Select Committee on Education vice chairman wants UM Board of Curators to consider Foley for permanent post

A key GOP Missouri lawmaker wants Mizzou’s interim chancellor to be considered for the permanent job.

State Rep. David Wood (R-Versailles) says the University of Missouri Board of Curators and the incoming UM System president should consider Mizzou Interim Chancellor Dr. Hank Foley for the permanent position.

Wood, who is the Joint Committee on Education vice chairman, tells Missourinet Foley has been accessible to legislators.

“I think he’s done a very good job in this interim position. He’s been very straightforward, his answers have been very honest with the Legislature. Not always popular, but very honest and straightforward and I think we can appreciate that,” Wood says.

Wood notes Foley is already in Columbia.

“I have no reservations in recommending Chancellor Foley to be permanent. I think he’s done a very good job and I’m very impressed,” says Wood. “So, that doesn’t mean that there aren’t other candidates that would do an equally good job, but this is a proven candidate that’s here.”

Incoming UM System President Dr. Mun Choi told reporters at Jefferson City’s Capitol Plaza Hotel on Wednesday that Foley is an “outstanding leader” who has led the Mizzou campus during difficult times.

Rep. Wood attended Choi’s introductory news conference. President Choi will select the MU Chancellor, and the UM Board of Curators must approve the hire.

The Board of Curators’ hire of Choi is praised by Wood, who says it’s a step in the right direction.
“And I’m glad to see the University of Missouri get past this point now, that we have a president, that we can look to the chancellor, we can start building the trust back that seems to have been damaged in the past couple of years,” Wood says.

Wood also serves as the vice chairman of the Select Committee on Education.

The UM System has four campus locations: Columbia, Kansas City, St. Louis and Rolla. Total enrollment this fall is 75,999. The UM System’s entire budget is about $3.1 billion, and that includes the University of Missouri Health System.

Enrollment at Mizzou is 33,239. Foley notes MU has about 13,000 employees.

Activists say protests brought change, awareness

After tumultuous fall 2015, group fades from view.

In November 2015, the activists of Concerned Student 1950 led a massive demonstration that ultimately forced the resignation of the University of Missouri System president.

But within a few months, the group that had grabbed the national spotlight quietly had disbanded.

After the protests died down, the group became less visible and stopped holding demonstrations. Its original 11 members went back to class to continue working toward their degrees, and by spring, Concerned Student 1950 was a thing of the past.

Reuben Faloughi, one of the founding members of the group, said the events in fall 2015 took a toll on everyone in the group. The attention their efforts attracted, due in no small part to the Tigers football team’s support, from national and international media led to pressure from different angles, Faloughi said. Suddenly, anyone from students to faculty to journalists wanted something from or for them.

“I think we had to redefine activism,” Faloughi, a doctoral student studying counseling psychology, said. “For me personally, I realized that activism is multifaceted. Protesting is one tool in the tool box of resisting oppression, so I had to get my degree or everything that I did would be nothing in a sense.”
Faloughi said some progress has been made since the 2015 protests, though he noted that change alone can take a long time, but substantive change is even more complex.

“A conversation got started, but there’s still a large portion of the community, faculty, students and staff that still don’t understand what happened,” he said.

Concerned Student 1950 grew out of the protest group, MU for Mike Brown, which demonstrated in late 2014 and early 2015 against a St. Louis County grand jury’s decision not to indict a white Ferguson police officer for the death of unarmed black teenager Michael Brown. It was not until Homecoming in October 2015 that the original 11 members of Concerned Student 1950 formally came together, when they stopped then-UM System President Tim Wolfe’s car in the parade, demanding he address racial issues on campus.

The group and some supporters started camping on Carnahan Quadrangle in November 2015. Jonathan Butler, who became the face of the movement, staged a hunger strike, vowing not to eat again until Wolfe stepped down. On Nov. 7, 2015, the Tigers football team voiced their support of the group’s efforts, and said they would not play another game until Wolfe resigned. Two days later, Wolfe announced his decision to quit. Loftin resigned later that day and took a research role with MU. Mike Middleton, a former MU vice chancellor, came out of retirement to serve as interim president and will remain in the role until Mun Choi, University of Connecticut provost, begins March 1.

Before the hunger strike, the group issued a list of demands, which included Wolfe’s resignation. The university is working toward some of the other listed demands, including an increase of black faculty to 10 percent by fall 2017, more counselors of color at the Student Counseling Center and a 10-year plan to increase retention rates for marginalized students.

Several original members of Concerned Student 1950 were contacted for comment; some consented to an interview but could not be reached again, and others did not respond to messages seeking comment. Wolfe declined to comment when reached by phone.

Kandice Head joined the group the night before Wolfe resigned. A strategic communications major at the time, she helped with public relations work for the group. Thinking back on the protests, she said, brings up mixed emotions.

“I know I can’t move anywhere, I can’t go anywhere and say I’m from the University of Missouri without somebody bringing it up,” said Head, who now lives in Washington, D.C.

Faloughi said there were obstacles the group faced during its peak, including other activists groups who resented them because they felt they were being overshadowed. There also were segments of the student body and area population that were not sympathetic to its cause. As the conversation continues, he said, he hopes people will expand their thinking and change their point of view.

“The idea is to generate awareness,” Faloughi said, “so people can make a decision to change and go against these systems of oppression, whether it’s racism, sexism.”
Since the protests, MU has changed leadership and sought to increase the diversity of the faculty. The university also has begun efforts to make the campus and system more inclusive, including hiring a chief diversity officer. Head said she is proud of the changes the group helped bring about but added there is a long way to go. At the least, she said, the university acknowledged the issue of discrimination.

“They know this is not a problem they can ignore,” Head said. “This is not a problem they can cover up with PR. They can no longer afford to ignore it.”

**MU faculty reflect on 2015 protests**

Protests against racism put the University of Missouri in the international spotlight in fall 2015, and along with it came a focus on the duality of the ugliness of discrimination and the positive message of those speaking out against it.

Activists with Concerned Student 1950 issued a list of demands in November 2015, and while the university is unlikely to complete each to the letter, officials seem committed to diversifying the student body and faculty and promoting a more inclusive campus climate.

The fall 2015 protests might have damaged the university’s image both in Missouri and across the United States, but there are silver linings. Enrollment declined between fall 2015 and 2016, but sophomore retention was among the highest it has been.

Many faculty members and students supported the activists that fall, including then-Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, who allowed them to camp out on Carnahan Quadrangle for more than a week. Ben Trachtenberg, an MU law school professor and chair of the Faculty Council, said many people on campus were glad the student activists brought attention to the issue.

“On the other hand, raising an issue isn’t the same as fixing it,” Trachtenberg said. “So now the issue is staring us in the face and, even though this issue exists at other universities, because nationally when people talk about Mizzou, this is what they talk about, that can sometimes make it more difficult to recruit.”

The group’s protests led UM System President Tim Wolfe to resign Nov. 9, 2015. Loftin’s resignation followed shortly thereafter. Mike Middleton, a retired vice chancellor, was tapped to replace Wolfe in the interim and Hank Foley still is interim chancellor.

Mun Choi, University of Connecticut provost, was hired last week to be the next system president.
Concerned Student 1950’s demands included Wolfe’s resignation, an increase of black faculty to 10 percent by fall 2017, that MU create a 10-year plan that focuses on retention rates for marginalized students and increases in counselors of color at the MU Counseling Center and in funding for social justice centers.

There has been much change and controversy at MU and the system since Nov. 9, 2015. The new president starts March 1. Melissa Click, a communications professor seen on video asking for “some muscle” to oust two journalists from the protests at Carnahan Quadrangle, was fired as a battle began in the General Assembly about state funding for MU. Kevin McDonald was hired as the system’s chief diversity officer and serves in a similar, interim role for MU.

McDonald declined to do an interview for this story but he spoke Monday to a class, providing an open forum about his job and the protests. Meeting some of Concerned Student 1950’s demands are in the works, he said, though not all are feasible.

“I think we have some things in place that we can build off of,” McDonald told the group, “and other things I think we have to think long and hard about — this notion, for example, of getting to 10 percent minority faculty.”

Trachtenberg pointed out that aside from the feasibility of the students’ request, having a hiring quota for any race or ethnic group would be illegal.

“That doesn’t mean that there isn’t a ton that we can do to make this university more inclusive to people of all backgrounds and, more specifically, what we can do to recruit members of traditionally underrepresented minority groups,” Trachtenberg said.

That includes offering more mentoring services for faculty and students of color, and giving any faculty member who serves as a mentor the proper credit, Trachtenberg said.

McDonald was hired in March for the system role, and named as the interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity for MU in June. He said that when he started, “50 percent of the people congratulated me, the other 50 percent offered me their condolences,” but after he began he found it to be a good opportunity.

“I detected after coming here there was a desire to be reflective in a way that we would learn from the past, to inform, right and help us project a transformative present and future, that we wouldn’t be defined by that,” he said, referring to last year’s unrest.

In an interview at his office at the General Services Building, Loftin said he became aware in December 2014 of how bad the problem of racism is on campus. He held a series of forums and met with students, including Concerned Student 1950 and Jonathan Butler, then a graduate student and activist who staged a hunger strike during the protests. While the activists were more vocal about their dislike of Wolfe, Loftin said he did not always see eye-to-eye with them either.

“The tension we developed over time between the administration and the students was not so much of substance of what had to be done here, but more of speed,” he said.
Loftin began the process of hiring more minority faculty, he said, but it is a slow one. There is no idea of how long it could take to get to the 10 percent goal, he said.


Regardless of MU’s current predicament, Trachtenberg said, there’s no denying the good it has done and continues to do for the people of Missouri, from research to jobs and education. While some people are upset with the university, he said, it stems from a desire to make it better.

“They’re not mad at us because they want us to fail,” Trachtenberg said. “They’re mad at us because we’re not living up to what they hope for us. At least that makes it easier for me to come to work thinking that.”

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More time needed for real change, students say

In the year since Concerned Student 1950’s demonstrations toppled University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe, students said there are signs of progress but that substantive change will take more than one year.

Administrators have taken steps to promote inclusion and change, including creating a Civil Rights and Title IX Office for complaints of discrimination, holding panels to discuss the issues and hiring people to focus on diversifying the university.

Erika Fletcher, a 19-year-old student from St. Louis and member of the Legion of Black Collegians, said she appreciates the efforts since Nov. 9, 2015, but the campus climate is not much different than it was one year ago.

“Currently, I don’t think there’s that much change because there really can’t be in one year,” Fletcher said while walking on Francis Quadrangle. “I think it’s long term, policies need to be changed, things like that. But I do think that people are more comfortable expressing their voices, understand their voices are being heard.”

Fletcher was present during two racially charged incidents on campus. She was there in 2015 when a drunken person shouted racial slurs at the legion’s Homecoming Court, and was one of two black women harassed for their race as they walked past Delta Upsilon’s fraternity house on Tiger Avenue earlier this year. The frat is suspended as the Title IX office and Office of Student Conduct investigate the incident.
Many students and faculty supported Concerned Student 1950 as the group, led by 11 black students, repeatedly rallied against racism on campus in fall 2015. They pointed to several incidents that they urged administrators, Wolfe in particular, to address, including the Homecoming incident, the then-student body president being called a racial epithet and the drawing of a swastika with feces in a residence hall.

It all culminated Nov. 9, 2015, when, as national and international media watched, Wolfe resigned. Several students interviewed by a Tribune reporter said they believe Wolfe would have done nothing about Concerned Student 1950 member Jonathan Butler’s hunger strike had the Tigers football team not shown their support two days before Wolfe quit. The team boycotted playing any games, with the backing of the coach, and MU stood to lose $1 million if it did not play its next game.

Brandon Elliott said that created the belief that university officials would not have done anything without the threat of losing money.

“That just blatantly shows that they don’t necessarily care unless it hurts their finances,” Elliott, 22, of St. Louis said.

Racism long has been an issue at MU and across the United States. Elliot, who is black, said it persists, though he has not experienced it outright at MU. Rather, he said, he feels that many white people treat him differently because of his skin color.

“You can feel when you’re not necessarily welcome,” Elliot said. “I think that’s just reflective of society in its entirety in this country.”

Many white students supported the activists last year and continue to support the long transition to a more inclusive environment. It took time for some, though, including Alex Moark, also from St. Louis, who said he reacted negatively to the protests at first. But, after he heard some of the activists’ stories he said he began to understand their point of view, at least as much as he could.

“I can talk to as many people as I want to, but unless I’ve experienced it there’s no way for me to truly understand the situation, the feelings that a lot of the students on campus are going through,” Moark, 19, said.

When administrators ignored the issues activists brought up, they took to demonstrations that led to change, said Nicholas Allen. They also provided a learning experience for white people like him.

“Overall I think it was a very positive thing,” Allen, 20, of Orange County, Calif. said. “I learned a lot about struggles that black students face that I didn’t know going into it, so I think there were a lot of positives.”

The protests unearthed a deep-seated issue for many people, Diamond Stacker, a black student from Calumet City, Ill., said. She called the demonstrations a segue to putting oppressed students’ feelings into the open and a start to dealing with them.
“If you never had to go through something, you could dodge those issues,” Stacker, 21, said, “and the protests brought it right up to everyone’s face and we had to talk about it.”

UM System leaders say racial climate at Mizzou is improving

One year ago this week the University of Missouri's flagship campus in Columbia was in turmoil.

Hundreds of protesters, along with the Mizzou football team, were calling for UM System President Tim Wolfe to be fired over perceived insensitivity to racial issues and incidents. Some problems continue but the university system's key leaders say the situation has improved.

UM System leaders met individually with members of the media back in September to talk about the one-year anniversary of the unrest at Columbia and the process of hiring a new president. These interviews were to be embargoed until November, with the suggestion that a new president would not yet have been chosen. However, University of Connecticut provost Mun Choi has been hired and will take over in March. What the system leaders had to say about such things as the racial climate on the Mizzou campus remain valid.

Kevin McDonald, Mizzou's chief diversity officer, explains how he goes about his work.

"From my perspective, one of my rules has been the check-in, in other words, can I get a campus temperature? The other part for me is to create this road map, these bread crumbs to follow around for diversity and inclusion, and to start the vetting process to get input from faculty, staff, (and) students; I think that allows me to see what people are thinking about, in relation to how it will fit with our campus community and at the system level as well."

McDonald also talked about lingering sentiments on the Columbia campus.

"I haven’t detected any ill feelings, per se…I think there's a commitment to the institution and the system, (and) a desire to move forward in a way that's reflective of the past but that informs that we learn from and chart a positive and productive future…I think there's a desire to have greater visibility from administration, transparency, and to see pervasive leadership commitment, but I think those things are well underway to build confidence."
He also said that he has not been hampered by having only an interim president an interim chancellor to work with.

"Not at all…it sure didn’t hamper my decision to come here…I was really grateful for the stability and leadership…I think I’m offered a level of historical perspective, (from) president Middleton probably more than (from) chancellor Foley, but I think it helped build a level of confidence in the continuity of leadership that surrounded them to move the organization forward."

That interim system president, Mike Middleton, weighed in on the uproar from Republican lawmakers over the attempt by former communications professor Melissa Click to prevent a student journalist from interviewing protesters.

"I haven't heard much in the last several months…the legislature did end up giving us a four-point-something percent increase in our budget…I think that's suggestive that the ill feelings that we were getting from that body have dissipated, and I have not heard anything from anyone else, so I would have to suggest to you that yeah, the ill feelings have diminished."

Curator Pam Henrickson agreed with Middleton.

"We're looking forward…it's a new day here, and we are looking to take the University of Missouri into its future."

Henrickson also said that the year-long vacancies for system president and Mizzou chancellor have not negatively affected long-term planning.

"We have a very deep bench and we work to have a very deep bench, and we have people that are ready and willing to step up, like (interim) president Middleton, and help us out when we have issues…so we're going forward."

Interim chancellor Hank Foley, meanwhile, hopes to draw students back who either left or chose not to enroll because of the campus protests.

"Mizzou is just a great experience, and I think a few students probably got turned off on the basis of some things that are not that important or big…the general experience at Mizzou, even last year, was pretty terrific."

When asked, he also said that efforts to persuade former students to return will also mean convincing their parents.

"For those parents who didn’t want their children to come here, and (for) the most part it was safety and the perception that their student might not be safe here, we've worked really hard to make it clear that safety is our number one campus priority…we're putting even more money into expanding the police force and making sure that it is as highly trained as any police force, frankly, in the state or maybe in the country."
Foley is hoping to be named Mizzou's permanent chancellor. That decision won’t be made until after Choi takes over as UM System president next year.

Mizzou remains vigilant one year after football team’s boycott

By Tod Palmer

COLUMBIA It was one year ago that Missouri became the epicenter of the college sports world and the national discussion about race relations thanks to Anthony Sherrils’ tweet heard ‘round the world.

On the evening of Nov. 7, 2015, Sherrils announced to the world the Tigers would boycott in solidarity with Jonathan Butler, who was in the midst of a weeklong hunger strike aimed at forcing then-University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe to resign.

The message, “We're black. Black is powerful. Our struggle may look different, but we are all #ConcernedStudent1950” and a snapshot of a statement announcing the protest was accompanied by a photo of several dozen black Mizzou football players linking arms with Butler.

The Tigers’ actions drew widespread attention and propelled the issue of race in higher education from a regional news blip into a national, and even international, nightly news topic.

It also hastened Wolfe’s resignation and that of then-MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, who were both gone within two days of the boycott announcement.

Sophomore right tackle Paul Adams, who lived with Kendall Blanton and Dominic Nelson, was watching football on a rare Saturday off after Mizzou played Mississippi State during a Thursday monsoon that week.

Returning from the meeting with Butler and dozens of teammates, Blanton and Nelson broke the news of the boycott.

“I was a little shocked,” Adams said. “Everyone would’ve liked to know so much more about it ahead of time rather than not fully being in the discussion. But when a brother believes in something, you want to side with him, especially getting to know more about it. We learned as much as we possibly could, and I was with them 100 percent. That’s just what brothers do for each other.”
Adams acknowledges that the entire locker room wasn’t unified, but he’s glad the team stuck together publicly, including the now-famous photo sent from Gary Pinkel’s Twitter account that included #ConcernedStudent1950.

“I’m sure a bunch of guys were angry, but I’m glad that they didn’t show it to the media and whatnot and say, ‘They might be doing this, but I’m doing my own thing,’” Adams said. “It was a situation where people might’ve kept it deep down inside, but we were unified as far as the public.”

It remains a touchy subject for many Mizzou fans, who felt embarrassed or were angered by the boycott, and the school’s administration also doesn’t want to be reminded of last year’s events.

Interim Mizzou Chancellor Hank Foley declined to provide any insight about the campus climate a year after the boycott.

“As we communicated during our September media day, Chancellor Foley and his leadership team are focused on moving the university forward and outlined that day a number of initiatives and projects underway,” his office said in an email to The Star. “To that end, we respectfully decline your request to be part of a story about last year’s events.”

The Tigers’ players, meanwhile, remain unapologetic.

“I’m not really on campus that much, so I don’t know (if it’s made a significant impact),” junior defensive end Charles Harris said. “But I don’t regret anything.”

First-year coach Barry Odom remains vigilant.

“I’d say, we’re very close as our team stands within our relationships. That’s something that, without a question, our staff continues to work on every day just like you do with your friendships (and) people you care about,” he said. “… There’s a lot more to being a student-athlete than Saturday afternoon from 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and I’ve got to get it right in every area. That’s what I’m trying to do every day.”

Foley and other top administrators, including interim MU Vice Chancellor for Diversity Kevin McDonald and then-interim MU System President Mike Middleton, announced a series of initiatives two months ago.

Mizzou has committed $1.6 million toward doubling minority faculty and attracting minority doctoral candidates above and beyond several million dollars already pledged in initiatives aimed at fostering diversity and inclusion across the System’s four campuses, which are located in Columbia, Kansas City, St. Louis and Rolla.

“IT’s not enough … but it’s a great start,” Middleton said in September, “and we’re going to keep building on that great start to move the ball forward. … We’re connecting more closely with the
community. There are issues here that can be solved to make this community more comfortable and receptive to the families and others associated with minority faculty.”

COLUMBIA — Twenty hours a week, Kierra Otis pins on a gold name tag and heads to MU’s Career Center. She’s worked there since freshman year — through Mike Brown and Eric Garner’s deaths, through organizing with MU4MikeBrown and through seeing her friends join Concerned Student 1950. After she stopped protesting, she stayed at the Career Center.

Reuben Faloughi still feels tense when he walks past the Domino’s on Ninth Street and the Thomas Jefferson statue on Francis Quadrangle, scenes of demonstrations he helped organize last year. But through everything — Mike Brown, Eric Garner, marching with MU4Mike Brown, organizing the Student Coalition for Critical Action and beginning Concerned Student — he’s continued doctoral studies in counseling psychology.

And after Abigail Hollis stood with her shins nearly touching then University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe’s red convertible during the 2015 Homecoming parade and told the crowd about racism at MU, after everything — Mike Brown, marching with MU4Mike Brown, beginning Concerned Student 1950 — Hollis decided to stay at MU and pursue a doctorate in psychology.

One year later, student activists are still trying to heal and process the events of last fall, which culminated in the resignations of Wolfe and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin on Nov. 9. Students who were involved have been taking a deep breath. Thinking. Writing. Teaching. Working.

In doing so, they have been rethinking activism and their places on campus.

“My activism certainly looks very different now than it did in the fall,” said Hollis, one of the founding members of Concerned Student 1950.

“Last fall, I was so consumed with student activism. I could not see myself behaving the same way that I did last fall right now. My life would fall apart if I did that again.”

Activism in Ferguson, Missouri, and Columbia had drained Hollis’ mental health. As Hollis planned the Homecoming protest, she knew the event would also be emotionally charged. But
she never expected the constant escalation during the following month on campus, including graduate student Jonathan Butler's hunger strike.

“The Homecoming parade was a big deal,” Hollis said. “It was really emotionally draining, and then the hunger strike took that stress to a ridiculous level. People fell apart during the hunger strike, and so after that most of us were just trying to survive.”

Otis had also been involved in activism since Michael Brown's death in Ferguson in August 2014. About a year after Brown died, when friends began talking about a demonstration at the Homecoming parade, she and her partner walked to a planning meeting in Ellis Library.

But as they walked across Lowry Mall, Otis turned around. She was tired. She felt like her previous organizing efforts had put her on the university’s radar and was afraid her job and academic career could be jeopardized. She thought participating in the demonstration might compromise her emotional well-being and her ability to stay at MU.

Sometimes compliance was subversive, she thought. Maybe, right then, the biggest way for her to protest was to focus on school and graduation, an idea reinforced through conversations with Faloughi.

“I'm here, I need to finish, I need to graduate, I have a great scholarship,” she remembered thinking. “I was an RA, and I was like, I can’t lose that.”

For students who formed marches, organized chants and led demonstrations through most of their educational careers, the idea that the best way for them to address racism is to graduate has taken a while to sink in.

“Activism isn’t always protest, marching and demonstrations; a lot of times it’s our everyday decisions and thoughts and feelings,” Faloughi said.

He’s had to work through similar struggles and has come to a similar conclusion.

In the middle of last fall, Faloughi received encouragement from a friend who affirmed him and his work in education. Just being alive is activism, she said. Being alive is a “radical form of resistance.” Simply being a black man in higher education is unusual; black men earned only 2 percent of doctoral degrees in 2012, according to the National Science Foundation’s Survey of Earned Doctorates.

“That helped reframe activism for me, and I still use it today,” he said. “It was validating for me to be doing what I was doing, but it opened up my view to activism and being alive. To me, being alive is a form of activism; it’s a level of activism.”

That framework also helped Faloughi begin to process the feelings from the Homecoming protest. As he and his friends began telling Wolfe instances of racism on campus, people at the parade began telling them to move on and started a chant of “M-I-Z-Z-O-U” to drown them out.
White men tried to push them aside and cheered when the police asked them to move. Faloughi felt bullied.

“Nobody could have ever imagined what we went through that day,” Faloughi said. “I tell people that protest was the modern sit-in. You see the level of hatred in people’s faces and the level of hate of who you are, and these people don’t even know you.”

It wasn’t just national news events that pushed them together; the details and life experiences unnoticed by peers and professors bound them. Things like inviting freshmen to sleep on their couches after Yik Yak threats made them feel unsafe on campus. Things like parents who encouraged them to celebrate black history, or feeling like they couldn't fully be part of the movement because they had white parents. Things like feeling left out because of some activists' focus on religious belief. Things that couldn’t be processed quickly, or explained easily, or fit into neat boxes.

And recurring racist incidents, like when two members of the Legion of Black Collegians reported being called nigger on campus in September, bring up old feelings as well.

“Those triggers are strong and very salient,” Hollis said. The autumn weather, the anniversaries of other protests and the Legion incident have made her feel like last fall is repeating itself. “It feels like you’re in the exact same setting that you were in when everything unfolded last time. But I’ve gotten better at dealing with things, even though it’s been really difficult here and there.”

She sees the feelings and the incidents as a chance to work on her coping skills and self-awareness.

But activists have been so intimately connected with their activism in their time at MU, they’ve had to work to fill the holes left when they stopped protesting. Many became friends and colleagues through direct action, and without the movement, some have felt adrift and disconnected.

The deaths of Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice and Michael Brown were not just incidents that flashed on the news. They were the spurs that caused Hollis, Faloughi and Otis to get involved with activism at MU.

Faloughi, who did his undergraduate studies at the University of Georgia, said Brown’s death lifted a veil from his eyes and made him realize the prevalence of racism in Missouri and across higher education.

He went to a die-in with MU4MikeBrown that December. He went to his first race forum. He said he and other students felt slighted when he saw Chancellor Loftin on his phone during the forum. He went to a vigil that protested the death of Eric Garner. He remembers Kierra Otis’ powerful voice and Jonathan Butler’s charisma at the vigil. “I felt like a groupie,” he said, smiling. During that year, “I found activism.”
Otis was visiting St. Louis with her mom the day Brown was killed. His death made her think of her four brothers. She desperately, urgently, wanted to do something. In November, she read Tamir Rice’s name at a MU4MikeBrown protest; his is one of the deaths that resonates the most with her. After the demonstration, Naomi Daugherty, one of the founders of MU4MikeBrown, asked Otis if she wanted to be one of the new leaders of the group.

“I wanted to do something,” Otis said. “I felt like I needed to do something.”

In the spring of 2015, Faloughi began his own organization, Student Coalition for Critical Action, in the living room of mentor Traci Wilson-Kleekamp. He wanted “transformative cohesion” for all marginalized groups of the student body.

The coalition has ended, but Faloughi is still quietly working toward his dream. He teaches a class section in education, school and counseling psychology where all types of students learn to form relationships, regardless of cultural similarities and differences, and analyze their own identities. It’s something that should happen in college anyways, Faloughi said, but rarely does.

It’s a class that was useful for Deja Mackey, a junior, as she processed the events of last year and looked for her place on campus as a black, multi-ethnic student.

“Having a platform to deal with experiences in an incognito way, in an academic way, was very helpful,” she said. “I don’t know what the new freshman diversity class looks like, but this one is what everyone should be taking.”

Hollis views graduate school as a chance to take a break and regroup. She’s interested in how implicit bias affects how people view race, gender and sexuality. She’s been thinking a lot about “collective care,” or making sure that each individual member and the group as a whole is taken care of. She wishes Concerned Student had been able to center that mindset during its activism. She’s not sure if she’ll organize protests again at MU, but she sees organizing in national spheres as a possibility.

“This thing is very comprehensive, and I don’t think I’ll ever say, oh, I’m done, I can sit down or step out,” Hollis said. “Right now, it’s me charging up and gaining more knowledge and getting my feet under me.”

In the past year, Otis has focused a lot of her time on places where she feels accepted, not just as a black student but as a queer, multiracial woman.

She has thrown herself into making the Career Center a welcoming place for diverse students, whether by updating the staff handbook or by teaching segments about diversity and inclusion in a Career Explorations class.

Not all of her coworkers have always understood how much racism impacts her life, she said, but she’s also been encouraged by statements of support from staff and her boss. An email explaining the emotional impact of last year’s Yik Yak threats on black student workers is taped
to the wall of the staff room, with Post-it notes pasted around it: “Respect,” “Listen” and “Don’t Turn Away.”

She’s been journaling a lot and thinking about what she wants to do after college. She’s been thinking about resilience and vulnerability. She’s been reading poems by Maya Angelou and Ololade Siyanbola.

In the end, though, healing from and dismantling racism will always be a process, Otis said, and she won’t stop trying to bring more and more people into the center of society.

“Incorporating that into Mizzou is tricky, because people are in so many different places,” Otis said. “But consciousness is never-ending, and you’re always learning.”

**One year later, MU has met over half of Concerned Student 1950’s demands**

The university has recently taken steps toward hiring more mental health professionals and faculty of color.

However, in recent months, officials have announced new measures that satisfy certain demands made by the group, including plans to hire more faculty of color and diversity course requirements for incoming students.

In a Prezi presentation dated Feb. 24, 2016, CS1950 published an updated version of its list. The new version left out the first and second demands calling for former president Tim Wolfe’s resignation and a handwritten apology letter acknowledging his white male privilege, but included calls to meet demands eight and nine from the Legion of Black Collegians’ 1969 list of demands.

These demands, which requested an academic bankruptcy program and hiring panel for the nonexistent Office of Minority Students, have not been addressed by the university. According to the presentation, the deadline for these demands was August 2016.

In addition, the demand for a “strategic 10-year plan” to increase minority student retention rates has not been implemented by Academic Retention Services, nor have plans been made to expand the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center or build a statue of Lloyd Gaines in the center of Carnahan Quadrangle.
In February, just a few weeks after the updated demands were made public, Chuck Henson, former interim vice chancellor for diversity, inclusion and equity, released a letter reprimanding CS1950 for what he considered to be “threats and arbitrary deadlines.”

“Had you accepted my invitation to meet face-to-face, you would already know the answers to most of the issues raised in your recent communication,” Henson wrote. “As many other concerned students already know, much of what can be done to transform our culture is already underway.”

Henson stepped down from his post as vice chancellor this fall and was replaced by Kevin McDonald. This September, McDonald and UM system leaders held a “media day” to address the 2015 protests and outlined their plans for achieving greater diversity on campus.

“This was designed to provide you with an update on where we are today, what we have done over the past several months to address the issues that arose back in November and that we are moving forward,” interim UM System President Michael Middleton said during the conference.

McDonald announced that $1.3 million will be set aside for the recruitment and retention of minority faculty members, with an ultimate end goal of 13.4 percent faculty of color. If successful, this initiative will exceed CS1950’s demand for 10 percent faculty of color.

In addition, he stated that the Counseling Center has hired two new psychologists and two interns of color, as well as Dr. Nadia Bethley to serve as the center’s first diversity coordinator. These efforts do not entirely fulfill CS1950’s demand for one psychologist per every 1,500 students, or 14 new psychologists based on last year’s enrollment data, by June 2016.

Finally, leaders at the conference lauded various colleges and schools for recently launching diversity course requirements, including programs in the School of Journalism, College of Education, College of Nursing, College of Arts and Sciences, and the Truman School of Public Affairs. Such requirements, along with the Citizenship@Mizzou diversity session which was mandatory starting with the Class of 2020, addressed CS1950’s calls for “comprehensive racial awareness and inclusion curriculum” overseen by students and faculty of color.

Dr. Stephanie Shonekan, Department of Black Studies chairwoman and professor of ethnomusicology, led the Citizenship@Mizzou sessions in an effort to start a dialogue on diversity between students and faculty.

“We wanted to say, we know what happened last year and we wanted to make sure we’re communicating,” Shonekan said in an interview with The Maneater. “It’s important for us. It’s definitely important for Mizzou.”

Despite no clear resolution to the remaining three demands, CS1950 expressed optimism in tweets posted on Oct. 10, the one year anniversary of the group’s formation.

“In 1 yr, an issuing of 8 demands #BoycottMU campaign, a #mizzouhungerstrike, a football team who was bout it [sic], multiple meetings, town halls many more demonstrations, and one
year later 5 of our demands have been met,” the group wrote. “If this is the power that can manifest in a year, imagine what we can do in our lifetime. Keep resisting! It is our duty!”

DEAR READER: A year after 'The Day' at MU, the call for more dialogue continues

Tom Warhover, Nov 5, 2016

Dear Reader,

We complete the first days of November 2016 as we did a year ago: in secrecy and silence at University Hall, followed by a formal pronouncement.

On Wednesday, the UM System announced its new president, Mun Choi. That's a year, minus a week since Tim Wolfe announced his resignation.

For months, the people who ultimately selected Choi kept us in the dark — and still do, because we don't know the finalists for the job at this public institution. The curators and the hiring committee were led by a search firm whose business model is based on secrecy. Headhunter agencies don't make their money by making their lists public.

Wolfe’s silence was loudest when he sat in that convertible at the Homecoming parade in 2015, not uttering a word while protesters blocked the car and gave voice to their demands and some in the parade crowd shouted back.

Now we have a new leader of the four-campus system. Can’t blame Choi for the closed doors. Not until March 1, when he officially begins.

On our town’s campus, the I’s still have it. Interim chancellor Hank Foley will stay that way awhile longer. It has been quicker to wash away his predecessor’s controversies — so many of them were based on personality rather than policy. R. Bowen Loftin wielded a big, if ceremonial, mace.

Loftin and Wolfe will be ever connected by The Day.
Nov. 9 was the day when both resigned, albeit for different reasons and, we came to find out later, different parachutes for leaving peaceably. Loftin negotiated a nice deal for himself. Wolfe, not so much.

It was the day when members of the MU football team went back to the practice field after an incredibly short and amazingly influential boycott.

It was the day when graduate student Jonathan Butler ended his hunger strike.

It was the day when assistant professor Melissa Click and student photojournalist Tim Tai became unwilling symbols for free speech and press rights debates.

It wasn’t the day that systemic racism ended on MU’s campus. It wasn’t the beginning of the end.

A year later, what have we learned?

For some of my fellow white people, moving forward means going back to before all that messy unrest and uncomfortable protest. Others act like the cop at an accident scene: nothing to see here, move along, folks.

The interim for a while longer president, Mike Middleton, noted in a June speech that 84 percent of college presidents thought their college’s race relations were good or better, but only 24 percent said the same about colleges nationwide.

That kind of thinking, he said, helped lead to MU’s tumultuous, angry and sometimes frightening fall.

Make no mistake: The anger is still there. The minority out of power still feel the personal slights and institutional denials. Festering wounds have not suddenly healed themselves.

Hard work remains.

The MU Faculty Council’s race relations committee met for about 18 months before issuing its report. It called for many things. The model that emerged: “small groups of people committed toward naming the problems of race relations and naming the solutions.”

In other words: talk. Uncomfortable talk.

Now is not the time for silence.
Eight mumps cases confirmed at MU, number expected to increase

COLUMBIA — Eight MU students been diagnosed with mumps, and the MU Student Health Center expects that number to rise over the next 25 days.

On Wednesday, the MU News Bureau confirmed that four students had been diagnosed with the virus, and the health center updated the total to eight on Friday afternoon.

Some other students have made appointments with the Student Health Center and displayed symptoms of mumps, but it will take up to a week before test results come in, health center spokesperson Pam Roe said. She did not have an exact number of how many students have come in with symptoms of the virus.

It can take about 25 days to display symptoms of mumps, which include a fever, swollen glands, fatigue, aching muscles and a headache, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. The virus is spread through mucus or saliva.

Nine MU students were confirmed to have mumps in the summer of 2015, and one student was diagnosed in April.

Students who have received the Mumps, Measles and Rubella vaccine are nine times less likely to contract the illness, Roe said. Those with a vaccine will likely have fewer or less intense symptoms.

Anyone with these symptoms should seek medical attention immediately, Roe said. Students should not attend their classes if they show symptoms.

What did Americans learn about themselves in Campaign 2016?
WASHINGTON • After the coarseness and chaos, what did its citizens learn about America in the brawl that has been Campaign 2016?

Many are unsettled about and dissatisfied in the pursuit of the American Dream, and they are deeply unhappy with the choices the two major political parties gave them to address those concerns.

They are unsure of their nation’s place in the world, and worried that their government is not keeping them secure within it.

And, in Donald Trump, they have witnessed the power of social media to divide and motivate people who are deeply opposed to the direction of the country but are unable or unwilling to reach a consensus on which direction to go.

“Election 2016 ends where it began — an unhappy electorate looking for change, dissatisfied with the choices they had for president,” said veteran pollster Peter Hart, who conducted focus groups throughout the campaign for the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

“It is both sad and dispiriting,” he said. “Yes, there are passionate supporters for both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. But the truth is … people are voting more against, rather than for, a candidate.”

As one undecided man told Hart in a focus group in Charlotte, N.C., in late October: “The message is not, ‘Vote for me because I’m the best candidate.’ The message is, ‘Vote for me because I am less of a sleaze ball.’ ”

The bottom-line result, no matter who wins the presidency on Tuesday, will be the continuance of a bitterly divided federal government.

House Republicans are gearing up to investigate Clinton if she wins. Congressional Democrats, many of whom have publicly pronounced Trump a danger to the republic, will be pushing back hard if he triumphs. As in 2008, when Barack Obama took office, there will be no bipartisan consensus that the next president needs to succeed in order for the country to.

Campaign 2016 leaves more questions than it answered.

Alasdair Roberts, a professor at the Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri, said that Americans “are clearly dissatisfied with the formula that held sway from 1980 to 2007: open borders, free markets, less government intervention,” but that this election did little to address where to go from there.
“On the left and right, people are making demands for fair shares, fair treatment, and more responsive governmental institutions,” he said. “In previous eras (like the 1960s) this might have translated into a demand for more active government. Today, though, the debate is complicated by one carryover from 1980 to 2007: lingering skepticism about the capacity of government to address problems effectively, especially at the federal level. So the simple ’60s solution — government should do more — doesn’t sell.”

He added:

“This should have been an election about ideas. The old paradigm is exhausted, so where do we go next? But neither candidate was ready to do that.

“Trump lacked the capacity to articulate a coherent new agenda, and Clinton was too closely tied to the status quo. So the campaign degenerated into questions of personality or conduct alone.”

And, aided by the power of social media, every vulnerability was exploited, day after day, hour upon hour, tweet upon tweet.

Trump’s use of Twitter will be central to every history of the 2016 election. His Tweets sparked news bursts and transfixed TV talking heads. The cacophony drowned out discussion of real issues and turned debates into tests of whether Trump was fit, personally and temperamentally, to hold the office. The attacks also raised questions about whether Clinton’s propensity, in critics’ minds, to co-mingle personal and public affairs made her unfit.

Trump’s “Crooked Hillary” 140-letter attacks incited those who have long disliked and mistrusted her. When damaging information from her long public career came out — WikiLeaks’ stolen email dumps and FBI director James Comey’s bombshell announcement that the agency was taking a fresh look at emails while she was Secretary of State — the conversation turned even more afield from issues that worry and interest Americans. The final hours were roiled even further Sunday with Comey’s announcement that the FBI would not prosecute Clinton based on the new emails.

The social media election

The impact of speed-of-light communications on American politics cannot be overstated: None of these elements — email, social media, the WikiLeaks counter-culture — even existed when Clinton’s husband was elected president 24 years ago.

“The natural state of things is to pull people into silos, to separate,” said Roy Temple, chairman of the Missouri Democratic Party. “I think it requires a conscious effort to restore the sense of a common good and get people to refocus on the values that we share and the things we can work toward. It was always hard (before social media). It has gotten even harder.”

Obama was able to harness social media to victory in 2008 because, as the first black president, he represented change. And he had a far sparser public record to grind the social media grist mill than Hillary Clinton has.
Clinton “does not start out with the natural goodwill that would have strengthened her effort” because “there has been a generation of people demonizing Hillary Clinton on a daily basis, and it has had its effect,” Temple said.

“You talk about death by a thousand paper cuts,” he added. “Her reputation has been nicked by a billion dollars-worth of paper cuts.”

**Peverill Squire, the Hicks and Martha Griffiths chair in American political institutions at the University of Missouri, said that “Twitter is good at getting bits of information out to supporters and rallying them, but it is not a mechanism for working through complicated policy problems.”**

Roberts said social media did not cause continuing, protracted divides about where the country should go on big issues such as trade, immigration and foreign policy. But the power of Twitter, Facebook and other social media outlets, he said, may have contributed to the division.

“My own view is that the effect of technology is of secondary importance,” Roberts said. “The main thing is the collapse of an old paradigm and the search for a new one.”

All of the campaign acrimony has done little to ease Americans’ concerns about their country’s position in an unstable world. Trump’s build-a-wall call, and his attacks on foreign trade deals, are a major pivot from the negotiate-with-old-foes and free-trade ideology of Republican presidents of the post-Cold War era.

Democrats are equally split, with many blaming Bill Clinton’s administration for trade deals that liberals say hurt American workers.

“It appears that many Americans expect the world to do what we want while at the same time, we are trying to withdraw from international affairs,” Squire said. “Although we are still the most powerful nation in the world, the ability of any nation to dictate to others has declined dramatically.”

Said Roberts: “My own sense is that the anxieties about foreign affairs are mainly a symptom of a sense of drift at home. That is, if people felt that the candidates were offering a clear view of how to handle domestic problems, they would be worrying less about the place of the U.S. in the world.”
MU first in nation to offer online teaching program for doctors

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyses.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=d7f65856-988a-4ad5-85d8-18c189cf9754

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri is the first school in the nation to offer an exclusively-online master's degree program for physicians who want to teach.

The program began offering online classes during the fall 2016 semester.

Mizzou Online Spokesperson Stacy Snow said the program has been offered in-person for about 40 years, but it is now being offered online to accommodate doctors' busy schedules.

"Having it in an online format gives a little bit more freedom to be able to take the coursework more on your schedule and when you can fit it in."

Snow said the program is semester-based.

"It goes along the time line of a regular semester." Snow said.

In-state tuition is offered to any student who is accepted into the program.

"Regardless of your residency, when you're a graduate online student at Mizzou, you pay in-state tuition," Snow said.

Program Director Erik Lindbloom said students will typically take two courses per semester, finishing the program in five semesters.

"They're able to keep their regular full-time positions, usually as a practicing physician, while they're also doing the coursework."
Lindbloom said although the master's program is not necessary to become a faculty physician, many physicians want the extra education to be prepared for the future.

"You can become a faculty physician right out of training after your residency, but I think a lot of physicians are looking for more training to be better teachers, perhaps be innovators, developers of curriculum, leaders in the dean's office, those sorts of positions," Lindbloom said.

Lindbloom said the program allows doctors to teach a variety of subjects and students.

"The fun thing, I find, about medical education is you can teach a variety of different levels of learners," Lindbloom said. "You can teach medical students, residents, fellows, fellow faculty members looking for expertise in other areas, so, we find that our graduates, and my colleagues, have done different types of education throughout their career."

Lindbloom said there are not enough physicians who are also interested in teaching.

"There is a great need across the country for physicians who want to teach and want to do research."

Lindbloom said the program helps put physicians on the path to success.

"Not only would this program prepare you to be a good educator and be a good researcher, but eventually be a leader in your field."

Closing arguments clash in one of nation's pivotal U.S. Senate races

Missouri on Tuesday will be among a handful of pivotal states whose voters will determine control of the United States Senate and greatly influence the direction of the federal government beginning in January.

With Republicans’ 59-seat House majority projected to shrink, control of the Senate will help decide how much of the next president’s policies and plans become reality.

From Supreme Court justices to trade deals to the enduring differences on immigration, the Senate — with the filibuster threat hanging over the party controlling it — will be the make-or-break chamber for a host of important issues.
That’s why outside groups aligned with either incumbent Republican Sen. Roy Blunt or his Democratic challenger, Secretary of State Jason Kander, have poured at least $35 million into the race.

Their spending — ranging from the super PAC of Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell on the right, to a cluster of union and Democratic-related groups on the left — has surpassed the $26 million that the Blunt and Kander campaigns collectively had raised by mid-October.

A Post-Dispatch poll released Oct. 28 showed Blunt and Kander in a virtual tie.

The Senate is controlled 54-46 by Republicans, but more of the seats up for grabs Tuesday are held by the GOP.

Republican senators Kelly Ayotte in New Hampshire, Richard Burr in North Carolina and Pat Toomey in Pennsylvania are, like Blunt, in tight and fierce re-election fights. Republicans are trying to hold an open seat in Indiana; Democrats hope to retain the Nevada seat being vacated by retiring Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid.

Missouri has not always been in this toss-up category or on the national radar. But in an anti-Washington year, Kander’s status as a relative newcomer with a thinner public record to defend than Blunt’s, together with Kander’s Army service in Afghanistan, made the 35-year-old a potent outsider opponent for the 66-year-old Blunt.

Kander’s early fundraising prowess got him noticed, and when once toss-up Senate races in Ohio and Wisconsin turned decisively for the Republican and Democrat, respectively, many national donors saw Missouri as the next logical place to put their money. Hence the record-breaking outside spending.

None has spent more than the $10 million-plus that McConnell’s Senate Leadership Fund, supported by big Republican donors, has poured in to try to save Blunt.

Collectively, Democrats have answered with more than $5 million from the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, according to the latest tally by the campaign spending watchdog, the Center for Responsive Politics. The NRA has spent $3 million on Blunt’s behalf. Kander has been bucked up by $1.7 million from VoteVets, and $1.8 million from a group calling for the end to unlimited spending in campaigns.

The same kindling that has fired Trump’s turn-Washington-upside-down insurgency has been used by Kander to charge that Blunt is too tied to Washington lobbyists, including those in his own family, to put Missourians first.

Blunt says Kander will be a rubber stamp for Clinton if she is elected president, and that Kander’s political leanings are too far left for most Missourians. Speaking to Kander’s attacks on Blunt’s lobbyist family — his wife, a daughter and two sons are lobbyists — Blunt said in a fundraising appeal that Kander “has talked a lot more about my family than what he can do for families like yours.”
Blunt was Greene County clerk before being elected as secretary of state, where he served for eight years. He lost a Republican gubernatorial primary in 1992. He was elected to the U.S. House in 1996, and in 2010, he easily defeated Democrat Robin Carnahan for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Christopher “Kit” Bond.

Blunt’s experience as a 20-year Washington insider has been marked by rapid rises to leadership positions in both the House and Senate. But while he can point to bipartisan legislative accomplishments that benefited Missouri, the insider status that helped lead to them has been subject of attacks by critics.

Missouri was overlooked, nationally, at first because of Blunt’s reputation as a very good retail campaigner. Some underestimated how the same anti-Washington impulses propelling Trump, especially in Republican-leaning presidential states like Missouri, could damage veteran GOP incumbents lower on the ballot. The establishment Republican Blunt ended up sharing the top of the ticket with two candidates — Trump and gubernatorial candidate Eric Greitens — who rail against a “rigged” political system.

“The expectation was that Blunt was sufficiently entrenched and financed that he could withstand anything a Democratic challenger could throw at him,” said Peverill Squire, the Hicks and Martha Griffiths Chair in American Political Institutions at the University of Missouri.

“What I don’t think outsiders fully anticipated is that Kander is a very good candidate or that Blunt as the ultimate insider would have run with GOP presidential and gubernatorial candidates who claim the system is corrupt and rigged to the advantage of insiders,” Squire said. “Given Blunt’s vulnerabilities on this score, I’m surprised the Kander campaign hasn’t raised the question of what Blunt would do if he lost. I doubt anyone thinks he would move back to Missouri.”

Blunt closed his campaign with the help of Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, who narrowly lost to Trump in Missouri’s presidential primary last spring. In a joint appearance in Springfield, Mo., Cruz, Blunt, Greitens and other top-of-the-ticket Missouri Republicans appealed for a Republican sweep statewide.

Cruz echoed one of Blunt’s final arguments: that the Senate voters choose on Tuesday will be asked to confirm the replacement to the late Antonin Scalia on the Supreme Court.

The homestretch of Kander’s campaign included a bus tour throughout the state, where he is closing with an argument that he has made since announcing his candidacy in February 2015: that Washington won’t change unless voters change who they send there.

Described by friends and colleagues as a “man on the move,” Kander has tried to present himself as a fresh face, despite a résumé that includes holding statewide office and serving two terms in the Missouri Legislature, where in a group dominated by Republicans, he unsuccessfully pushed for campaign finance reform.
Kander then narrowly won a bid for secretary of state in 2012, becoming the youngest statewide elected official in the country.

The ad in which he assembled an AR-15 rifle while blindfolded attracted national attention, but it has been his relentless attacks on Blunt’s long tenure in Washington and on his connections to lobbyists and big donors that has attracted more attention in Missouri.

“After 20 years there, Sen. Blunt has changed,” Kander told the Post-Dispatch. “He no longer believes what he used to believe.”

Blunt responded that while a lot of people could assemble a gun, not everyone was a Clinton supporter like Kander.

If elected, Kander says his top priorities include a middle-class tax cut and continued efforts to make elections more ethical, including redistricting reform and overturning a Supreme Court decision that allows corporations and unions to spend unlimited amounts of money to support or criticize candidates for office.

Blunt has promised to continue efforts to peel away at the Affordable Care Act, President Barack Obama’s signature health care law. Blunt has been one of the Senate’s most vocal critic of the law.

**Adding music to pain meds may reduce pain**

As a complement to traditional pain relief tools like medication, listening to music may lessen acute or chronic pain related to cancer and other conditions, according to a new review.

"We have seen and observed this effect in multiple clinical settings such as medical hospitals and hospice-care facilities," said author Jin Hyung Lee of Ewha Womans University in Seoul, South Korea.

"In addition to all the clinical trials investigating the effects of music interventions on pain, we are seeing an increase in the number of music therapists who work in the medical and hospice care settings," Lee told Reuters Health by email. "Of course, these professionals work on a variety of clinical goals in addition to pain management, but it definitely is one of the major goals."
Lee reviewed 97 randomized controlled trials conducted between 1995 and 2014 that included a total of 9,147 participants. Most trials involved music therapy, which typically involves interactions with a music therapist, while a handful of trials looked at music medicine, which mainly involves exposure to "prerecorded music experiences" selected for their effects, Lee writes in the Journal of Music Therapy.

The trials examined those effects on participants' self-reported pain intensity, emotional distress from pain, vital signs and amount of pain relief medication taken.

Many studies let participants choose the type of music they wanted to listen to, often including classical, easy listening, new age, slow jazz and soft rock. A quarter of the trials used music selected by researchers. On average, participants listened to about 38 minutes of music during the experiments.

Overall, people getting the music intervention in their trial rated their pain intensity about one point lower on a zero to 10 scale after music sessions compared to groups that got no music. But the results were not consistent among all studies, Lee notes.

Seven of the studies found a significant decrease in anesthetic use in music groups compared to non-music groups. There were similar small but significant differences in studies examining use of opioid and non-opioid painkillers, but there was no difference in sedative use.

Heart rate, blood pressure and respiration rate were all found to be lower among participants in music groups in some studies.

Music stimulates additional senses other than pain receptors, which attracts patients' attention, and relieves stress and anxiety with its soothing quality, Lee said.

"In addition, music therapists provide various music experiences with specific clinical intent to promote a sense of hope and control, to actively re-direct patients' attention, and to support patients to actively cope with their illness," he said.

"Music medicine and music therapy are not meant to be alternative forms of therapy, rather they are provided as a complementary treatment to existing care," he said.

**Music may distract and relax patients, said Dr. John Marshall of the University of Missouri School of Medicine in Columbia, Missouri, who was not part of Lee's review.**

"When we did our music study in colonoscopy patients many years ago, we were giving patients light sedation," Marshall said. "The patients were awake during their procedures. The music seemed to be a helpful adjunct to improving the patient experience."

Today, most colonoscopy patients are moderately to heavily sedated, so music during the procedure may not matter as much, though pleasant background music prior to the procedure makes sense.
"There are many things to consider when devising a music program for patients, so I would recommend consulting a music therapist when establishing a music medicine program," Lee said.

Defining Rape Culture

Should colleges include the term and talk about the concept in sexual misconduct policies? Few, if any, actually do so.

No MU Mention

An attempt to update an Ontario university's sexual assault policy has led to a months-long debate between administrators, faculty and students over whether the new policy should acknowledge that a rape culture exists on campus.

If Carleton University, the institution at the center of the debate, were to include the reference to rape culture in its policy, it would be one of just a handful of institutions in Canada to do so. In the United States, such policies may be even rarer. While many colleges do define the term in their educational and prevention efforts, a review by Inside Higher Ed of sexual misconduct policies at more than 60 U.S. colleges and universities found no references to rape culture, and researchers and advocates interviewed for this article said they could not recall any colleges defining rape culture in their policies.

“The definition needs to be there,” Anna Voremberg, managing director of End Rape On Campus, said. “It helps to have parameters for the conversation you’re having on campus, so defining rape culture is important.”

The movement in recent years -- in both the United States and Canada -- to hold colleges more accountable for how they investigate and adjudicate allegations of sexual assault has led to many changes on campuses. Most of these changes have been on the policy front, with institutions adopting affirmative consent policies, changing the standard of proof they use in campus hearings and pledging to complete sexual assault investigations within a 60-day time frame.

But advocates have also asked for changes more symbolic in nature that, they say, would signal to victims of sexual assault that colleges are taking the matter seriously and acknowledging the broader social issues that surround sexual violence both on and off campus.

Rape culture has existed as a concept since the 1970s, though it remains a contentious term. Some, especially those who question the prevalence of
campus sexual assault, dismiss the idea outright. For those who study the concept, however, rape culture is the setting that allows sexual assault and rape to be so prevalent. Rape culture may refer to the country, or even world, at large, or to segments within a society, such as the behaviors and attitudes of many straight men, athletes or fraternity members. Rape culture is commonly associated with victim blaming, denial of widespread sexual assault, objectification of women and the trivialization of rape, such as in college party themes, stand-up comedy routines or films.

When an off-campus fraternity sends a party invitation to female freshmen, telling them to wear tight clothes and to “fuck off” if they’re “a tease,” that’s rape culture. When a university’s men’s soccer team creates a “scouting report” that makes sexist and demeaning rankings of the physical attributes of the women’s soccer team, that’s rape culture. When institutions allow star football players found responsible of sexual assault to easily transfer from program to program, that’s rape culture.

“At the core, rape culture is the idea that women and other people’s bodies are for the taking and that conquest is the key to sexuality,” Voremberg said. “Campus sexual assault is because of rape culture.”

In March, an Ontario bill called the Sexual Violence and Workplace Harassment Action Plan became law, and it requires all colleges in the province to rewrite their sexual assault polices. At Carleton University, students demanded that a definition of rape culture be included in the new policy, a request backed by the university’s faculty union. Nearby Ryerson University had already acknowledged rape culture in its policy.

At first, the university included the term in a list of definitions that were listed within the new policy. Then, at a meeting in March, university administrators voted to remove the term from the policy completely.

After months of back-and-forth, the term reappeared in the newest draft of the policy released in October. “‘Rape culture’ means a culture in which dominant ideas, social practices, media images and societal institutions implicitly or explicitly condone sexual assault by normalizing or trivializing sexual violence and by blaming survivors for their own abuse,” the policy’s preamble states.

The debate has not ended, however. The faculty union at Carleton has since said the debate around including the term in the policy has become a distraction from improving the policy in more concrete ways. Student activists and members of the union that represents the university’s 3,000 teaching assistants say the policy does not go far enough. It must do more than just acknowledge that rape culture exists, they argue, and acknowledge that rape culture exists specifically at Carleton.
“Students, advocates and activists aren’t asking Carleton for a lot,” Madeline Ashby, a columnist for The Ottawa Citizen, wrote. “What they’re asking for is an admission that this is the culture we all live in, and that it’s our responsibility to change it. Part of that responsibility is first acknowledging that there is a problem with campus rape, both in Ontario and elsewhere, and that problem grows in a culture -- just like strains of a virus need a hospitable growth culture to flourish in.”

The university declined to comment for this article.

In the United States, there continues to be disagreement, even among victims’ advocates, over how best to recognize and acknowledge rape culture, on campus or elsewhere. According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, an overemphasis on the concept of rape culture in prevention efforts can be problematic.

“In the last few years, there has been an unfortunate trend towards blaming ‘rape culture’ for the extensive problem of sexual violence on campuses,” RAINN said in a report it prepared for the White House about campus sexual assault in 2014. “While it is helpful to point out the systemic barriers to addressing the problem, it is important to not lose sight of a single fact: rape is caused not by cultural factors but by the conscious decisions, of a small percentage of the community, to commit a violent crime. This trend has the paradoxical effect of making it harder to stop sexual violence, since it removes the focus from the individual at fault, and seemingly mitigates personal responsibility for his or her own actions.”

The debate over rape culture, RAINN wrote, “has led to an inclination to focus on particular segments of the student population (e.g., athletes), particular aspects of campus culture (e.g., the Greek system), or traits that are common in many millions of law-abiding Americans (e.g., ‘masculinity’), rather than on the subpopulation at fault: those who choose to commit rape.”

Samantha Harris, director of policy at the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, said colleges are well within their rights to educate students about the concept of rape culture in their prevention efforts, but she would be concerned if an institution explicitly defined the term in an official code of conduct. While advocates have not asked colleges to ban outright all behavior related to rape culture, Harris said such policies’ references to “media images,” if adopted by an American college, would be troubling.

“The point of a policy is to regulate conduct and not to adopt a specific and highly ideological view of student relationships,” Harris said. “Even if they’re not actually banning specific media or behavior related to rape culture, referencing those in a policy that is designed to regulate conduct could have a chilling effect on speech. A code of conduct should not be about pressuring students to adopt a certain ideological outlook.”
Many U.S. colleges already include references to rape culture in their prevention efforts, and have done so for decades.

At Marshall University, for example, there’s a webpage devoted to answering the question “What is the rape culture?” The page defines the term in a way similar to the Carleton policy and lists several examples of the concept. It also tells students “how men and women can combat rape culture,” instructing them to “not let stereotypes shape [their] actions” and to “speak out if [they] hear someone else making an offensive joke or trivializing rape.”

Colorado State University has a similar webpage, as do Cornell, Saint John’s and Southern Connecticut State Universities. Emory University prominently includes a section on “Understanding Rape Culture” on its health center’s website, and so does Harvard University.

“Rape culture promotes sexual objectification and coercion, lack of agency over one’s body, and dismissal of feminine-presenting or gender-nonconforming individuals as not ‘fully human,’” Harvard University’s Office of Sexual Assault Prevention & Response states on its webpage. “Consider the violent metaphors used for sex or those that present it as a sport, conquest or game: ‘hit that,’ ‘banging,’ ‘screwing,’ ‘slaying,’ ‘railing,’ ‘nailing,’ ‘scoring.’ These metaphors represent sex as one directional instead of a mutual process requiring consent and respect.”

Few, if any, U.S. colleges include such definitions directly in their sexual misconduct policies, however. Mary P. Koss, a professor of public health at the University of Arizona and a pioneering researcher on the prevalence of campus sexual assault, said she understands why students may want to see such a definition codified in an official policy, but she’s not convinced doing so makes sense.

“My major concern is that simply saying or defining rape culture isn’t sufficient to communicate the levels of causation of sexual assault on campuses,” Koss said. “Policies should be about things that can be changed. Colleges can look at their alcohol policy, their party policy, they can require mandatory training to increase knowledge, provide better sex education. There are lots of things universities can do that maybe wouldn’t immediately come to mind as being a part of rape culture.”
It’s the day before Samia Chughtai’s first big exam at the Johns Hopkins University, and the recent transfer from Northern Virginia Community College is "very stressed." She’s come to the top floor of the library for a study break, and a free massage.

For the next five minutes, Osiris Mancera, a sophomore, will roll, squeeze, and twist the tension from Ms. Chughtai’s muscles. When it’s over, Ms. Chughtai says she feels calmer than before.

"I’ve had back rubs from professionals," she says, "that were not as nice as this."

Welcome to Mellow Out Mondays, a weekly event in which trained student volunteers offer seated massages to stressed-out classmates through a program known as Stressbusters. The program, which is paid for by Hopkins, tackles stress head-on, aiming to assuage anxiety before it escalates. It’s a small part of a growing effort to ease the strain on campus counseling centers, which have seen an unrelenting — and unsustainable — rise in demand for mental-health services.

Over the past six years, the number of students seeking appointments has grown by an average of 30 percent, five times the average rate of enrollment growth, according to the Center for Collegiate Mental Health. This growth is due to several factors: More students are arriving on campus with pre-existing diagnoses and psychiatric...
medications. More faculty members are referring students for treatment, and more students are seeking it, thanks to a reduction in the stigma surrounding mental illness.

In some ways, colleges are a victim of their own successes. Having spent millions of dollars on suicide prevention, threat assessment, and behavioral intervention over the past decade, campuses have improved how they identify and treat troubled students.

This is good news, clearly, but it also means that more students have to wait for treatment, settle for less-frequent appointments, or leave campus for care. The rapid growth has bottom-line consequences for colleges, too. Research shows that students who are left untreated are more likely to drop out of college or become a danger to themselves or others; for colleges, wait lists can mean lower graduation rates and increased liability, if a tragedy occurs.

Recognizing these risks, many colleges have enlarged their counseling staffs and added more group-therapy sessions. They’ve adopted triage models to sift the more serious cases from the more routine ones, and they’ve sent more students to off-campus providers for care.

Now some colleges are turning to telepsychology and mental-health apps to reach more students, more quickly. They’re offering drop-in visits to help students work through specific, short-term problems, and adding workshops to help students cope with stress and anxiety before their problems become severe. And they’re trying to build resilience in their students, so they’re less likely to become overwhelmed in the first place.

Expanding Services

The easiest, but hardly the cheapest, way for colleges to reduce wait times is to add more staff. A 2015 survey by the Association of University and College Counseling Center Directors suggests that many colleges are doing just that, with more than half of respondents adding new positions that year.

In March the University of California announced that it would hire 85 counselors, an unprecedented systemwide increase that is being paid for with a 5-percent annual increase, over five years, in student service fees.

Gary Dunn, director of counseling and psychological services at California’s Santa Cruz campus, said two things spurred the expansion: long wait times on some campuses and the 2014 killing spree in Isla Vista, near the system’s Santa Barbara
campus. UC counseling centers have seen a 54-percent increase in students seeking access to services since 2007, and waiting lists on some campus had grown to as long as five weeks by the time the hiring plan was announced.

The new hires will increase the counseling centers’ clinical staff by 43 percent, bringing student-staff ratios in line with recommendations of the profession’s accreditor: one counselor for every 1,000 to 1,500 students. At the Santa Cruz campus, the hiring of seven additional staff members is expected to cut wait times in as much as half during peak periods.

But filling the 85 slots hasn’t always been easy. The cost of living near UC’s campuses can be high, and some of the slots are set aside for therapists with specific backgrounds and skill sets, narrowing the field, Mr. Dunn said. The system missed its goal to complete the hires by September, with one-third of jobs still open.

Another challenge has been finding places to put the new practitioners. At Santa Cruz and several other UC campuses, the counseling centers are at or near capacity.

Most of the big hires are happening at public flagships; regionally oriented public campuses and small private colleges often don’t have the resources to expand their counseling centers.

Instead, some of these clinics are turning to temporary contract therapists — who don’t receive health insurance and other benefits — to get through the peak periods of late fall and spring. Many clinics have also expanded their use of trainees, interns, and postdocs.

And at least one is drawing on faculty from other parts of the college: Augusta University, in Georgia, recently persuaded four of its psychology and counseling-education professors to spend a few hours each week treating students they don’t teach. Mark F. Patishnock, the center’s director, said the arrangement helps meet increased clinical demand while providing faculty with the ability to keep their skills sharp.

Meanwhile, the Jed Foundation, a nonprofit group focused on the emotional well-being of college students, is pushing colleges to integrate their health and counseling centers so primary-care providers can screen and treat students with mild to moderate conditions, said Nance Roy, its clinical director. That practice frees up counselors to treat students with more serious conditions and reduces the chance that the centers will see the students with milder problems down the road.
Even so, most experts agree that colleges can’t hire or job-shift their way out of waiting lists; the demand is simply growing too quickly.

**Rationing Resources**

For years, college counseling centers have used session limits as a way to offer services to more students. In the latest survey, half of center directors said they limited the number of annual visits.

But a majority of those ceilings were "flexible," and only 6.7 percent of respondents said they limited students to fewer than 12 visits. Many students never reach the cap, making it a generally ineffective means of rationing care.

That means that many colleges have been forced to spread out visits, seeing students less frequently than once a week.

At **Virginia Tech**, for example, some students are seen every other week, said Christopher Flynn, the counseling-center director. They can go to group therapy as often as they want, he said, and some choose to remain in a group for all four years.

As demand for services has increased, many colleges have enhanced their group-counseling programs. Group counseling is "cost-efficient, time-efficient, and research shows outcomes to be basically equal" to individual therapy, says Dan L. Jones, the counseling-center director at **East Tennessee State University**.

But group counseling is not without its challenges, says Victor Schwartz, medical director of the Jed Foundation and a former director of **New York University**’s counseling center. Groups can be time-consuming to create, and it can be hard to work around every student’s schedule, particularly as the semesters change.

One alternative is short-term groups. The University of California at Santa Cruz recently created a three-session seminar called "Embrace Your Life" that aims to help students pinpoint what they want to change in their lives and how to do it. The university also offers a student-run stress-reduction group and a drop-in program where students can talk to a counselor for 15 minutes about concrete, subclinical problems, such as roommate conflict or exam-related stress. In some cases, students will continue on to traditional therapy; in others, they decide they don’t need it after all.

**Drexel University** offers walk-in sessions, too, although it has found that many appointments are taken up by students who are already in counseling and can’t wait the week to see their therapist. This year Drexel is trying a new approach: offering a
three-session workshop called "ACT One" that teaches students the introductory skills of therapy, such as mindfulness and openness. It aims to both prepare students for individual therapy and to make them more comfortable sharing in a group, as a way of funneling more students into the groups Drexel already has.

**Sorting Students**

As the number of college students seeking treatment increases, colleges need a way to sort them, quickly. Many are turning to triage, a practice that dates back to World War I but was unheard of in college counseling until 20 years ago, when the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Cornell University began experimenting with it.

Today many colleges use some form of triage, steering the less-severe cases to group therapy, workshops, and online therapy — or asking them to wait.

Taking that approach to the next level is the Memorial University of Newfoundland, which assigns students to one of nine tiers of care using a "stepped care" model common in Australia and Britain. Under stepped care, students with less-severe conditions might get online self-help, while those with more serious conditions might get intensive care. Students can move up the spectrum, but more than 80 percent of them are initially assigned to a Step 5 (online therapy) or below, according to Peter Cornish, director of the university’s wellness and counseling center.

Colleges, he says, are sending "way too many people to intensive treatment."

The college hasn’t yet compared outcomes under the old model and the new, but Mr. Cornish says student-satisfaction scores haven’t changed, and more clients are showing up for their appointments.

Meanwhile, many colleges are looking for ways to help students develop better coping skills so they’re less likely to show up in the counseling center in the first place. Workshops on managing stress and anxiety have proliferated, as have relaxation centers, with features like biofeedback stations and seasonal-affective-disorder lamps.

Stressbusters, which started at Hopkins, is now being used at 15 colleges nationwide, with institutions paying $5,000 or more for the program.

Other institutions are teaching students how to bounce back from failure. In January, the University of Virginia tapped Timothy Davis, the head of its counseling center,
for a new role: executive director of student resilience and leadership development. So far he’s focusing on student leaders in high-profile, high-pressure positions, trying to cultivate in them a mind-set that sees failure as a learning opportunity rather than a catastrophe.

Drexel has begun one-on-one coaching with its physician-assistant students, using sports psychology to help them deal with personal and academic stressors, said Paul C. Furtaw, associate director of counseling services. If it works, the college hopes to expand the model to undergraduates.

Mr. Furtaw is quick to stress that "coaching isn’t psychotherapy," at least in the traditional sense. Still, he says it can help struggling students get back on track, and give them the skills to cope going forward.

"You’re seeing campus counseling centers redefine what therapy is," he said. "We’re talking to students about how to be amazing, as opposed to saying, Come to us when you’ve derailed."

**Increasing Referrals**

Meanwhile, many campuses are increasing referrals to community providers, particularly for students with chronic conditions, such as bipolar disorder, and those seeking longer-term treatment.

But off-campus care brings its own set of challenges. Some students can’t afford the co-pays; others refuse to use insurance because they don’t want their parents to know they’re seeking help. Getting to the appointments can be a challenge, too, particularly in rural areas.

Some colleges are trying to reduce barriers to off-campus care, negotiating discounts with clinicians who are just starting out and persuading groups of therapists to see some students pro bono. Some universities have worked out deals with their teaching hospitals to see students who need longer-term or specialized care — such as help with an eating disorder — at reduced rates. Other colleges are offering to help students with co-pays and out-of-network fees.

Still, not many colleges track outcomes for off-campus care, so it’s hard to know how many students are attending their appointments and whether they’re doing as well as those who are treated on campus.

As more students seek treatment, college counseling centers must communicate their mission clearly to students and parents and manage expectations. The messaging is
difficult to get right, and even some college that have eliminated wait lists feel pressed to do more.

James Troha, president of Juniata College, in Pennsylvania, said many families choose Juniata because of its reputation as a place that takes care of its students. He thinks families are satisfied with the current level of support the college provides, but he says he can’t be sure.

"I think the expectations, the pressures, continue to rise," he said. "It’s just, Where is the end point?"