw enrollment growth.

At the University of Missouri-Kansas City, enrollment is up 1.47 percent from 16,699 students last year to 16,944 this year. UMKC saw a 15.6 percent increase in the size of this year’s freshman class over last fall’s. Of those 1,213 new students, 494 are members of a minority group. Campuswide, the African-American population grew from 11 percent to 11.2 percent.

At the University of Kansas, the freshman class has grown for the fifth straight year, in record-breaking fashion.

The 2016 freshman class includes 4,233 new students on the Lawrence campus, an increase of 1.1 percent from last year. This is the fourth-largest class in KU history and the largest since 2008. And overall, the university’s enrollment has grown for the third straight year to 28,401, an increase of 1.1 percent.

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little praised KU for gains in minority enrollment. The number of minority students overall grew 3.9 percent. Minority students are 19.8 percent of KU’s enrollment, the highest percentage in history. African-American student enrollment grew 5 percent over last year, from 976 students to 1,025 students this fall.

“A diverse student body is crucial to the campus environment at KU,” Gray-Little said.

It’s a sentiment that University of Missouri leaders at the system and campus level have been pushing since last year’s protests.

MU officials said they are working now on improving race relations on their campus and will broaden recruitment efforts to create a more diverse student body.

Foley said last month that MU is focused on “rebuilding enrollment, restoring reputation ... and marketing Mizzou much more than ever before in the past.”
With final numbers in, Mizzou enrollment is still down – just not quite as bad

By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 18 hrs ago

Generated from News Bureau press release: 2016 Official Figures Show Increase in Enrollment from Opening Day

COLUMBIA • Enrollment is still down at the University of Missouri-Columbia, but it’s not as down as it was on the first day of school, administrators report.

With final semester numbers in and reported, Mizzou officials say they gained almost 500 students since the first day of class. Enrollment overall is still down about 5 percent from fall 2015.

“We’re excited to see that since opening day, almost 500 additional students have chosen Mizzou as their home,” interim chancellor Hank Foley said in a statement. "Mizzou continues to be the premier public higher education institution in the state, and it is clear that students throughout the country believe this university can help them achieve their life goals.”

Campus leaders tout a boost in minority student enrollment, particularly a gain in African American students.

Officials prepared for a smaller freshman class for months following a string events last fall — including protests centered largely around matters of race — that led to the school’s top two leaders to step down.
COLUMBIA — **Overall MU student enrollment has increased since the start of the fall 2016 semester, but still remains at its lowest since the 2010 academic year.**

Nearly 500 more students have enrolled within the past seven weeks, which brings total fall enrollment up to 33,266, according to an MU News Bureau release.

However, compared to fall 2015 enrollment of 35,448 students, enrollment this year has fallen 6.2 percent. The last time fall enrollment was this low was in 2010, according to MU’s Division of Enrollment Management.

Administrators have cited several reasons for the enrollment drop, including a decrease in the number of graduating high school students, an increase in competition from neighboring universities and a semester of protests and administrative turnover, according to previous Missourian reporting.

Out of the 489 students who have enrolled at MU since the first day of classes this fall, 58 were African-American. This means the percent of African-American students at MU has decreased from 7.2 percent last year to 6.9 percent this year.

This is the first year in the last decade that there has been a decrease in the overall percentage of African-American students enrolled. The last time the percentage of African-American students was this low was in 2011 at 6.7 percent.
Overall, minority student enrollment remained at 15.7 percent, the same as last fall — after it had steadily increased from 10.5 percent in 2007 to 15.7 percent in 2015. Minority student enrollment includes African-American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian and Hispanic students, along with students who identify as multiple race/ethnicity.

Enrollment on the Way Up at MU

Generated from News Bureau press release: 2016 Official Figures Show Increase in Enrollment from Opening Day

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyses.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=b01ab5f3-f633-47f4-b05a-7a1cb603ca0c

MU Picks Up 489 Students Since Opening Day

Generated from News Bureau press release: 2016 Official Figures Show Increase in Enrollment from Opening Day

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyses.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=1d5416ac-9e64-4d00-9f61-4e0747267cf1
University of Missouri enrollment at lowest level since 2010

Enrollment at the University of Missouri is the lowest since 2010-11 and down 6.2 percent from last year, according to figures MU released Thursday.

MU said in a news release that the official enrollment figure for the 2016-17 academic year is 33,266, a decline of 2,182 from last year. The university has gained 489 students since classes began Aug. 22, the release said.

The enrollment decline was anticipated after protests over racial issues that brought a national spotlight to MU in November.

The number of black students on campus declined by 242 from last year, to 2,302, representing 6.9 percent of the student body. Last year, black students were 7.2 percent of the student body. The number of students from all minority groups declined by 358, figures in the news release shows, to 5,209, but the proportion of minority students remained unchanged at 15.7 percent.

In the news release, MU focused on the growth in retention rates for sophomores returning after their freshman year, which was the third-highest in school history at 85.7 percent.

Reported hate crimes increased on MU campus, across Missouri last year

MIRANDA MOORE, 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — The number of hate crimes reported by the MU Police Department jumped in 2015, following a tumultuous year on the MU campus.
Eleven hate crimes were reported to MU Police in 2015, as detailed in a Sept. 28 report from MU Police. That's up from one hate crime reported in 2014 and three reported in 2013. (Under Department of Education regulations set forth under the Clery Act, any college or university that administers federal financial aid has to disclose campus crime statistics, along with other security information.

A hate crime, as opposed to other types of crime reported under the Clery Act, must demonstrate at least one of eight categories of bias against the victim. The ten types of crime reported under the act can be investigated as hate crimes if there is a suspicion of bias.

Hate crimes are different from hate speech, Lt. Kevin Rodgers of MU Police said. This means the hate speech that occurred at MU last week will not be counted as a hate crime for Clery Act reporting for 2016, Rodgers said.

Rodgers said that of the 11 hate crimes reported in 2015, seven were investigated by MU Police. Of those seven, two were referred to the Boone County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. No suspects were identified for the five hate crimes that were investigated but not referred for prosecution, Rodgers said.

One of the cases referred to the county prosecutor was against Hunter Park, the former Missouri University of Science and Technology student who pleaded guilty in April to making threats via the social media application Yik Yak in November 2015. The Boone County Prosecuting Attorney's Office has often negotiated plea deals for those accused of hate crimes, according to previous Missourian reporting.

The November threats, which followed the resignations of former University of Missouri System president Tim Wolfe and former MU chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, sparked campus-wide fear and confusion. Those resignations represented the culmination of growing frustration with MU administrators and how they handled the cancellation of graduate student health insurance subsidies, the dissolution of MU's relationship with Planned Parenthood and racism on campus.
The four reported hate crimes that the MU Police did not investigate were Title IX reports, Rodgers said. Title IX reporting gives victims the option to report a crime but remain anonymous and not pursue a criminal investigation, Rodgers said.

Eight hate crimes reported in 2015 occurred on campus, and five of those occurred in student housing. Eight were crimes of harassment, two were vandalism, and one was intimidation. Six hate crimes were committed based on the victim’s race or ethnicity, three based on gender identity and two on religion.

Ellen Eardley, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Civil Rights and Title IX, said someone who makes a Title IX discrimination report may also report it to MU Police. Outside of Clery Act reporting, the Title IX office does not typically share information with MU Police without consulting the victim.

"We let the person who comes to our office make the determination to go to the police," Eardley said. "We don't want folks who don't want to get the police involved to be afraid to come to our office."

"In rare instances when there is an ongoing threat to the university community, (my office) might be obligated to immediately contact the police," she said.

MU policies for student and employee conduct prohibit 13 types of discrimination, Eardley said. The Office of Civil Rights and Title IX is planning outreach efforts targeted toward specific audiences to raise awareness of discrimination on campus.

Eardley said it is also possible that the increase in reported hate crimes could reflect an increase in awareness of hate crimes, as opposed to an increase in actual incidents.

"These types of behaviors are underreported," she said.

The number of hate crimes nearly doubled across Missouri between 2014 and 2015, according to data from the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Every category of hate crime where a crime was
reported showed an increase in reports compared to the year prior. Hate crimes on the basis of the victim’s race or ethnicity accounted for 70 of the 102 hate crimes reported in Missouri in 2015.

FBI data on hate crimes nationwide for 2015 is not expected to be published until November, according to the New York Times. The Southern Poverty Law Center’s website reports that there were 108 more hate groups in the United States in 2015 than there were in 2014, an increase of 14 percent and the first increase in three years.

GEORGE KENNEDY: Repairing old wounds while another opens

GEORGE KENNEDY, 15 hrs ago

Two events last week reminded Columbians how far we’ve come along the road of racial reconciliation and how far we still have to go.

The first was the ugly confrontation that began when a group of white MU students, apparently drunk, insulted two female members of the Legion of Black Collegians. It escalated when white fraternity members shouted obscenities at LBC members who had responded to a call for help from the women. Black students replied in kind.

MU police officers arrived, separated the angry groups and made no arrests. The university suspended the Delta Upsilon fraternity while at least two campus offices investigate.

News coverage beyond Columbia included references to the turmoil of last fall and ongoing efforts to improve the University’s racial climate.
Two days later, I stood with 100 or so onlookers beside the MKT Trail at Providence and Stewart Roads to witness the unveiling of a marker that commemorates the 1923 lynching of James T. Scott.

The new plaque reads, “Lest We Forget: Lynching at the Stewart Road Bridge.”

We must not forget, among other things, the roles played by journalists, students and community leaders.

Mr. Scott was a 35-year-old decorated veteran of World War I, a janitor at the university and husband of one of Columbia’s 15 black teachers. He was a member of the Second Baptist Church.

In April 1923, he was accused of raping the 14-year-old daughter of a University professor, arrested and jailed. She identified him as her assailant, but there was no evidence to support that. Later, she would identify a different man.

Patrick J. Huber wrote in the Summer 1991 issue of the Missouri Historical Society magazine, “Columbia’s most influential paper, the Daily Tribune, provided the spark that ignited the town’s smoldering outrage.” He quoted Tribune editor Edward Watson as pointing out that three black men were currently in jail accused of separate rapes and urging, “This trio should feel the ‘halter draw’ in vindication of the law.”

Huber continued, “Less than eight hours after the newspaper hit the street, white Columbia residents responded to the Tribune’s plea for justice.”

A mob estimated at about 2,000, including 200 or so students, stormed the jail, dragged out Mr. Scott and led him, with a rope around his neck, to what was then the bridge carrying Stewart Road over the Flat Branch.

A prominent citizen, later identified in court by two MU journalism students who were present at the lynching — one reporting for the Kansas City Star and one for the St. Louis Post Dispatch —
put a longer rope around Mr. Scott’s neck and threw him off the bridge. His neck was broken and he died.

The New York Times published a front-page story with the headline, “Missouri Students See Negro Lynching, Co-Eds Join Crowd Which Cheers the Storming of the Columbia Jail.”

Huber recounts that the newspaper published by the School of Journalism, then called the Columbia Evening Missourian, “took a determined stand against mob violence.” In an editorial two days after the lynching, the Missourian wrote, “The lynching cannot be undone, but Columbia can, in part, clear its name if speedy action against those who committed the crime is taken.”

Only the man identified by the students as the killer was tried. A jury including several prominent citizens needed just 11 minutes to find him not guilty.

The plaque of remembrance was sponsored by the Association of Black Graduate and Professional Students, which of course didn’t exist in 1923. That in itself was a sign of progress.

So was the pairing of Clyde Ruffin, now pastor of James Scott’s church and First Ward representative on our City Council, and Mayor Brian Treece, both of whom spoke about the importance of remembering our past and learning from it.

I hoped the fraternity members were listening.
LBC incident reopens campus race dialogue

Freshman Autumn Clemons: “We’re not just yelling, we’re not just ranting, we’re not just going on about that type of stuff. We’re actually trying to get out a message, and I feel like that’s what people are actually missing.”

Hands interlocked, eyes closed, they stood shoulder-to-shoulder in a circle of prayer, weaving themselves in between the tables and chairs.

As a few black students led the prayer in the center of the circle, the students surrounding them listened quietly. Some bowed their heads; others rested their heads on the shoulders beside them.

“We shall overcome,” shouted the black student from the center of the circle, ending the prayer.

“We shall overcome,” the circle of students responded.

The Legion of Black Collegians held a gathering of black students and supporters at the Student Center on the afternoon of Sept. 28 and a town hall in the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center later that evening. Both events were in response to an incident Sept. 27 in which two LBC members reported being harassed and called racial slurs near the Delta Upsilon fraternity house, according to a statement from LBC.

The situation was all too familiar.

LBC’s statement came just over a year after former Missouri Students Association President Payton Head recounted his own experience with being called a racial slur on campus in a viral Facebook post on Sept. 12, 2015, bringing issues of race relations at MU into the national spotlight for the first time that semester.

And it was one year ago Wednesday — on Oct. 5, 2015 — that LBC’s Homecoming royalty court was harassed and called a racial slur during their rehearsal on Traditions Plaza.

Weeks of rallies, protests and activism from multiple campus communities resulted in the resignations of Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and UM System President Tim Wolfe. Students spoke up and started a conversation at MU and other college campuses across the country. For perhaps the first time all semester, there was hope that the campus climate could change.

One year later, history has started to repeat itself.
It was six days until Loftin responded to Head’s post. Last week, interim Chancellor Hank Foley responded to LBC’s statement the same day, and he was there with black students at the Student Center that afternoon.

The short-term administrative response to racism at MU changed. But on a campus struggling to heal, finding long-term solutions for institutional problems is still a work in progress.

**Administrative solutions**

MU’s first black English professor, Clenora Hudson-Weems, was one of 10 black faculty members hired in 1990, and she has been at MU for over 26 years. She said she was disappointed that despite the protests last year, no substantial changes have been made by the administration. But she was not surprised by what happened to the LBC members last week.

Hudson-Weems has written multiple books, including four about Emmett Till, a black teenager who was lynched in 1955 because he whistled at a 21-year-old white woman. She said despite her focus on topics like racism, she has not been approached by administration for input in the race dialogue at MU.

“You would think they would start by dealing with the ones who have been here, like myself, long enough to have experienced enough to know from past experiences, past initiatives to say, ‘Why don’t we do this, why don’t we do that, why don’t we try that,’” Hudson-Weems said.

Hudson-Weems said the immediate step that administration needs to take is to sit down and hear the concerns from black faculty members like herself who have been in the MU community for a long time and can give insight on what needs to change. She said it is important that administrators look to older faculty to understand the reality of the situation.

“It’s not always what you want to hear; it’s what you need to hear,” Hudson-Weems said.

Freshman Sania White, who is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists, also said she was expecting administration to be more direct in its response due to the protests last year.

White said those who harassed the LBC members should be treated based on the zero-tolerance policy. Although White said the first step should be suspension, freshman Autumn Clemons said hate speech should always result in expulsion.

Black Studies faculty member Stephen Graves also said part of the problem is that the university keeps these students’ identities hidden, and they are not forced to deal with the consequences of their actions.

"They have to be exposed in public, and they have to be confronted publicly,” Graves said. “They should apologize publicly and visibly, and they should be forced to explain themselves.”
When these students are allowed to leave campus without any repercussions, he said they will take their racist mindsets somewhere else and assume that there is nothing problematic about their behavior. Graves said it is necessary that a system is created at MU in which students are held accountable for their actions.

Hudson-Weems said it is also essential to diversify faculty because those of different backgrounds provide an “endemic” perspective. She said it also gives students of unique backgrounds an opportunity to have representation and a sense of connection within the academic community.

“They’re going to give you that inside perspective that you wouldn’t get outside,” Hudson-Weems said. “And certainly when you talk about enhancing the student enrollment, you can’t do that successfully and maintain them if they have no faculty they can relate to who can serve as mentors.”

She said there is an attitude of avoiding dialogues about the past, which she finds concerning.

“They’re saying, ‘We’re moving forward,’ without any moves in correcting the past mistakes as if we are going to forget past mistakes,” Hudson-Weems said in an email. “This is needed before we can realistically move forward.”

"You cannot forget the past,” she said. “You cannot. You’ve got to look at the past and learn the lessons of the past so you do not repeat the mistakes of the past. You have to correct the past.”

**Community solutions**

Both the Student Center prayer circle and the GOBCC town hall meeting gave an opportunity for students and the community to address the issues they saw and to begin to heal. At the town hall, representatives from the MU Police Department and Greek Life were in attendance. The room was overflowing.

White said the dialogue was necessary, and similar meetings need to continue to happen.

"I think it was a productive, an emotional, a very surreal meeting,” White said. "Walking out, I didn’t think it was going to hit me as hard as it did. Just realizing the stuff that’s happening right now is very thought-provoking and in some cases heart-wrenching.”

Clemons said having police and Greek Life representatives present was an important part of the process and a good start to creating change. Although the meeting was open to everyone, most people at the meeting were black students.

“The people that needed to be there weren’t there — the kids that did the actions,” Clemons said. “They were the ones that actually need to hear what we’re going through.”

"I feel like every person who is not sure how they feel about this situation or in opposition to us, I want to challenge them to actually try talking to us,” Clemons added. "I want them to open
their minds, open their eyes, open their ears, and actually listen to what people are saying. We’re not just yelling, we’re not just ranting, we’re not just going on about that type of stuff, we’re actually trying to get out a message, and I feel like that’s what people are actually missing.”

Like Clemons, Graves said these conversations should be geared toward individuals who do not understand the black experience.

Graves and Hudson-Weems said dialogues regarding race need to be held in the open. They both want a forum created where students can come out and express their opinions, no matter how controversial, so they can be addressed. Hudson-Weems said it is worse if students possess certain race-related misconceptions without voicing them because those views are then perpetuated. Graves said the dialogue is necessary to get to the root of the problem.

“The dialogue, the discussion, has to take place between people who really feel that black people are a problem on campus or are inferior or who hold these racial attitudes,” Hudson-Weems said. “Those people need to be made publically available, and they need to express these attitudes and why and explain themselves to the people they’re offending.”

“Only with putting out front these racist misconceptions can those ideas and attitudes be corrected, with the needed information about the absurdity and unfairness of racism, now exposed as a valuable corrective,” Hudson-Weems added in an email.

But with racism not as rampant as it was in the past, Graves said some people make the assumption that current race relations are satisfactory.

"I know the pervading attitude is that we’ve come so far and that things have gotten so much better and the country’s progressing and we’re better off,” Graves said. "But I don’t think that we’re really seeing that play out, and I think that’s some of the frustration people are facing, especially black kids on college campuses and black people everywhere nationwide. I think you’re seeing that built-up frustration.”

**Systemic solutions**

Graves said often those outside the black community do not realize racism is not just like the incident that occurred last week.

“People have a misperception that racism is just calling people the N-word or cops shooting black people or that it’s always hangings and explicit discrimination that you see,” Graves said. “In this day and age of social media and everything else there is, there’s a lot of subtle racism and a lot of institutional racism.”

Hudson-Weems said a person can partake in racism by being a bystander.

"If you see this stuff and don’t participate directly to correct the problem, but you say nothing and turn your head,” Hudson-Weems said. “... You’re just as guilty because you did nothing to stop it.”
“You are guilty by omission, which is just as bad as guilty by commission," she added in an email.

Even as members of faculty, Graves and Hudson-Weems said they continue to experience racism on a daily basis. Graves said his experience is similar to many black students.

"People tend to notice us on campus because we’re black and that’s it,” Graves said. "We don’t have any intellectual or academic contribution to make, that we’re here to fill a quota because of the racial tension that happened last year, and that the university wants to make more blacks visible.”

White said there is a different pressure for those that are black, especially women. White, who is in the Honors College, said she sees relatively little representation of the black community within her classes.

"Being a black woman, you are at the bottom of the totem pole the way our society is set up,” White said. "I feel like I have to prove myself because I already have this target on my back because I’m stereotypically not supposed to be able to open my mouth and articulate the same words and have the same kind of intelligence when I speak.”

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

OCTOBER 6, 2016 6:31 PM

Mizzou mindful of protests during national anthem as basketball season approaches

BY TOD PALMER
tpalmer@kestar.com

COLUMBIA - A year after the Missouri football team threatened to sit out a game, new Tigers athletic director Jim Sterk says his school and others are better prepared if their athletes want to protest social issues.

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick has refused to stand for the national anthem after a summer of unrest across the nation amid several highly publicized police shootings of unarmed black men. Other NFL and college players, including Rockhurst High graduate Michael Rose-Ivey of Nebraska, have knelt during the anthem in protest.
Missouri football players are in the locker room during the playing of the anthem at Memorial Stadium, but the upcoming start of basketball season — players are on the court during the anthem — could give athletes another avenue to protest.

Last week, there was another incident of hate speech on the University of Missouri campus, but Sterk said a proactive approach is important. Racial protests had been ongoing for several months last year at MU, including Jonathan Butler’s weeklong hunger strike, but the issue didn’t garner national attention until the football team’s boycott.

“Better preparation and education is what’s gone on,” Sterk, who was hired in August, said before speaking Thursday to the Tiger Club of Kansas City at the Westport Flea Market. “I think they (MU’s administration) learned from last year to engage the people that have issues. I think there was a lot of good dialogue last week. That all opened up, and I think there were some positives that came out of last year that really helps us move forward.”

Sterk regularly meets with Mizzou’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and also plans to have captains’ meeting with the leaders from all sports. He said the biggest lesson for the university was about being up front about social issues.

The day after a group of black students allegedly were called racial slurs by white students on campus, interim MU chancellor Hank Foley and interim vice chancellor for diversity, equity and inclusion Kevin McDonald met with student groups to offer support and condemn the incident. The quick and compassionate response stood in contrast to last year’s slow response from MU’s former administration to reports of racism on campus.

“I think the end result (last week) was really positive, because of that action that they took,” Sterk said.

There isn’t and won’t be an athletic department policy that forbids players from social commentary, as it would be an unconstitutional infringement upon students’ civil rights at a public university.

“We’ll do our part as far as education — what it means, what the anthem means to a lot of people and what it would be perceived as — but yet honor what the student-athletes are interested in supporting,” Sterk said. “Where’s that fine line? I don’t know, but there’s a lot of good discussion going on and meeting with teams and the coaches. The SEC is sharing information within the league about what’s going on.”

Sterk expects the prospect of protests during the national anthem to be a topic of conversation during a meeting with Mizzou’s head coaches next week.
“That’s all that I think anyone can really do is have good dialogue and be aware and work with them and work through any issues that might come up,” Sterk said.

He said the Southeastern Conference athletic directors recently discussed the possibility of protests, but the SEC also won’t adopt a rule regarding them.

“That’s something that we, as a group, have discussed it,” Mizzou men’s basketball coach Kim Anderson said. “As the month goes along, I think we’ll continue to talk about it.”

It hasn’t been a “major topic” for the Tigers, Anderson said, but he understands that doesn’t mean it can’t or won’t become one.

“I really don’t have a stand either way,” he said. “I think our guys, obviously, they have the right to demonstrate what they want. We’ll talk about it as a team, and hopefully will come to an agreement as a team as to what would be if something needs to be done.”

For now, less than a week into practice for the 2016-17 season, Mizzou's primary focus is elsewhere.

“We see it on TV and see what happens on Twitter, but we don’t bring it to the locker room,” sophomore point guard Terrence Phillips said. “Our mentality right now is just basketball. ... Obviously, as athletes, we have a voice that we can use in those situations, but I think right now everybody is just focused on basketball.”

That doesn’t mean the Tigers have ignored the protests, including Chiefs cornerback Marcus Peters’ raised fist during the playing of the anthem in the season opener.

“Of course, with that being a current world thing, it’s brought up and talked about,” sophomore forward Kevin Puryear said. “But, as a team, we haven’t really discussed anything like protesting or anything like that. Coach Anderson is not oblivious to what’s going on. He knows what’s going on and we know what’s going on. We discuss it, but we just haven’t gotten to that point as far as talking about what we want to do as a team.”
UM curators review athletics plan, labor standards

RUTH SERVEN, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — After secretive interviews of potential system presidents, the UM System Board of Curators met in Kansas City to go over annual reports and administrative updates.

On the agenda Thursday afternoon were plans for the four campuses' finances, health care systems, renovations and degree programs:

- Curators heard an update on the Intercollegiate Athletics Master Plan. The plan, partially funded by a private donation, proposes renovations of the south end of MU’s Memorial Stadium and a new indoor football facility.

- Curators reviewed the impact of a Fair Labor Standards Act rules change on system and campus jobs. The change raises the salary threshold for overtime pay to about $50,000 a year, nearly double the current threshold. The changes will give over 500 employees raises, and about 1,000 jobs will become eligible for overtime pay, according to the system.

- Curators also approved the creation of a new Bachelor of Health Science in Public Health degree at MU and a new Bachelor of Science in History degree at the Missouri University of Science and Technology.

On Friday, curators will review several maintenance projects and amendments to the system's collected rules and regulations.

What's still unknown is who the next UM System president will be. Mike Middleton has filled an interim role for nearly a year now, since the previous president, Tim Wolfe, resigned after a series of race-related protests. The pressure is on the curators, three of whom have terms expiring in January, to choose a new president.
Interviews conclude with no announcement on UM System president hire

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — Interviews for a new president concluded Wednesday without an announcement of the position being filled.

Chief communications officer for the University of Missouri System John Fougere said interviews were conducted in Kansas City Tuesday and Wednesday.

The UM Board of Curators continued its regularly-scheduled fall meetings at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Thursday and Friday.

University of Missouri President Search Continues

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=8ce145e8-332b-44f6-88a5-b6df96efadc9
University of Missouri frat suspended over reported hazing of student from Glencoe

In a case involving a student from the North Shore, the University of Missouri is investigating a report of alleged hazing involving excessive alcohol at a fraternity that had been disciplined earlier this semester for another alcohol-related incident.

The Kappa Alpha fraternity already was on probation through the end of the fall semester for a "previous alcohol incident" when the university temporarily suspended it Monday while looking into allegations of hazing a pledge with alcohol, according to university spokesman Christian Basi.

Basi said he could not provide additional details, but in a Kappa Alpha Order incident report, chapter president Jacob Lee wrote that the student had been in a vodka-chugging contest with other pledges.

Lynn and Mike Zingale from Glencoe said the incident involved their 18-year-old son, who she said was hospitalized a week ago and placed into a medication-induced coma for two days to allow the alcohol to leave his system.

She said his blood alcohol content at the time was 0.45 percent, more than five times the legal limit for driving.

"What we are trying to do is get people a vision of what we are feeling as parents," Lynn Zingale said.

Jesse Lyons, assistant executive director for advancement at Kappa Alpha's national office, said it's also investigating the incident.

"Kappa Alpha Order continues to send our thoughts to the young man and his family," Lyons wrote, saying later, "there are still more questions than answers. When the investigation is concluded, we will then act based on the facts."
MU Investigates Hazing Report Filed Against Fraternity

The University of Missouri is investigating a report of hazing involving excessive alcohol at a fraternity that had been disciplined earlier this semester for another hazing incident involving alcohol.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports the Kappa Alpha fraternity was on disciplinary probation for a "previous alcohol incident" when the university placed the fraternity on temporary suspension Monday while it investigates allegations of hazing another pledge with alcohol.

The university says it can't provide details.

But parents of a student say their 18-year-old son was hospitalized last week after taking part in a vodka chugging game at the fraternity. They say their son's blood alcohol content at the hospital was more than five times the legal limit for driving.

The national fraternity says it's working to complete a full investigation.

Correction: Missouri Fraternity-Hazing story
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — In a story Oct. 5 about the suspension of a University of Missouri fraternity, The Associated Press mischaracterized an incident that led to the Kappa Alpha fraternity being placed on probation as having involved alcohol-related hazing. It involved alcohol, but not hazing.

A corrected version of the story is below:

University of Missouri frat suspended over report of hazing

The University of Missouri is investigating a report of alleged hazing involving excessive alcohol at a fraternity disciplined earlier this semester for another incident involving alcohol.

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri is investigating a report of alleged hazing involving excessive alcohol at a fraternity that had been disciplined earlier this semester for another alcohol-related incident, a university spokesman said.

The Kappa Alpha fraternity already was on probation through the end of the fall semester for a "previous alcohol incident" when the university temporarily suspended it Monday while looking into allegations of hazing a pledge with alcohol, university spokesman Christian Basi told The Columbia Daily Tribune (http://j.mp/2dS3cy2).

Basi said he could not provide additional details about the nature of the second incident during the investigation, but in a Kappa Alpha Order incident report, chapter President Jacob Lee wrote that the student had been in a vodka-chugging contest with other pledges.

Lynn and Mike Zingale said the latest incident involved their 18-year-old son, who she said was hospitalized a week ago and placed into a medication-induced coma for two days to allow the alcohol to leave his system. She said his blood alcohol content at the time was 0.45 percent, which is more than five times the legal limit for driving.
"What we are trying to do is get people a vision of what we are feeling as parents," Lynn Zingale said.

Jesse Lyons, assistant executive director for advancement at Kappa Alpha's national office, said it's also investigating the incident.

"Kappa Alpha Order continues to send our thoughts to the young man and his family," Lyons wrote, saying later, "there are still more questions than answers. When the investigation is concluded, we will then act based on the facts."

UMSL faculty group meet the threshold to file union paperwork
By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 20 hrs ago

BEL-NOR • A group of faculty members at the University of Missouri-St. Louis presented paperwork Thursday showing there is enough interest for a union election.

The group, UMSL United, shared the news on social media.

Guidance from federal labor laws states 30 percent of the overall population affected by unionizing must support the idea before an election can take place. UMSL has around 500 full-time faculty.
There are two separate filings: one for tenured and tenure-track faculty and another for those part and full-time faculty who are not tenure-track. The filings are for faculty in the UMSL College of Arts & Sciences, College of Education, College of Fine Arts, Honors College and School of Social Work. The group needed 30 percent support among faculty among those schools, specifically.

Groups excluded from the filings are faculty from the School of Optometry, School of Nursing and College of Business Administration.

UMSL United members, alongside organizers from the Service Employees International Union rallied on campus a few weeks ago in an attempt to ask the University of Missouri Board of Curators to issue election rules for the campus.

A university official said nothing has changed since the rally and they still don't have a timeline on issuing those rules.

"It is important to note that the two documents delivered by some faculty members to the University of Missouri-St.Louis today regarding a desired Certification of Representation by the SEIU Union were unofficial and not filed with the Missouri Department of Labor's State Board of Mediation. Data were not provided to show there is enough interest or a threshold of support for a union election," University of Missouri spokesman John Fougere said in a statement.

Among the concerns about creating election rules so is how those rules will affect University of Missouri campuses in Columbia, Rolla and Kansas City. The curators are meeting all day Thursday and Friday in Kansas City and the issue is not on the agenda.