Search for new MU chancellor officially underway

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri is officially looking for a new chancellor. And it might not have to go far to find it.

Interim chancellor Hank Foley has thrown his hat in the ring to help lead the university, after being in charge for roughly a year already. Both interim UM System President Mike Middleton and MU President-designate Mun Choi have recommended Foley remain in the job.

There will be a search committee put in place to represent the different levels of power in the UM system, including students, faculty, staff and alumni. The committee will narrow the race down to finalists, eventually turning the list over to Choi for the final decision.

"At the end of the day, the most important thing is find the absolute best individual, best possible person to be the next chancellor, that's why we're engaging in a nationwide search," University of Missouri Spokesman John Fougere said.

The process is expected to take months to complete, and the next chancellor will not be named until after Choi takes office in March 2017.
John Darkow on MU Finding a Chancellor

"University of Missouri pays search firm $140,000 to find full-time chancellor. I'll charge you only a buck to show you Hank Foley's office."
National organization suspends Mizzou chapter of Delta Upsilon

By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 8 hrs ago

After multiple reports of underage drinking and an alleged assault inside of the chapter house, a fraternity at the University of Missouri-Columbia was suspended Tuesday by its national organization until at least fall 2018.

The men in Mizzou’s chapter of Delta Upsilon will continue to live in the recently built, $5 million-plus house until the end of the spring 2017 semester.

They cannot identify themselves as affiliates of Delta Upsilon while they continue living in the house, according to the national fraternity.

Documents received via a records request show more than a dozen sanctions against the fraternity by Mizzou administrators in just over a year.

The records also showed a letter to the fraternity from Mizzou’s Title IX office about allegations that pledges were instructed to use date-rape drugs. An official from Delta Upsilon said Mizzou administrators told them the allegations were unfounded, but a Mizzou spokesperson could not confirm.

That isn’t expected to change, either, as the student conduct and Title IX outcomes are kept confidential because of federal student privacy laws.

But the date-rape drug allegations and an incident involving the Legion of Black Collegians earlier this semester were not considered in the decision, according to a statement from Delta Upsilon. The national organization cited instead three incidents this fall as grounds for suspension.
On Aug. 27, the fraternity allegedly provided minors with alcohol. On Sept. 9, multiple students were transported to the hospital for drinking too much and one male student was pushed down the stairs of the fraternity house.

Then, on Sept. 16, two female students were found in their dormitories after drinking at Delta Upsilon. Police reports from both incidents raise the question of whether the women were drugged. One officer noted he recommended drug testing for one woman, who was found in her dorm after smearing feces on the walls.

The national organization said the chapter hosted two more events while suspended that violated fraternity rules.

“The Missouri Chapter has been an important part of the Fraternity and the university community for decades. However, in recent years, the chapter has struggled to follow Fraternity policy despite unprecedented levels of support from staff, alumni and the university,” Justin Kirk, Delta Upsilon International Fraternity executive director, said in a statement. “Unfortunately, repeated failure to meet those standards led to this tough decision.”

Following the suspension, the now-former Mizzou chapter posted on its Twitter account a YouTube video clip titled “Double Secret Probation” from the movie “Animal House.”

A Mizzou spokesman said the university supports national group’s decision and wants to help “get the chapter off on the right foot” when it’s re-established.
Delta Upsilon International suspends MU chapter for at least two years

Delta Upsilon International has suspended its University of Missouri chapter until at least fall 2018 for “repeated violations of Delta Upsilon policy” for incidents at three parties this semester, according to a news release.

All operations at the local chapter have stopped indefinitely, and all the MU members now are on suspended status, the release said. The suspension was unrelated to the Sept. 27 incident at Delta Upsilon’s MU house, 711 Tiger Ave., in which members of the Legion of Black Collegians reported that people shouted racist and sexist slurs at them. The fraternity headquarters also said “unsubstantiated claims of predatory drug use, which have been refuted by the international fraternity” were not factors in the suspension.

Undergraduates living in the house will be allowed to stay there through the end of the spring semester but cannot represent themselves as a Delta Upsilon chapter because of the terms of the suspension.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said the university has not taken any recent action against the fraternity, which was temporarily suspended by the university Sept. 28 because of the incident with the Legion members. Delta Upsilon International also placed the local branch on temporary suspension after that incident.

The infractions at parties cited in the international organization’s latest action occurred Aug. 27, Sept. 9 and Sept. 16, according to the release, and then the MU chapter held “two more events that violated the terms of its temporary suspension.”

Columbia police reported several incidents at or concerning the fraternity the night of Sept. 9, according to MU documents obtained by the Tribune through a records request. Those incidents included a woman falling and hitting her head at her dorm after leaving the Delta Upsilon house, a police call to the house for a 20-year-old woman who had drunk too much, a police call about a man being pushed down a flight of stairs and an MU Police Department traffic stop in which a passenger jumped from a car and ran into the house.

The release noted fraternity members and members of the Legion of Black Collegians have been working together in a mediation process with MU’s Office for Civil Rights and Title IX and that the process should be resolved soon. Ashley Martin, a spokeswoman for Delta Upsilon International, said the fraternity will make no statement other than the release.
A member on Tuesday morning said the local chapter president declined to comment.

Delta Upsilon International’s Board of Directors decided to suspend MU’s branch after a Nov. 19 hearing during which it met with eight undergraduate members and two alumni advisers. Members of the fraternity here were notified of the decision Monday after the details of the suspension were worked out between MU and the fraternity’s headquarters.

“The decision to close any chapter is extremely difficult,” Justin Kirk, executive director of the international organization, said in the release. “The Missouri chapter has been an important part of the fraternity and the university community for decades. However, in recent years, the chapter has struggled to follow fraternity policy despite unprecedented levels of support from staff, alumni and the university.”

The MU branch was created in 1924, Martin said in an email.

A local alumni association owns the branch’s MU house, and it is unclear what, if anything, the association plans to do with the building. The release said the parent organization and MU have negotiated the chapter’s potential return as early as the fall 2018 semester. The Tribune was not able to reach any alumni association members Tuesday morning.

Construction on the fraternity’s current house was finished in the fall 2015 semester and cost $5.5 million, according to the fraternity’s website.

Delta Upsilon’s MU branch was sanctioned at least 18 times by the university between August 2015 and its disciplinary suspension at the end of September. Other sanctions involved an assault, a theft, being uncooperative with police and at least four incidents of providing alcohol to minors. The allegations of “predatory drug use” the release refers to is a report to the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX in August that members were giving pledges pills and directing them to use the drug to incapacitate and take advantage of women. There have been other allegations of women being drugged at the house, but none has been substantiated at this point, according to documents from MU.

The fraternity is not alone in its problems this year. In mid-November, MU revoked Kappa Alpha’s recognition as a student organization for five years. MU officials placed Kappa Alpha on temporary suspension after a pledge was found unconscious Sept. 28 and hospitalized after participating in a vodka-chugging contest. Kappa Alpha already was on disciplinary probation after a previous incident involving alcohol.

Kappa Alpha’s other infractions, according to MU, include physical abuse, threatening behaviors, hazing and other violations of university policy.
Missouri’s Delta Upsilon fraternity suspended for at least 2 years

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) – The University of Missouri chapter of the Delta Upsilon fraternity will be suspended until at least the fall of 2018 for repeatedly violating fraternity and university policy and state law.

Delta Upsilon International announced the suspension Tuesday, citing incidents at three parties this semester. All operations of the Columbia chapter have stopped indefinitely and members are suspended.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports the suspension is not related to a Sept. 27 incident at Delta Upsilon’s Columbia house when members of the Legion of Black Collegians reported people shouted racist and sexist slurs at them. The fraternity was temporarily suspended after that report.

The international group cited three infractions in late August and early September, and said the Missouri chapter then held two more events that violated its temporary suspension.

Similar stories ran in the following outlets:

WD AF- Kansas City, MO
KTRS- St. Louis, MO
WFLD- Chicago, IL
KTVI- St. Louis, MO
KMBC- Kansas City, MO
UPDATE: National organization extends suspension of MU's Delta Upsilon chapter

COLUMBIA — MU's chapter of Delta Upsilon fraternity has been suspended by the fraternity's International Board of Directors until at least the fall 2018 semester, according to a news release from the national organization.

The fraternity was suspended for repeated violations of fraternity and university policy and state law, according to the release. Chapter operations have stopped indefinitely, and all members are suspended from fraternity activities.

The suspension was not related to a September incident in which members of MU's Legion of Black Collegians reported being harassed and called racist slurs by members of Delta Upsilon. The board said reports of illegal drug use were not taken into consideration.

Delta Upsilon was already on suspension. The fraternity's international office and MU suspended the organization on Sept. 28 following the report of racist slurs.

The two-year suspension is a result of the fraternity violating policy during social events on Aug. 27, Sept. 9 and Sept. 16, according to the release. Delta Upsilon also violated the terms of its temporary suspension.

"The chapter has struggled to follow Fraternity policy despite unprecedented levels of support from staff, alumni and the university," Justin Kirk, Delta Upsilon International Fraternity executive director, said in the release.

Board members voted to suspend the chapter on Nov. 19 following a meeting of eight undergraduate fraternity members and two alumni advisers. MU's chapter was notified Monday.

The fraternity house, located at 711 Tiger Ave., opened in fall 2015. Since then, MU's chapter has been the subject of multiple allegations of misconduct, including distributing alcohol to minors, hazing, physical abuse and providing "date rape" drugs to pledges. Delta Upsilon has been sanctioned by MU 18 times over the past year.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said the university has not taken other actions or sanctions against the fraternity since the September suspension. He said MU is supporting the national organization and working with it to restart the campus chapter in 2018 "and help it get on the right path moving forward."
The campus fraternity house is owned by a local corporation of alumni, and students living there may stay until the end of the spring semester. They will not be able to represent themselves as members of Delta Upsilon.

Kirk said that suspended members will not be charged fees from the fraternity. Those who continue to live in the house will pay rent to the alumni board.

Gust Mossides, the MU chapter’s vice president of external relations, said he believes many members will choose to move out of the house even before they’re required to.

“A lot of people are moving out of the house because we feel like this isn’t an environment we want to live in,” Mossides said. “We feel we’ve been treated unfairly by the association.”

Police responded to several reports of misconduct at the fraternity in September. On Sept. 10, a female student tripped and hit her head at Gillette Hall after she had been drinking at Delta Upsilon. That night, the police also responded to two calls at the fraternity's house: a female had drunk too much and a male had been pushed down the house stairs. On Sept. 16, MU police arrived at Johnston Hall in response to a call about a half-naked woman who appeared to be very intoxicated and was spreading feces on the wall outside of her room. She told police she had been at a party at Delta Upsilon earlier that night.

MU’s Interfraternity Council tweeted a statement Tuesday afternoon saying it had learned the Delta Upsilon chapter had been suspended by its international board for repeated policy violations.

The statement continued: "We expect that our chapters be held responsible for their actions through due process, and we support this decision. Further, we will continue to work to hold our member chapters to the highest standard to ensure they foster an environment where fraternity men uphold our shared values and standards."

Mossides said the chapter has already begun the appeal process and has been receiving direction from its alumni board. The chapter hopes to be taken off suspension before fall of 2018.

“DU goes by the motto, ‘justice our foundation,’ and I don’t believe we were given justice,” Mossides said.
Delta Upsilon suspends its Missouri chapter until 2018

Watch the study: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=8f20c2be-7534-42c0-b1b3-87a3f6f7940a

COLUMBIA, Mo - ABC 17 News has confirmed that the Delta Upsilon International Fraternity Board of Directors has suspended its Missouri Chapter.

In a news release sent to ABC 17 News Tuesday morning, Delta Upsilon leaders said the move is a result of repeated violations of Delta Upsilon policy. DU officials say this suspension means all chapter operations have stopped indefinitely, and all initiated members have been placed on a suspended status. The fraternity is targeting 2018 as a possible return to campus.

The decision to suspend the chapter was made following a Nov. 19 hearing in which eight undergraduate members and two alumni advisors met with the Board of Directors. DU leaders say the chapter was notified on Dec. 5, after the fraternity, advisors and university worked through details and procedures for the suspension.

Delta Upsilon International director Justin Kirk called the MU chapter "important" to both the DU and campus community, but cited ongoing trouble the chapter has had at Mizzou.

"However, in recent years, the chapter has struggled to follow Fraternity policy despite unprecedented levels of support from staff, alumni and the university," Kirk said.

The school's Office of Student Conduct has sanctioned DU four times in the last three semesters, and had at least one other instance under investigation, according to school spokesman Christian Basi. ABC 17 News detailed them in a report in October, including alcohol overdoses at the house, people at the house running from police officers and an assault report involving someone pushing another down a flight of stairs. The school put DU on disciplinary probation in late September for a party on September 9 that led an MU police officer to say in an email, "DU has returned in full force as the usual problem it is."

Basi said it respected the national group's decision to suspend its chapter, and would work with DU when it wanted to reapply as a student organization.
"We expect to help them in any way that we can to make sure that the new chapter gets off on the right foot," Basi said in an interview.

ABC 17 News has previously reported that the chapter was placed on temporary emergency suspension on Sept. 28. It then apparently held two more events that violated the terms of its temporary suspension.

The Board of Directors says it did not base any of its decision to suspend the chapter on the members’ alleged involvement in an incident with the Legion of Black Collegians on Sept. 27-28. ABC 17 News had reported in October that Delta Upsilon was no longer investigating its members for racial slurs.

DU officials say the chapter and LBC representatives have been working through a mediation process with the MU Office for Civil Rights & Title IX. They say they anticipate that this issue will be successfully resolved soon. In November, both group released statements about their efforts to improve relations.

The new release also mentioned reports of drug use in the fraternity that ABC 17 News first reported on back in October. It says, "Unsubstantiated claims of predatory drug use, which have been refuted by the International Fraternity, were also not considered in this decision."

In a statement included in the news release, DU leaders said, “Delta Upsilon is committed to being an integral, productive part of any campus community, therefore, we hold all of our members and chapters accountable to a set of standards. Unfortunately, repeated failure to meet those standards led to this tough decision.”

The chapter house is owned by a local house corporation of alumni, not the International Fraternity. DU leaders say those living their have the option to stay in the house through the spring semester, but says the men are prohibited from representing themselves as a chapter of Delta Upsilon.
MU fraternity kicked out of its house for two years

COLUMBIA - Two members of the Delta Upsilon fraternity, who wished to remain anonymous, told KOMU 8 News Monday night the fraternity has been kicked out of its house on the University of Missouri campus.

The university placed the fraternity on temporary suspension in September 2016 and has received citations for other violations since the beginning of the semester.

In a news release sent Tuesday, Delta Upsilon's Board of Directors announced it voted to suspend the chapter following a Nov. 19 meeting. The press release said this suspension means all chapter operations have been stopped indefinitely, and all initiated members have been placed on a suspension notice.

DU officials said the suspension is a result of repeated violations of fraternity and university police and state law. The press release identified three dates during the 2016 fall semester - Aug. 27, Sept. 9 and Sept. 16 - where it says DU hosted social events that had multiple violations of policy.

"The Missouri chapter has been an important part of the Fraternity and university community for decades," Justin Kirk, Delta Upsilon International Fraternity Executive Director, said Tuesday. "However, in recent years, the chapter has struggled to follow Fraternity policy despite unprecedented levels of support from staff, alumni, and the university."

The Board of Directors said it did not base the decision to suspend DU on the members’ alleged involvement in an incident with the Legion of Black Collegians in September. DU officials said the chapter and LBC have been working through a mediation process with the MU Office of Civil Rights & Title IX and hope to resolve the issue soon.

The chapter house is owned by a local house corporation alumni and not the International Fraternity. Officials with DU said members currently living in the house have the option to stay through the spring semester but can't represent themselves as a chapter of Delta Upsilon.
"Delta Upsilon is committed to being an integral, productive part of any campus community, therefore, we hold all of our members and chapters accountable to a set of standards," Kirk said. "Unfortunately, repeated failure to meet those standards led to this tough decision."

DU and the University of Missouri have negotiated the chapter's potential return to campus as early as the fall 2018 semester.

MU Delta Upsilon fraternity suspended indefinitely


COLUMBIA — The Delta Upsilon International Fraternity Board of Directors announced Tuesday it had suspended its Missouri Chapter after alleged repeated violations of the fraternity's policy.

Ashley Martin, Director of Communications said this suspension means all chapter operations have ceased indefinitely, and all initiated members have been placed on a suspended status.

The Board of Directors held a hearing on November 19 with eight undergraduate members and two alumni advisers.

Martin said after a thorough review of the allegations and full consideration of the Missouri Chapter's presentation and written materials, the Board voted to suspend the chapter.

The chapter was notified Monday and discussed the details and procedures for the suspension.

"The suspension is a result of repeated violations of Fraternity and university policy and state law," said Martin. The chapter allegedly hosted social events that had multiple violations of policy on August 27, September 9 and 16.
On September 28, the chapter was placed on emergency suspension.

**The Board of Directors said they did not base their decision to suspend the chapter on the members’ alleged involvement in an incident with the Legion of black Collegians where MU officials reported some members of Mizzou’s Delta Upsilon fraternity shouted the "N" word at two African-American female students.**

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

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

Martin said the chapter held two more events that violated the terms of its temporary suspension.

"The decision to close any chapter is extremely difficult," said Justin Kirk, Delta Upsilon International Fraternity Executive Director.

Kirk said the chapter has struggled to follow Fraternity policy despite support from staff, alumni and the university.

The chapter house is not owned by the International Fraternity but rather a local house corporation of alumni. The undergraduate students living there have the option to live there throughout the spring semester. However, the men are prohibited from representing themselves as members of Delta Upsilon.

Following negotiations, Fall 2018 semester was stated as the earliest possible return of the Delta Upsilon chapter at the University of Missouri.

**Delta Upsilon fraternity suspended by international headquarters**

**The MU chapter of Delta Upsilon has been suspended, the Delta Upsilon International Fraternity Board of Directors announced Tuesday.**

The decision was made on Nov. 19, after a hearing in which a group of undergraduate members and alumni advisors met with the Board of Directors, according to a Dec. 6 news release. The chapter was informed of the suspension Monday, after the fraternity, advisors and the university worked out the details of the suspension.
The press release states that “the suspension is a result of repeated violations of Fraternity and university policy and state law.” The chapter will not be reinstated until at least fall 2018.

The suspension means that all initiated members will have a suspended status, and all fraternity operations must stop. Because the house is not owned by the international fraternity organization, residents may continue to live there through the spring semester, although they may not represent themselves as part of a Delta Upsilon chapter, according to the news release.

On Sept. 28, Delta Upsilon was placed on temporary emergency suspension by both MU and the Delta Upsilon Board of Directors following an incident in which students outside the Delta Upsilon house directed racial slurs at two members of the Legion of Black Collegians. Other infractions, including alcohol violations, were cited in MU’s decision to suspend the chapter.

The press release states that “the Board of Directors did not base any of its decision to suspend the chapter on the members' alleged involvement in an incident with the Legion of Black Collegians.”

The release goes on to say that “unsubstantiated claims of predatory drug use, which have been refuted by the International Fraternity, were also not considered in this decision.”

The suspension will last a minimum of two years, and ultimately the decision to reinstate the chapter will be up to the Delta Upsilon national fraternity, IFC spokesman Jacob Farkas said.

"In recent years, the chapter has struggled to follow Fraternity policy despite unprecedented levels of support from staff, alumni and the university,” said Justin Kirk, Delta Upsilon national executive director, in the news release. “Delta Upsilon is committed to being an integral, productive part of any campus community, therefore, we hold all of our members and chapters accountable to a set of standards. Unfortunately, repeated failure to meet those standards led to this tough decision."
MU plans to close McDavid and Schurz halls indefinitely in 2017

COLUMBIA - Schurz and McDavid residence halls on the University of Missouri's campus could close indefinitely after the 2016-17 school year.

President of the Residence Halls Association, Matt Bourke, told KOMU 8 News an official decision has not been made, but those two halls have been tabbed at this point.

"Decisions are not final, but we don't want to create a housing crisis. Those two [Schurz and McDavid] have been chosen for the time being," Bourke said.

These residence halls join Respect and Excellence as the latest ones to close on MU's campus. Respect and Excellence were put out of use after the 2015-16 school year ahead of decreased enrollment at the university. They were put up in 2004 and housed over 300 students.

The school's sharp increase in enrollment followed by the enrollment drop of over 2,000 students from 2015 to Fall 2016 has contributed to the necessity for these closures.

"This residence-hall plan has been in place for about 15 years now, and we saw the biggest spike in enrollment in the school's history. Now, we're having to adjust," Bourke said.

Currently, the halls are just "offline" to returning students who already have a chance to sign up for the residence halls next school year. MU News Bureau Associate Director Christian Basi said they faced a similar problem last year, closing four residence halls, but opening one of those when demand rose.

"As those numbers increase and fill and we look at how our potential freshman class for 2017 looks, we will probably make some adjustments. That may mean opening up or bringing online more residence halls in the near future," Basi said.

Mizzou will also open a new residence hall in the Fall 2017 semester.
MU’s Fall enrollment of 33,266 is its lowest since 2010 and broke a trend of growth over the past several years. Bourke said these residence halls could be put back into use if there is enrollment growth in the future.

"Shurz and McDavid are not being put out of use, they will be kept offline. If we have a spike of 1,000 in student enrollment or something, obviously those plans will have to change," Bourke said.

Basi said the school rather have all their halls full and cut some halls rather than have more halls, but have them not filled to capacity, because that is more cost effective.

"We want to make sure we're using all of our facilities wisely. We don't want to have several residential halls that are not filled to capacity, because that would not be a very wise use of resources," Basi said.

The two residence halls house nearly 700 students combined, but none of them will be displaced if the move becomes official, because the closure wouldn't take place until the summer.

**Schurz and McDavid halls might close temporarily for next school year**

Students will not be able to choose to live in Schurz or McDavid halls when the residence hall selection process opens this spring, Residence Halls Association President Matt Bourke confirmed at an RHA congress meeting Monday night.

Both residence halls are being taken “offline,” which means that when students select rooms, the halls will be unavailable.

This semester, 23.5 percent fewer freshmen than anticipated signed residence hall contracts, according to a presentation given by Residential Life Director Frankie Minor at last night’s RHA congress meeting.

**However, MU spokesman Christian Basi said taking the buildings offline does not mean they will definitively be unused next academic year.** He said the number of buildings used to house students will depend on how many opt to live on campus next semester, which is largely dependent on the currently unknown freshmen enrollment numbers.

Additionally, the number of students who will live on campus during the 2017-18 school year might be impacted by a new initiative to encourage current residents to re-sign contracts with ResLife.
In previous years, ResLife has capped the number of returning students who are permitted to live in the halls for a second, third or fourth year. But according to Minor’s RHA Congress presentation, this year, ResLife is encouraging students to stay in the halls.

Students will initially have access to a limited number of halls, so that ResLife can operate a smaller number of full halls, rather than more that may be below capacity.

Basi said freshmen enrollment numbers and housing contract renewals will be watched over the next several months to determine how many halls and which halls will be available.

In addition to the current hall options, a new residence hall, which RHA has proposed to name after journalist Lucile Bluford, will be opening next fall in the Dobbs area near the Laws and Lathrop buildings, which will be demolished at the beginning of next school year.

In previous years, ResLife has made last-minute decisions during the summer about which halls will be in use for the fall semester, Basi said. Last year, four halls were scheduled to be taken offline for the fall 2016 semester, though Respect Hall was ultimately used to house graduate students this year.

The final call about whether Schurz or McDavid will be housing students next year will not be made until the number of students living in the halls becomes more clear.

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**Research Suggests Ducks Spreading Roundup-Resistant Weeds**

As the winter moves in, several species of ducks are making their way into and through Missouri, en-route to their overwintering grounds. While this time of year is a boon to duck-hunters, recent research suggests ducks moving through might soon be an ominous sight for farmers.

On an overcast Sunday afternoon, I found a group of mallards – known as a raft – dabbling in a pond at Columbia’s Forum Nature Area. The ducks were foraging for food, alternating between plunging their heads under the water, and being on alert, keeping an eye out for predators, or
public radio reporters. Being on city property, the mallards didn’t have to worry about potential hunters. But it was a group of hunters, along with researchers at the University of Missouri, who recently discovered how these ducks’ eating habits could impact agriculture in the state.

**Kevin Bradley, a state extension weed scientist and a associate professor in the division of plant sciences at the University of Missouri, is something of a weed expert.** So when he heard that a particularly nasty weed was popping up in places it hadn’t before, it got his attention.

"Palmer Amaranth is one of our pigweed species that is probably the number one weed to watch in the United States right now," Bradley said. "It’s a very competitive, fast-growing pigweed species. It can grow about two to three inches per day."

The weed represents a particular threat to soybeans, one of the Missouri’s biggest crops. Originally only found in the Boot-heel, a few years back Bradley started to see infestations in the state’s northern counties, and there seemed to be a trend.

Bradley explained, "We saw more and more as each year passed, and in each case, it always seemed to be in river-bottoms; either the Mississippi river or the Missouri river bottoms."

And that's where the ducks came in.

"One of the things we began to test is whether waterfowl had any role in the transport or the movement of Palmer Amaranth in the United States," Bradley said.

Bradley and his colleagues hypothesized that ducks and other waterfowl were increasingly consuming Palmer Amaranth and subsequently passing the seeds in their droppings, expanding the plant’s range. To test that hypothesis, Bradley and his team turned to a series of experiments, and duck guts.

"We gathered hunter-donated ducks and geese for two seasons. So we’d dissect those carcasses and look for the seeds and harvest any seeds out of there."

And they found the seeds, sometimes a lot of them, which led them, logically, to confirm whether the seeds the ducks digested were still viable – that is, would they still grow. Answering that meant employing some live ducks.

"We did a live feeding experiment with mallards. We had a controlled amount of seed that we fed these birds and we harvested them every two hours in their feces," Bradley said.

So, after digging through duck guts and then duck poop for seed, Bradley and fellow researcher Jaime Farmer, then a graduate student at the university, found the seed did in fact stay viable.

And that represents a potentially big problem. A lot of crops these days are genetically modified to resist glyphosate – a powerful herbicide that takes care of most weeds. But now some weeds have developed a resistance to glyphosate as well, and Palmer Amaranth is one of them. Coupled
with the fact that mallards and other ducks range for thousands of miles across the continent, that makes managing the spread of the weed a tall order.

"We don’t have a major, what do you do," Bradley explained. "But having said that, it’s just basically raising awareness of the potential for Palmer Amaranth to spread."

Back at the pond the ducks, done with their foraging for now, took off all at once. The growing season has passed, and it’s unlikely these mallards have any amaranth seed in their bellies. But come springtime, that could change.

MU Expert Comments on Pennsylvania Lawmaker Pay Raises

Listen to the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=da6f4e1e-462e-4b2d-b08e-ae9f038207be

MUPD investigating indecent exposure report

University of Missouri police are investigating a report of a man who exposed himself late Nov. 29 in the 500 block East Rollins Street.

The department was notified of the incident on Monday and sent out a Clery release on the report Tuesday afternoon, as mandated by law. No other information about the man or the incident was released.
MUPD receives report of indecent exposure incident

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri Police Department received a report on Monday, Dec. 5 of a male who committed indecent exposure. The incident happened around 11 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 29 on the 500 block of East Rollins Street.

A description of the suspect along with other information was not available to release.

Indecent exposure is a sexual misconduct offense.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact the Office for Civil Rights & Title IX at (573) 882-3880.
Suspect indecently exposes himself on East Rollins Street

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri Police Department received a report of a male subject who committed an indecent exposure, which is considered a sexual offense.

The incident occurred at 11:00 p.m., Nov. 29, on the 500 block of East Rollins Street.

There is not any more information at this time, but ABC 17 News will continue to follow this story.

The shadow fees lurking in your tuition bills

When Ethan Calfee was deciding where to continue his college career, it was MU’s lively campus and affordable ticket price that sealed the deal.

Transferring from Northwest Missouri State’s pre-engineering program, Calfee also considered the University of Texas at Austin and Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla.

UT, though, was out of his price range and too far from home, and Missouri S&T’s campus life didn’t appeal to Calfee. MU had both an exciting and diverse campus and tuition that he could afford.

Calfee is not alone in his assessment. Among the 100 “Best College Values” rated by Kiplinger’s magazine, MU ranked in the top third for total cost of attendance. It is also among the 20 most affordable public colleges in the Midwest.

The university has achieved these rankings thanks in part to the state’s Higher Education Student Funding Act, also known as HESFA, which was passed in 2007 and prohibits public universities from raising tuition and mandatory fees by more than the yearly increase in the consumer price index, or CPI. And mandatory fees, which include the student health fee, recreation fee and a few others, involve input and oversight from a committee of student leaders.
But when Calfee recently took a closer look at his bill from the university, he found an additional $984 in fees from this semester that he had no idea existed. Called “supplemental fees,” they are levied by the individual colleges on campus and in many respects are shrouded in secrecy.

Supplemental fees are not subject to HESFA, which means they can be increased each year by as much as the individual colleges deem appropriate. And, unlike mandatory fees, students have no input regarding the amount by which the fees are increased each year; nor do they have any say in how revenue from the fees is spent.

Since the implementation of HESFA, in-state tuition at MU has increased by 12.5 percent, while the supplemental fee for the School of Engineering has increased by 55.6 percent — more than four times as much — according to a Maneater analysis of past MU budgets.

“I get that I’m going to have to go into debt. I get that I’m going to have to work hard to make monthly payments,” said Calfee, who has taken out a handful of student loans and works at Shakespeare’s Pizza to make ends meet. “But at the very least, they should tell me what I’m paying for, right? At the very, very, very least, I should get an explanation.”

Bill Vega, the chair of the Student Fee Review Committee, understands Calfee’s frustration and confusion.

“I don’t think the fact that they’re charging these fees is the problem,” Vega said. “I have my problem with the opacity of the process, the lack of student input, lack of oversight and the lack of checks.”

Critical Audit

Nicole Galloway, Missouri’s state auditor, agreed with Vega. In an audit report released in August, Galloway criticized the UM System for both the increases in the fees and the lack of transparency surrounding them. The report cited a “significant growth of supplemental fees” compared to the “moderate growth rate of institutional costs.”

The audit found that since implementing HESFA, Missouri’s four-year public institutions had increased supplemental fees by 138 percent overall and 112 percent per full-time student.

The report also took issue with how “tuition and fee information provided by the institutions is not verified and documentation of the tuition review process is not always maintained.”

Alex Howe, treasurer of the Graduate Professional Council, realizes that the university’s budget is under pressure due to a combination of HESFA and maximum enrollment numbers.

“Given [HESFA], given the practical limits on enrollment, supplemental fees are the only pressure release valve that the campus has to make more money,” Howe said. “It’s not their fault. They need to have a budget. But no one is looking at supplemental fees.”
The Process and Inaction

At a February 2015 Board of Curators meeting, curators approved 18 UM system-wide supplemental fee increases for the 2016 fiscal year, including seven from MU. There was much discussion surrounding the fees, along with criticism from some of the curators.

“I don’t think these fees are particularly transparent and they make it very difficult for students to plan financially,” curator David Steelman said.

Brian Burnett, the UM System’s vice president of finance, explained how the fees are presented and approved.

“It’s really a two-step process,” Burnett said. “The deans have to go through the campus level review … then they have to come through the system review.”

Burnett went on to say that the fee proposals must demonstrate they are truly needed and will “meaningfully impact students.”

Former UM System President Tim Wolfe, who has since resigned, further defended the process in the meeting.

“We have to focus on quality, while balancing price and affordability,” Wolfe said. “It does give that unique revenue source to those programs that are in need to improve the quality or continue to maintain the quality of those particular programs.”

He added that the curators and the administration would “like nothing better than to not do this … [but] we run the risk of affecting the quality of our education and our research without these kinds of fees.”

Tracy Mulderig, the student representative to the Board of Curators at the time, voiced the concerns that she and other student leaders had about the fees.

“The sticker price is impossible for students to understand,” Mulderig said. “Future students are looking at tuition and campus fees in order to weigh the cost of attending our university. But these students do not get an accurate understanding of supplemental course fees until they receive their first bill.”

Curator Donald Cupps was surprised to learn that it took until the first bill for a student to learn what a supplemental fee is.

“If that’s true, that’s not good,” Cupps said. “And certainly I know that the university wants to have complete transparency and give them as much notice as possible.”

Despite taking issue with the fees and their opacity, Steelman still voted in favor of them.
“I am going to vote for these very, very grudgingly,” Steelman said. “And I really hope that we have a very serious discussion as a board and as an administration on the continuation of supplemental fees in lieu of a more transparent tuition.”

Yet, since that meeting where the curators unanimously approved the fee proposals, there has been no apparent effort among UM System leaders to change the way they handle supplemental fees.

Interview requests to the curators, the office of the UM System president, Burnett’s office and various MU deans went unanswered. John Fougere, chief communications officer for the UM System, emailed a statement saying the “campuses typically discuss fees with student groups and student feedback is considered when reviewing proposals.”

“While we appreciate the stated commitment to receiving student input on supplemental fees, we would encourage the administration to reconsider whether their current mechanisms for doing so are adequate,” Howe said.

**Demand for Student Input**

A 2014 report drafted by both the Graduate Professional Council and the Missouri Students Association outlined their grievances and presented a plan to create a college fee committee. The committee would be made up of various student leaders and would meet only to discuss and approve potential supplemental fees and increases.

Howe said such a committee could easily be integrated with the Student Fee Review Committee, which reviews the university’s mandatory fees.

The SFRC is made up of a student-appointed chair, two vice chairs, seven undergraduate students and three graduate students. Howe is a vice chair on the committee.

“MSA, GPC and SFRC are all onboard with putting supplemental fees under SFRC,” Howe said. “It’s an existing committee that has a track record of doing well with student fees, making good decisions and being representative of graduate, professional and undergraduate students.”

Vega agrees that student oversight is crucial, but he said smaller steps could be made in the short term.

“At the bare minimum, we could get on the cashier’s website, under the explanation of fees … we could get every supplemental and say here’s what it goes to and here’s why,” Vega said. “That should be already happening, but it’s not.”

After spending over a year and a half trying to learn about supplemental fees, Vega has never received an answer to how this money is spent.

“What is that doing for me?” Vega said. “Is that buying me more water bottle dispensers and drinking fountains, or is that compensating some of the faculty that are really integral to the
operation of the college? There may be no shade, no wrongdoing, no ill will, but there’s no way
to back that up. No one has any idea.”

Calfee thinks MU’s priority should be ensuring that students are kept informed and have trust in
the university.

“At the very, very, very least, I should get an explanation … and if [students] can’t trust you, you
don’t have a school,” Calfee said.