State department settles dispute between Missouri State and the University of Missouri

By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS • A recent task force report tells all of Missouri’s public universities and community colleges to stay in their own lanes when it comes to what degrees each type of institution can grant — unless they have a very good reason to stray.

The task force, comprising 16 Missouri higher education leaders, was asked to address the issue by Missouri House leaders after a dispute between the University of Missouri System and the up-and-coming Missouri State University.

Leaders from Missouri State were hoping to change a statute that controls which doctoral programs the Springfield university can grant and prohibits it from offering professional degrees such as law and medical.

The law was created in 2005 when the school went through a name change from Southwest Missouri State University to Missouri State University. In addition to stipulations on degrees, the statute also limits the school from seeking the same research and land grant designation as the University of Missouri.

Bills were introduced in the Missouri House and Senate during last session that would change that particular statute. Both bills died in committee.

“The consensus at the end of the legislative session is that this is a matter better addressed by the higher education community,” Zora Mulligan, state Department of Higher Education commissioner, told the Post-Dispatch.

The task force’s report seeks to provide closure on the issue.

The report largely states that every institution stays in their own lane, meaning research and professional degrees are exclusively the role of the four University of Missouri schools — clarity for which the university system leaders are grateful.
It also states that Missouri’s 12 community colleges should stick to granting associate degrees and certificates — a directive given amid increased interest among some schools to also offer bachelor’s degrees.

“Part of the conversation of the process was to design a process that applied equally to all institutions regardless of institutional type,” Mulligan told the Post-Dispatch.

There is a narrow exception.

If a school sees an opportunity to add a program that doesn’t fit its typical mission, the college or university can ask the Coordinating Board of Higher Education. There must be proof that there’s a “local or regional workforce need,” and that there are no collaboration opportunities with other schools, according to the report.

The board will address a maximum of eight proposals during the first two years before reevaluating the new process. But the proposals cannot be fully enacted until the Legislature alters a few statutes.

“I was really impressed by the good faith that everybody brought to the table,” Mulligan said. “It was a very challenging conversation. Mission is a very core component of an institution’s identity. Having that talk took real diplomacy.”

Leaders from the University of Missouri System and Missouri State have both said in statements to the Post-Dispatch that they’re pleased with the outcome.

“The UM System agrees with the report’s recommendation that new academic programs that fall outside a public institution’s typical set of offerings should be reviewed in a more comprehensive manner to promote collaboration and avoid unnecessary duplication that the state and taxpayers cannot afford,” interim system president Michael Middleton said in a statement.

“The UM System campuses already offer collaborative degrees with several other universities, and we look forward to continued partnerships with four-year institutions to provide engineering, graduate and professional programs in an efficient manner in fulfillment of our teaching and research mission.”

Canned Food May Boost BPA Levels in Dogs: Study
Levels of the chemical Bisphenol A rise sharply in dogs soon after they start eating canned food, and their exposure to BPA could have implications for human health, a new study suggests.

"Bisphenol A is a prevalent endocrine-disrupting chemical found in canned foods and beverages," said Dr. Cheryl Rosenfeld, associate professor of biomedical sciences at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine in Columbia.

Researchers took blood and fecal samples from healthy dogs before and after they were fed either of two widely sold canned dog foods, including one presumed to be BPA-free.

"The dogs in the study did have minimal circulating BPA in their blood when it was drawn for the baseline. However, BPA increased nearly three-fold after being on the either of the two canned diets for two weeks," Rosenfeld said in a university news release.

Higher blood levels of BPA were also linked to changes in the dogs’ gut bacteria and metabolism. "Increased BPA may also reduce one bacterium that has the ability to metabolize BPA and related environmental chemicals," Rosenfeld said.

Because dogs and their owners tend to use the same indoor and outdoor spaces, dogs probably offer a good indication of the effects of BPA and other industrial chemicals on human health, according to the researchers.

"Our canine companions may be the best bio-sentinels for human health concerns," Rosenfeld said.

The study was published recently in the journal Science of the Total Environment.
FRIDAY, Dec. 23, 2016 (HealthDay News) -- While electrical burns to young children's mouths are rare, parents need to be aware that the danger is greatest during the holidays when extension cords and electrical wires are in plain sight, researchers report.

"Although we often worry about injury from toppled appliances, parents also should be aware of the potential for electrical burns to the mouth caused by a child mouthing the end or biting through an electrical cord," study co-author Dr. David Chang said. Chang is an associate professor of otolaryngology at the University of Missouri.

"In 1974, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated 1,000 injuries associated with extension or appliance cord burns in a single year. Our study found that these injuries have decreased drastically to about 65 injuries a year. However, even one injury is too many when it can be prevented," Chang said in a university news release.

He and his colleagues analyzed U.S. government data. They uncovered 1,042 emergency room visits for children who suffered electrical cord burns to the mouth between 1997 and 2012, an average of 65.1 cases a year.

Nearly three-quarters of those E.R. visits involved children under age 5. Seventy-seven percent were treated and released; the rest were admitted or transferred to a higher level of care. Most injuries involved electrical outlets, extension cords and electrical wires, the researchers said.

The findings were published earlier this year in the journal Otolaryngology -- Head and Neck Surgery.

"These injuries are largely unintentional and avoidable," study co-author Dr. Lauren Umstattd said in the news release.

"Due to their curiosity, young children are particularly at risk for oral electrical burns caused by household electrical cords, outlets and appliances. These burns can lead to devastating functional and cosmetic complications, which may require multiple corrective operations. We want families to be informed and safe while enjoying the holiday season," said Umstattd, a resident physician in the department of otolaryngology - head and neck surgery.

The study authors offered several safety tips:

- Install tamper-resistant outlets or outlet covers.
• Inspect cords for damage before use and check for damaged sockets or loose wires. If a cord is hot to the touch, don't use it.
• Keep unprotected cords out of sight and away from foot traffic to avoid tripping. Don't run a cord under a rug, which may cause the cord to overheat.
• Be vigilant when kids or pets are near electrical cords and outlets.
Dr. Thakkar, who is the MU School of Medicine Neurology Department’s research director, also encourages residents to get tested for apnea, if they’re having sleep issues. Thakkar says sleep apnea is easily treated.

“And if you don’t treat it, you have other problems like heart problems you know and mental problems, heart problems, memory concentration, dementia and so on,” Thakkar says.

Apnea can be checked by undergoing a sleep study at a medical facility, where all aspects of sleep are monitored. Sleep studies are painless.

**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

**Editorial: Discouraging campus sexual violence in a Trump administration**

By the Editorial Board

The nation is entering a bizarre new era in which the incoming president has been seen and heard on video casually talking about grabbing women by their genitals. Washington University’s redoubled commitment to spend more money and resources rooting out sexual violence on campus could not come at a more critical time.

Women need reassurance that unwanted sexual contact is assault and is off limits. Men need to know that they must have permission to touch a woman and that unwanted sexual contact will result in consequences.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students also are more vulnerable to sexual assault on college campuses. Washington University’s expanded commitment includes dedicating a staff member to deal with the specific concerns of those communities.
The university already estimates that it spends $1 million annually to combat sexual violence on campus. A new, expanded effort announced Nov. 30 includes adding two staff members and dedicated space for the office that oversees Title IX, the federal law that prohibits gender-based discrimination in federally funded education programs and activities.

The university is also planning to permanently fund a student-run, anonymous helpline and add a new staff member to address sexual misconduct issues at the medical school campus.

Though the new efforts and staffing to address sexual assault are not necessarily related to revelations about Donald Trump during the presidential campaign, students need reminding that they shouldn’t take their cues from his egregious comments in a 2005 video.

His victory sent a disturbing message to women, ramping up fears of intensified sexism and misogyny. Trump’s contention during the campaign that women who claimed he had groped them were liars, and his suggestion that some were too ugly to merit sexual assault, were threatening as well as insulting. Sadly, a certain sector of American society takes its cues from leaders like Trump, believing his victory gives them permission to run wild.

Trump’s frequent objectification of women as sexual objects, including his permission to radio host Howard Stern to call his then-23-year-old daughter a “piece of ass,” understandably makes women feel insecure about their hard-won progress for equal rights.

That’s why it is doubly important for colleges, the military and other similarly insular cultures to raise awareness anew.

Washington University’s initiatives followed findings released last year by the American Association of Universities Campus Climate Survey, which showed that 22.6 percent of undergraduate women and 7.5 percent of undergraduate men on the campus reported experiencing non-consensual sexual contact. The survey included roughly 30 participating schools, including the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Students need to feel that they can engage in normal campus life free of threats, and that they can expect follow-up action if they report a sexual assault. In the wake of Trump’s election, it’s time to ramp up such strategies, not discourage them.
Nearly 700 Mizzou Students Have Received the 3rd MMR Vaccine

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyses.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=013631a5-2bc1-4c09-88ec-733e9e73f083

GOP gains, Rams' departure among Missouri's top 2016 stories

The Associated Press
KANSAS CITY, MO.
An election that saw Republicans gain power in Missouri and the departure of the Rams were among the top 10 stories in Missouri in 2016.

(No. 6 on the list......)

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

The University of Missouri hired new leadership, a year after turmoil erupted over racial concerns on the Columbia campus. The university announced in November that Mun Y. Choi, a University of Connecticut provost, would lead the four-campus system. His appointment came nearly a year
after his predecessor stepped down amid student protests in November 2015, which included a hunger strike and the football team threatening not to play a game.

Since the protests, some lawmakers have criticized the university system, threatening funding cuts and closer scrutiny of its budget.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/news/state/missouri/article122968009.html#storylink=cpy