Rep. wants to take away University of Missouri flagship status

JEFFERSON CITY - Representative Courtney Allen Curtis, D-Ferguson, plans to file a bill to make Lincoln University the flagship institution of Missouri.

The press release said Curtis believes the lack of leadership at the University of Missouri led to incidents becoming international news, and for that reason he believes the General Assembly should bring new leadership to the university.

"I feel that Lincoln University is an excellent choice to represent Missouri as a flagship institution. Founded at the close of the Civil War, this University has a tradition of being a leader on diversity inclusion efforts. At the close of black history month and after recent events, this is the example our state needs right now," said Curtis.

KOMU 8 News reached out to University of Missouri for comment, but received no reply.

Gateway Hall vandalized for second time this school year

This is the fourth time in a year that anti-Semitic messages have appeared in residence halls.

Gateway Hall was vandalized for a second time this year with an anti-Semitic message Monday, according to a Residential Life statement obtained by The Maneater.

“Hitler rules” was written in purple marker on a flyer on the first floor, according to the report. MU Police Department said the incident occurred between 12:30–2 a.m.
MUPD and the Office for Civil Rights and Title IX are currently investigating the situation.

“Such vandalism targets everyone, not just those of cultural and religious minorities,” the ResLife statement read. “These incidents are distressing and undermine the safe and inclusive living-learning atmosphere Residential Life strives to create to support all students. The use of this language is inconsistent with the University Value of Respect and creates an environment that is unwelcoming to our students, faculty and staff.”

This is the fourth time in a year that anti-Semitic messages have appeared in residence halls. A bathroom in Gateway Hall had a swastika drawn in feces on Oct. 24. In April 2015, Mark Twain residence hall was twice vandalized with images of a swastika, a triangle with an eye on top and the word “heil” in the stairwell.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact MUPD, Gateway Hall Coordinator Susan Cohn or a student staff member.

MU asks taxpayers for $10 million to fund nuclear research

COLUMBIA - MU is asking the state for $10 million in funding in order to build a new, two-story specialized training and education facility.

State legislators visited MU’s Nuclear Reaction Center (MURR) in order to get a better understanding of how MU would use the appropriations. Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia, introduced this request to his fellow representatives. He said the center would serve three main purposes:

- It would help the center make more nuclear medication, used by cancer patients. This medication has a short shelf-life, so an increase of efficiency is crucial.
- The facility would attract private pharmaceutical companies to bring jobs to the center.
- Those jobs would (potentially) be filled by MU graduates that already do their research at the facility.
Ken Brooks, an associate director at MURR, said the funding would make it easier to provide cancer patients with the medication they need.

"The nuclear medicine treatments that are available for patients today, and save lives today, relied on vision by others in the past... we're enjoying those benefits today, and there's a brighter future for tomorrow if we can just get this investment," Brooks said.

Rep. Donna Lichtenegger, R-Cape Girardeau, said she is skeptical about the state's ability to fund such a project.

"I'm gonna be honest, I don't know how much money is possible, because of the roads and bridges in this state right now. The taxpayers have no appetite for tax increases," Lichtenegger said.

MURR is the largest university-run nuclear reaction center in the country. It provides nuclear medication to millions of patients across the U.S. MURR officials said 85 percent of the center's expenses are self-funded, with the rest covered by the university.

Lichtenenegger said while the project may not receive full funding, it is a worthy cause.

"The reason that this is so important is the fact that they are saving lives right here in this building with the products that they are providing," she said.

If the funding is approved, the new facility is projected to be completed sometime in 2018.

Bipartisan group of state lawmakers tour MU's nuclear research reactor

COLUMBIA, Mo. - About 10 Missouri state lawmakers toued the University of Missouri Research Reactor (MURR) in Columbia Monday. The tour was organized by the Columbia Chamber of Commerce and the University.

The University of Missouri's website says the 10-megawatt MURR is "the most intense neutron source of the approximately 27 other research reactors located on University campuses." The website notes MURR "currently supports the research of hundreds of faculty and students each year in dozens of disciplines."
The Columbia Chamber unveiled its legislative priorities in January. One of those priorities is securing a $10 million appropriation for FY 2017 to expand education and training for the MURR. Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon did not include the funding in his proposed budget. Under the state Constitution, Missouri lawmakers must approve the budget by early May.

Missouri lawmakers scheduled to participate in Monday's tour include State Reps. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia; Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia; Chuck Basye, R-Rocheport, Tom Flanigan, R-Carthage; Donna Lichtenegger, R-Jackson; and Courtney Curtis, D-Ferguson. Flanigan chairs the Missouri House Select Budget Committee, and Lichtenegger chairs the Missouri House Appropriations Committee on Higher Education.

Then-Gov. James Blair signed an appropriations bill in 1959 to fund the MURR project and that amount was later supplemented by then-Gov. John Dalton, according to the University's website. State allocations then totaled about $3.4 million. The MURR was in operation by the fall of 1966.

ABC 17's Dan Messineo is participating in Monday's tour, and will have an update on ABC 17 News at 6 p.m.

New Mizzou boss gives student protesters tough-love message

The man hired to help ease racial tensions at University of Missouri had tough love for the African-American activists who led fierce demonstrations there last fall, telling them late last week he has no intention of caving in to their demands.

Interim Vice Chancellor Chuck Henson, whose portfolio includes inclusion, diversity and equity, wrote a letter to Concerned Student 1950 Thursday, telling the group to stop making demands and work with the school to make things better.

"If you sincerely want better relationships, the time for demands, threats and arbitrary deadlines is over — you don't need them," Henson wrote.
Demands from the group, which takes its name from the 1950 admission of the school’s first black student, Gus Ridgel, include an “academic bankruptcy program” in which students could delete one bad semester’s grades from their records, according to The College Fix. Other demands include the hiring of more black faculty, $250,000 to expand the Black Cultural Center with a “Liberation House,” and a statue of civil rights activist Lloyd Gaines in the Carnahan Quadrangle.

Henson invited group members to meet him, but said many of the demands are neither realistic nor legal. Hiring faculty or staff or admitting minority students to meet quotas could violate state and federal law, he said.

"There are things, like hiring faculty or staff, or admitting students based on protected characteristics to meet a numerical target, will not and cannot be done," Henson wrote. "It is against state and federal law. It also is a bad model for a sustainable community."

UM System Interim President Mike Middleton echoed Henson's language in an emailed response to the revised demands.

"The time for demands has passed," he told the Missourian, the school’s newspaper.

Earlier demands by Concerned Student 1950, released in October, included a call for then-University President Tim Wolfe’s apology and resignation, both of which Wolfe submitted. In a tweet last week, the student-led group said its other demands must also be met.

"Be clear, these demands are not to be seen as 'request,' but obligatory to addressing and dismantling institutional racism on our campus," read the statement. “We will remain committed to ensuring our demands are met by any means necessary.”

In the incident that perhaps drew the most attention to the autumn protests, a communications professor, Melissa Click, tried to oust a student journalist from the quadrangle where demonstrators had gathered.

"I need some muscle over here," she was heard shouting.

More video surfaced of her cursing at police officers. She was eventually fired.
Two bills that would repeal a key compromise in a 2005 law granting name changes to Missouri State University and two other schools should not be viewed as an attack on the University of Missouri, MSU President Clif Smart said.

Last week, identical bills were filed in the Missouri House and Senate that would lift restrictions requiring MSU to seek a cooperative agreement with the UM System to offer engineering and doctoral programs before requesting state approval to open a standalone program. The bills, filed by House Assistant Majority Leader Kevin Austin, R-Springfield, and Sen. Eric Schmitt, R-Glendale, would make it easier for other state universities to seek approval from the Coordinating Board for Higher Education to add graduate programs.

“We do think, particularly in southern Missouri, that we are losing people to Arkansas and other places,” Smart said. “The more opportunities we have to offer graduate programs, to keep them in the state and keep them well prepared, the better. We don’t think this hurts the University of Missouri in any way.”

In 2005, backers of a name change succeeded in removing Southwest from MSU’s name and expanding its mission statewide. UM System supporters, who had opposed the change for decades, forced inclusion of a provision that MSU would not seek the land-grant status held by UM or Lincoln University and would not create any new engineering or doctoral programs without seeking a cooperative agreement with UM.

Since then, 42 programs have been initiated, including engineering programs with Missouri University of Science & Technology and dental programs with University of Missouri-Kansas City. The degrees are granted by the University of Missouri. A legislative update memo issued Friday from the UM System reported that the bills had been filed and that “many see the move as opportunistic at a time when many lawmakers and the public are upset with the UM System over recent events.”
Area lawmakers expressed a similar view of the legislation. State Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, said he has “serious reservations about that bill” because it would weaken UM and make it tougher to fund all higher education as schools scramble for money to open new programs.

“What needs to happen right now is less duplication,” Schaefer said.

The state ranks near the bottom in higher-education funding, said state Rep. Kip Kendrick, D-Columbia, and opening the door for additional programs will strain already-stretched budgets.

“I think it is a direct attack on the University of Missouri when they have gone through some difficult times recently,” Kendrick said.

Schmitt, in a statement sent by email, emphasized the need to provide more options for students. Schmitt said the bill does not give blanket permission to open new programs.

“The bill removes existing limitations on these programs, and the coordinating board will still review proposals for new degree programs,” Schmitt said.

The cooperative programs are working well, Smart said, but not every idea has been approved. MSU tried to absorb the private Forest Institute for Professional Psychology as it went through financial struggles, he said, but UM would not agree to the move. The institute, which offered a degree in clinical psychology that isn’t offered by any other Missouri public institution, is now closed.

UM’s opposition “was one of the obstacles, though not the only one, that made that deal fall through,” Smart said.

Opportunistic attacks on the university are coming from a variety of directions, said state Rep. Chuck Basye, R-Rocheport. The House Budget Committee will consider Tuesday and Wednesday whether to cut UM funding by $8 million from this year’s appropriation.

“A lot of my colleagues — and this is not to say they are incorrect in their thinking — but they are seeing this as an opportunity to get more money for their priorities,” Basye said.

MSU doesn’t have any particular program it wants to initiate if the bill passes, Smart said. The intent is to fill the need for trained professionals that is unmet, he said. If Missouri had more engineering schools and larger nursing programs, Smart said, every graduate would have a job.

“I don’t think the University of Missouri needs to be scared or worried about what we are doing down here,” Smart said.
Why We Are Going Public With Our Support of Melissa Click

To the Editor:

In recent articles covering the University of Missouri’s treatment of Professor Melissa Click, a common refrain has been that she has few public supporters. However, this should not be misunderstood to suggest she lacks support.

Over the past few months, more than 100 faculty members at institutions around the world have been privately discussing how we might best support and advocate for our colleague. Many of us know Professor Click personally, even more know her excellent research on popular media consumption, and all of us have been horrified at how she has been demonized by strangers, whether via anonymous social media or signed commentaries intent on judging her based on a few minutes of video.

Her supportive colleagues have been publicly silent because we had faith in the systems designed to review, evaluate, and (if necessary) discipline faculty. We heard reports that throughout the fall her colleagues at the University of Missouri were following the protocols dictated by the institution’s rules of shared governance and grievance procedures. We actively participated in those processes by sending letters of support to university administrators; we stayed publicly silent because as faculty members, we respect the rules of institutions to self-govern per their established policies, and did not want to create outside interference that might disrupt Professor Click’s ongoing tenure decision. We stayed publicly silent because we believe the important story at the University of Missouri is not Professor Click’s actions in those few minutes, for which she apologized within a day, but the successful organized student protests over concerns of serious racial injustices that resulted in the resignation of the central administration.

But we cannot stay publicly silent any longer.
Over the past month, others have overstepped their authority to punish Professor Click without following proper procedures. Members of the Missouri legislature petitioned the University to fire Professor Click, and are threatening to punish the state’s thousands of students by freezing higher-education budgets until they follow through with this witch hunt. The Board of Curators suspended Professor Click, despite lacking the authority to intervene with campus governance and employee discipline. The interim chancellor repeated this politicized party line by castigating her publicly and meeting with the curators to plan action without following his university’s established procedures. And now the Board of Curators have voted in a split decision to fire Professor Click, with the public assent of the chancellor, even though it clearly flouts all established legal policies for university governance and employee discipline.

These actions against Professor Click are not about a few minutes of her behavior caught on video. These actions are calculated to distract and redirect the conversation away from student concerns over campus racism, and to silence other faculty, staff, and students from lending their voices in support. These politicians, political appointees, and now university administrators are using Professor Click to scapegoat an “unruly woman,” both in retribution for the successful protests highlighting the racial inequities at Missouri, and to create a chilling effect against those who might publicly protest in the future. They are sending the message that those university employees who take action in support of student protesters will be denied their established rights as faculty and staff. These politicians and political appointees are following suit in the wake of recent similar instances of political overreach into academia at the Universities of Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin.

This political overreach and interference is why we can no longer stay publicly silent. We cannot witness the political sacrifice of the career and reputation of a highly respected professor without speaking up. We believe that Professor Click should be judged based on her actions, balancing her successful 12-year career at Missouri against the worst few minutes of that time, by following the institution’s established rules and policies. As the University of Missouri administration has followed the proclamations of legislators and curators, abandoning due process and established
procedures, it has lost legitimacy as an independent educational institution. The university administration seems to be willing to risk its broader academic reputation and the best interests of its students, staff, faculty, and alumni by abdicating its own internal policies to follow the whims of political outsiders.

For all of these reasons, we publicly support Professor Melissa Click’s rights as a faculty member to due process, in keeping with the university’s procedures and broader standards of academic institutions.

Susan Douglas, Catherine Neafie Kellogg Professor, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Communication Studies, The University of Michigan
Kathy Roberts Forde, Chair and Associate Professor of Journalism, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Lawrence Grossberg, Morris Davis Disitnguished Professor of Communication and Cultural Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Henry Jenkins, Provost’s Professor of Communication, Journalism, and Cinematic Arts, University of Southern California
Mary Celeste Kearney, Director of Gender Studies and Associate Professor of Film, Television, and Theatre, University of Notre Dame
Robin D. G. Kelley, Gary B. Nash Professor of U.S. History, University of California at Los Angeles
Jason Mittell, Professor of Film & Media Culture and American Studies, Middlebury College
Janice Radway, Walter Dill Scott Professor of Communication Studies, Northwestern University
Siva Vaidhyanathan, Robertson Professor of Media Studies, University of Virginia
Opinion: Melissa Click

An extraordinary expulsion

By Henry J. Waters III

Monday, February 29, 2016 at 2:00 pm

Normally the University of Missouri Board of Curators is not the agency taking the lead in the hiring and firing of individual faculty members, but there is nothing normal about the celebrated case of Assistant Professor Melissa Click.

In the end, after months of heated public rhetoric regarding her tenure, the board did its own investigation and in a split decision fired the professor. Interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley agreed with the decision.

MU faculty certainly did not, at least according to unequivocal statements from a seeming majority of the MU Faculty Council, which berated Foley for his action and that of the curators. The American Association of University Professors also criticized the curators for taking action against Click instead of submitting her case to established campus rules of procedure for considering grievances against a faculty member.

Trouble is, said Foley, the curators acted because such procedures were not activated on campus. The faculty council could have initiated a review of Click’s performance but did not. It was left to administration and the governing board to fill the void.

The board earlier had suspended Click with pay, a strange and questionable move that seemed to usurp the chancellor’s prerogative, but Foley later said he did not believe he had been unfairly bypassed. When the curators fired Click, he said he thought they had done the right thing and he would not have agreed with their action otherwise. What else would/should/could he say?

Foley had made a report to the board on Click’s actions. The board conducted its own independent investigation and made the decision. I’ve never seen anything like it.

Established campus rules were not followed primarily because the faculty failed to energize them. Then campus administration did not initiate its own formal review of Click’s employment. Seeing this void, the curators moved in.
Clearly, to me at least, an on-campus review should have occurred with the curators serving only in an advisory and confirmation role, and the on-campus review can’t be entirely dependent on initiation by faculty. The faculty council is criticized for not launching an investigation of Click’s continued employment, but clearly that process would have not found justification for her firing. Then what? Is the personnel management apparatus on campus thereby stymied? When the faculty failed to act, the chancellor should have been next in line, not the board of curators.

MU rules surely allow for the chancellor to trigger an investigation of a faculty member’s employment in consultation with the faculty, but the curators had taken the reins. The impasse on campus prompted curators — led by David Steelman, who doesn’t cotton to such foolishness — to make a move. They suspended Melissa Click, leading to an inevitable follow-up decision regarding her tenure. (By “tenure” I mean her very continuation as a faculty member, not the granting of job security status, a different process now moot in her case.)

If this isn’t enough to rattle your brains, what is?

Urged on by the professors’ union, Click will probably fight her job termination. Unless the AAUP has lost its stripes, it will file a lawsuit, and unless the usual train of events somehow fails to come true, the university will pay a substantial amount of cash to settle the matter. Might even be six figures.

Since the majority party has been leading the fight in the Missouri General Assembly for getting rid of Click, perhaps it will provide a special appropriation to MU for paying her walking money. And while lawmakers are at it, now that MU has done everything they have a right to expect by putting Click on the rails, surely the same majority will scratch its threatened budget cuts altogether.

**Opinion: Politics, not pedagogy**

By Henry J. Waters III

Monday, February 29, 2016 at 2:00 pm

At bottom the Melissa Click case is about politics, not education.

Not that the political implications of her actions are irrelevant, but had not her misbehavior taken over the news of the day, nothing would have been said about her fitness as a faculty member.
The issue became her political damage to the university in the eyes of politicians and prospective donors and students. To politicians she is a pound and a half of flesh. Any hint of adversity is leveraged into told-you-so “proof,” some instigated by the political perpetrators themselves who blame promised public budget cuts on Click.

Will her departure be good or bad for the university? Before long it will be forgotten, and no lasting effect will persist. Wish Melissa Click well in her next endeavor.

PS: The ubiquitous presence of video cameras and the Internet is increasing accountability but interfering with privacy. When someone points a phone, your antics might be broadcast around the world. Holy cripes! How did we get in such a situation?

Tomorrow: Concerned Student 1950 and the future of the university.

MISSOURIAN

CARL KENNEY: When winning becomes more urgent than the need for change

CARL KENNEY, 1 hr ago

Have we become a nation addicted to conflict?

We see it in virtually every area of public discourse — the fight to nominate a replacement to the Supreme Court, the mudslinging during Republican presidential debates, the demonizing of Hilary Clinton, the unmasked hate of people who burn crosses and the rising discontent among those who applaud the proposal to build a wall to control immigration.

Once upon a time, our fights were private. People were skilled at hiding political ideologies in an attempt to minimize tension among co-workers and friends. We were told not to talk about politics, religion and sex. Today, we freely talk about all three.

Does anyone really care about communicating beyond differences? Or, is winning more important than change? What does change look like? The answer to these questions depends on which team is holding the microphone.
Republican gubernatorial candidate Catherine Hanaway connected student protest at MU with unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, after the death of Michael Brown.

“From rioting at Ferguson to the unrest at the University of Missouri, to rising murder rates all around our state, Missouri is facing an epidemic of lawlessness,” Hanaway said in a statement released before the UM Board of Curators fired Melissa Click.

Hanaway’s perspective resonates with many Missouri residents. It’s a common theme fueling an agenda to punish MU administrators for failing to control the actions of students.

Rather than embracing the activism of students and conceding the legitimacy of their complaints, lawmakers and residents want to punish students for disrupting order. They want rules that protect fans from future boycotts. They want to discipline faculty and staff who promote what they view as lawlessness.

This perspective refuses to honor the stories of black students perplexed by racism at MU. Hanaway fails to acknowledge a system stacked against black people.

In the opinion of many Missourians, there is no justification to complain after the death of Michael Brown or for having the privilege to gain an MU education.

Hanaway represents the view of those who see no need to negotiate change. They want their campus to return to what they knew before protest.

On the other side are those committed to a different type of change. Theirs is change rooted in both a historical and personal association with racism. Their demands are weighed from the context of things not changed. Black students, faculty and staff are seeking authentic inclusion.

Then there are those in the middle. They are working fiercely to promote change while being forced to contend with divergent views regarding what needs to be changed.
"If you sincerely want better relationships, the time for demands, threats and arbitrary deadlines is over — you don't need them," Interim Vice Chancellor Chuck Henson responded to renewed demands from Concerned Student 1950.

UM System Interim President Mike Middleton reiterated Henson's response to student demands.

"The time for demands has passed," Middleton said.

Henson and Middleton are calling for a different strategy. If this is the season of change, it will require an approach that utilizes compromise, communication and collaboration versus ongoing criticism and attacks against the status quo.

It has to begin somewhere. Change can't happen until people are willing to listen. How can you do that when winning is more important than change?

Where will it stop? Will members of the faculty seek the removal of Interim Chancellor Hank Foley after he sided with the Board of Curators in removing Melissa Click? Will the debate regarding faculty governance resurrect like the ghost of former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin?

Will the dispute involving Click's dismissal, questions of academic freedom, pressure from the state General Assembly, discussions on who becomes the next system president and chancellor and the continuing movement toward making MU a more inclusive community be sabotaged by a culture enamored with contention?

Even more problematic is finding a place to begin. How do you structure the setting for change when the players have hindered trust? How do you do the heavy lifting when the players in the room are viewed as symbols of the problem, rather than for being committed to the building of a new and improved community?

The beginning of change acknowledges a simple truth. The confusion that rifts the soul of progress is larger than the people in the room. The enemies of change are history, cultural
difference, the failure to listen and embrace the burden of things we have been taught and a mound of unfounded assumptions.

What does it take to fix things at MU?

It helps accepting Hank Foley did not create the problems we face. Michael Middleton and Chuck Henson did not create this awful situation. They are given the challenge of standing in the middle of conflicting views regarding what needs to be changed. Their role is to be public faces of what it takes to realize change.

Their role is to help us believe it is possible. Middleton and Henson, as black men, are given the awkward task of convincing white people there are significant reasons to do things different. All while persuading black people they haven’t compromised for a paycheck and upgraded title.

Henson and Middleton asked students to stop making demands. In other words, trust us to do our jobs.

To that I add the same for faculty and state legislators. Give them space to do their jobs.

There’s one problem. How do you do that within this new climate of contention?

When winning is the goal, we may be stuck with a culture enamored with contention.
GEORGE KENNEDY: On campus and in the Capitol, a clear failure of leadership
GEORGE KENNEDY, Feb 29, 2016

The Missourian’s front-page headline Wednesday summed up nicely the current conversation about the turmoil resulting from last fall’s round of protests and resignations at our university: “STATE OF UNREST.”

The most vociferous demonstrations of that unrest are emanating from the state Capitol, where the Republican-dominated legislature heads toward slashing the university budget.

Regular readers may recall that I don’t always share the opinions of our elected rulers, but this time I agree that they have at least one thing right: The university and the state it serves are suffering from a catastrophic failure of leadership.

That failure was first forced on our attention last October, when then-President Timothy Wolfe was confronted by students demanding long overdue remedies for 175 years of systemic racism. The students wanted an apology and a set of specific changes in policy and procedure.

They named themselves Concerned Student 1950, commemorating the year the university admitted its first nine black students. (That was 45 years after the first international students — from countries including Russia, Cuba, Egypt, Japan and the Philippines — were admitted.)

It hasn’t been much discussed, though the students themselves pointed it out, that their demands were strikingly similar to those made back in 1969 by a newly formed group called the Legion of Black Collegians. That protest led to the hiring of the university’s first black faculty member,
establishment of a Black Studies program and, a couple of years later, the appointment of our first black curator.

This time, Wolfe’s response was to cut and run. That’s not just a failure of leadership; it’s an abdication of responsibility.

By the way, we make a mistake when we lump Wolfe’s resignation together with the dismissal of R. Bowen Loftin as chancellor.

Loftin was under fire not so much from minority students as from faculty and deans dismayed by his administrative malfeasance and his cowardice under pressure from, among others, anti-abortion bullies.

That was a failure of leadership, too, but the issues weren’t the same.

Not all leaders failed to step up, though. When black football players joined the student protest and vowed to boycott practice and games unless progress was promised, Coach Gary Pinkel and his staff encouraged the rest of the team to stand together.

A white player told me that earlier this week. Coach Pinkel quietly took a public stand, something you don’t often see from a $4 million-a-year athletics administrator.

It was, I thought, his finest hour.

I can’t say the same for the appointed overseers of the institution. After the uproar erupted, three members, including the only two black curators, quickly bailed out.

The six survivors did offer some verbal support to students and faculty. However, before long they too buckled under pressure and, in apparent violation of their own rules, interrupted process already under way and suspended assistant professor Melissa Click.

On Thursday, denying any improper pressure, the board voted, 4-2, to fire her.
The most serious and potentially most damaging failure of leadership, however, is being demonstrated daily by the Republicans who dominate our state legislature.

Wednesday’s Missourian showed, and not for the first time, that they are being petty, vindictive and short-sighted in their ham-handed insistence on punishing current and future university staff and students for the sins of decision-makers who are no longer within reach.

Any long-time university employee, in which category I place myself, would agree that the institution — like any institution of its size and complexity — has room to improve its efficiency.

But the intelligent way to push in that direction is not by whacking a state appropriation that is already inadequate. And it is certainly not by eliminating, even if only symbolically, the salaries of a hard-working department head and a highly effective dean.

So yes, what we have here is clearly a failure of leadership. In the case of the legislators, you might even call it a triumph of ideology over intelligence.

Farming, food experts discuss world hunger at summit

By ALAN BURDZIAK
Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 12:00 am

People around the world go to bed hungry every day, and another 2 billion to 3 billion humans are expected to be on earth by 2050. Feeding them all will not be an easy task.

Providing food for 9½ billion or 10 billion people worldwide “represents the single greatest challenge our species has ever faced,” said Kenneth Quinn, former ambassador to Cambodia and president of the World Food Prize Foundation. Quinn was one of four panelists Friday during a discussion at the
University of Missouri’s Bond Life Sciences Center about public-private partnerships to end world hunger.

Hunger isn’t exclusive to developing nations, though. Billy Thompson, assistant executive director of The Little Bit Foundation, said 173,000 children in the St. Louis area go hungry every day. To put it in context, he said it is enough people to fill Busch Stadium more than three times. His foundation provides meals to about 6,000 children in St. Louis-area schools daily.

“It’s really important to address the education disparity that is exacerbated by malnutrition,” Thompson said.

The Little Bit Foundation also helps clothe students and get them necessary health screenings. Thompson said Saint Louis University and Barnes-Jewish Hospital partner with his organization.

Jesus Madrazo, vice president of corporate engagement for Monsanto, and Laura Chauvin, CEO of Sustainable Philanthropy Partners, also participated in the panel discussion. Each panelist shared details about their work and spoke about the importance of governments, private and public companies, and not-for-profit organizations working together to end world hunger.

The panel discussion was part of the 11th annual Universities Fighting World Hunger summit, which runs through Saturday at MU. The event brings together students and agricultural professionals from all over the world.

Chauvin has been part of a team that works with Ohio State University and a university in Tanzania to build wells in Africa that provide people with clean drinking water.

Once they provide people with the means to get potable drinking water, Chauvin said it’s imperative for the people there to be able to keep the system sustainable.

“We’re developing technicians that know how to fix the systems” in Africa, she said.

Madrazo admits Monsanto has done a poor job of communicating with consumers, but he said the company works with impoverished farmers around the globe to help them increase crop yields.

While there is a lot to be optimistic about — such as plants that have been modified to withstand drought or seeds that can double farmers’ outputs — he said there is a significant challenge in feeding the world’s hungry mouths. Data, he said, can help people make efficient use of land and resources.
“Imagine our ability to map every single square meter of every field around the world,” Madrazo said. Using Monsanto's technology and science, farmers will be able to know exactly what to plant as well as when and how much water to use, he said.

The panelists briefly spoke about their respective positions and then fielded questions from roughly 60 attendees.

One man said there is a theory that people already have the means and ability to feed the world adequately, but the challenge is getting the food from fields to market.

Quinn said the answer was simple, at least in Africa.

“If you want to feed Africa, build roads,” he said. “Where the road ends, poverty, hunger, malnutrition ... all begin.”

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**Cyber hackers target small businesses**

Smaller businesses are often less protected making them an easy target.

COLUMBIA, Mo- A new study shows that typically one in three computers are now being hacked. It also is saying around 400 billion dollars is being lost due to businesses being hacked.

Computers, especially local ones, hold all sorts of information about the business and its customers. They are often less protected, making them easier to hack.

A business these days must be online. And a few years ago, it was easy to see when a computer was hacked. However, now it can go unnoticed. President of the Missouri Innovations Center, Bill Turpin says, "The most dangerous one are the ones you never knew hit you. That somebody got your credentials, got logged into the system, they copied whatever they wanted and left. And you didn't even know it."

Thieves target smaller local businesses because they may have weaker security, but new technology is helping those stores protect a buyer's financial information. Turpin says, "Most small businesses are not equipped to do this. There are very smart people out there,
internationally that are experts. You really need an expert protecting you. Most small business owners would be smart to get a hosting service that hosts their business and let the hosting service do all the heavy duty cyber protection."

Also consider that as technology grows, it will only be harder to protect important information. A University of Missouri professor for computer science, Prasad Calyam says, "It's going to be a scary future with all our devices, we are having more wearables, we are putting more sensors everywhere. So we should be very careful with not only our personal data, but data from our things we are starting to use."

Experts also say to use a number of different passwords especially when using social media.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Retired HBCU Presidents Start Search Firm for Black-College Leaders

By Lee Gardner

No MU Mention

How do you strengthen historically black colleges and universities? By strengthening the pipeline of administrators to run them. At least that’s the solution being taken up by a group of retired presidents of historically black institutions.

On Tuesday four former presidents are to announce the founding of TM2 Executive Search, a firm dedicated to identifying and placing candidates for top administrative posts at HBCUs.

TM2, which is connected to the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, will be the first executive-search firm focused exclusively on HBCUs, and it arrives at a critical time. Many historically black institutions struggle to maintain enrollment, and public HBCUs face dwindling state support. Such pressures compound the challenges for
leaders, and have contributed to "fairly significant turnover of leadership in the black-college community," according to John W. Garland, a former president of Central State University and executive chairman of TM2.

Mr. Garland and his colleagues hope to reverse the trend by recruiting solid candidates for HBCU leadership positions, and by offering guidance, and a sounding board, for up to a year for the new presidents and other leaders whom TM2 places. "We understand how lonely these jobs can be," he says. "And we also understand how important it is to have someone who you can call on for advice."

TM2 also plans to work with boards of trustees to help them understand what they should be looking for in candidates, and to set realistic expectations for new leaders. That promises to be an important aspect of the firm’s services, given the number of bitter feuds between boards of trustees and new presidents at historically black institutions in recent years. If conflicts do arise within the first 12 months, "we can be a third party to mediate that discussion," Mr. Garland says.

Joining Mr. Garland at TM2 are Sidney Ribeau, a former president of Howard University; Wayne D. Watson, a president emeritus of Chicago State University; and Dorothy Cowser Yancy, a former president of Shaw University and Johnson C. Smith University. The nonprofit firm garnered initial financial support from, and shares office space with, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. (The fund declines to say how much it provided to help start the search-firm effort.)

'The Right Questions'

The need for a search firm that focuses on minority-serving institutions has been a topic of discussion in the HBCU community for years, according to Ms. Yancy and others. While many companies offer executive-search services to colleges, they are rarely deeply engaged with the HBCU community, she says, and "you don’t see a lot of diversity in terms of the principals and the folks involved in the searches."
HBCUs not only have a different culture than majority-serving institutions do, she continues; they might also differ in how they view prospective leaders. "We might look at the preparation level differently," she says. "We might look at the skill set differently." A commitment to improving historically black institutions could outweigh more-traditional administrative résumé bullets.

A handful of organized efforts have sought to improve the pool of black leaders, including the Higher Education Leadership Foundation, established last year. But talent-spotting and mentoring have been ad-hoc activities for many in the HBCU community, and TM2 offers a chance to add "a little structure" to such efforts, Ms. Yancy says.

Walter M. Kimbrough, president of Dillard University, agrees with the need for a firm like TM2. Many executive-search firms don’t spend enough time "understanding the culture of the campus before they even go into the search process," he says, a problem not limited to searches at HBCUs. That failing sometimes leads to finalists who may bear impressive résumés but who don’t make good matches for the college in question. "You can see it coming a mile away," he says. "This person isn’t going to last, because they don’t fit with the culture of the institution."

Clashes between boards and new presidents at HBCUs have become a staple of headlines. Three years ago, for example, Morgan State University’s Board of Regents tried to remove its president, David J. Wilson, after just three years. Mr. Wilson kept his position, though Dallas R. Evans, chairman of the board, lost his. Last fall Elmira Mangum, named president of Florida A&M University in 2014, survived a similar challenge. Rufus Montgomery, chairman of the university's Board of Trustees, stepped down in the aftermath.
It’s not just boards with whom presidents clash. Willie D. Larkin, the third president of Grambling State University in the past five years, received a vote of no confidence from the Faculty Senate last month, after just seven months on the job.

Mr. Kimbrough says the retired presidents involved in TM2, given their decades of experience, are more likely to "know the right kind of questions to ask" during the search process. And they are more likely to be candid with boards about what the hiring process should be. A seasoned HBCU leader may be able to tell a board that "this is the kind of leader that your institution needs, but that means that you’re going to have to operate a different way," Mr. Kimbrough says. "I don’t think there’s ever enough pushback on the board to say, ‘You’re part of the problem.’"

Such transitions can be especially difficult and painful when a new president succeeds a longtime leader, says Ms. Yancy. But that’s one reason TM2 emphasizes not just identifying nascent leaders but also supporting new leaders in their early months. "You can’t be like the stork and just drop the baby and leave it to flounder on its own," she says.

New Challenges

The principals of TM2 face more challenges than deepening the talent pool. Marybeth Gasman, director of the Center for Minority-Serving Institutions, at the University of Pennsylvania, applauds the effort the presidents behind TM2 are making, and the experience they bring to it. But she notes that the job of college president has changed in just the past few years — social media alone has complicated it immensely — and that the veteran presidents might benefit from consulting with some sitting presidents.

Mr. Kimbrough agrees, though he says future HBCU leaders face even bigger challenges. TM2 will be recruiting for leadership roles in an environment where
enrollment competition and, especially, waning support for public institutions will make financial worries a continuing fact of life. He hopes TM2 can "identify some people who have been successful in this rapid de-escalation of state resources."

Mr. Garland, the executive chairman, says that he and his colleagues all kept up with the new wrinkles, and new dilemmas, in college leadership. "It’s not like we’ve stepped away from the presidency and sat around and done nothing," he says. He also acknowledges the potential challenge of finding and recruiting rising administrators at a time when traditionally white institutions are eager to expand their hiring diversity. Competition against majority-serving colleges is something HBCU leaders "see every day, in everything that we do," he says.

But HBCUs have long depended on students, faculty members, and administrators who place foremost importance on the value of their mission. "Everybody who has talent is not dying to go work for a majority institution," says Ms. Yancy. "We’re looking for people who are prepared to come in, roll up their sleeves, and take our institutions to the next level."

The New York Times

Winners of Pictures of the Year International
In her first year out of college, Carolyn Van Houten of The San Antonio Express-News has been named Newspaper Photographer of the Year in the Pictures of the Year International contest. She joined the paper’s staff in January of last year after graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was named College Photographer of the Year in a separate national competition associated with POYi.

Todd Heisler of The New York Times placed second in the Newspaper Photographer of the Year category and Alon Skuy of The Times in Johannesburg took third.

Paolo Marchetti, an Italian freelance photographer represented by Getty Images, was named Photographer of the Year, with Espen Rasmussen of the Norwegian newspaper Verdens Gang taking second and Chip Somodevilla of Getty images third.

The New York Times was named Best Publication by POYi, which is a program of the University of Missouri School of Journalism. The Times also won first place in the Newspaper Visual Editing category as well as 14 other awards. Mr. Heisler took first place for Sports Picture Story for “Hardwood,” a look at a New York City high school basketball team. Joshua Z. Weinstein received the top award in Multimedia Feature Story for a Times Op-Doc video, “Holocaust Survivor Band.”

In news photography contests, the top-prize winners are most often entrants who travel far from their homes to cover dramatic events. Those doing strong work in their own communities, unless they live in a war zone, are more likely to be passed by.

This year, the Pictures of the Year International competition tried to alter that dynamic by tweaking its two divisions. The open category, which Mr. Marchetti, 41, won, continues to be for all photographers working anywhere in the world. But the newspaper categories are now focused on those working in their local areas. This does not prohibit newspaper photographers from entering the open categories if they traveled outside their region.

“There are so many important local stories and issues that often get overshadowed in competitions by the big global news events,” said Rick Shaw, director of POYi. “We wanted to recognize great photo stories produced in photographers’ own backyards.”

Ms. Van Houten, 25, said that there “are stories everywhere,” though they may sometimes be “more subtle or harder to find.”

National Geographic won the Angus MacDougall Overall Excellence in Editing Award as well as the Documentary Project of the Year for its environmental issue “Cool It.”

The Times’s sports photo editors Becky Lebowitz Hanger and Jeffrey Furticella received first and second places as well as an award of excellence in the Print Feature Story Editing.

Andrew Ellis of MediaStorm was named the Multimedia Photographer of the Year. Second place went to Katie Falkenberg of The Los Angeles Times and third to Jonah M. Kessel, a video journalist for The New York Times who was also was cited in two other categories.
Al Bello of Getty Images was named Sports Photographer of the Year. Hossein Fatemi took the World Understanding Award for “An Iranian Journey,” which was first published on Lens. Casper Dalhoff received the Community Awareness Award for “A Commitment to Life.” The Environmental Vision Award went to Brent Stirton of Getty Images for “Ivory Wars,” while Stephen Dupont received the Best Photography Book Award for “Generation AK”.

Yunghi Kim took first place in the General News category for a photo of the funeral of Freddie Gray, a black man from Baltimore whose death from an injury suffered in police custody set off nationwide protests.

Robin Hammond took first place in Portrait Series for his images of L.G.B.T. people living in countries where homosexuality is illegal. The series was featured on Lens last September. Mark Peterson took first for his political photos in the News Picture Story category and Gabriella Demczuk took third for work made on assignment for The Times. Ms. Demczuk also received “special recognition” from the judges in the Community Awareness category. Bryan Denton, a freelancer for The New York Times, received third place in the Feature category.

The Times also took first in the Online News and Issues Story Editing category for “Walking in War’s Path,” with photographs by Tomas Munita, text by Jodi Rudoren and Isabel Kershner and produced by David Furst, Jon Huang and Sergio Peçanha. The Times also placed third in the category with Josh Haner’s “Greenland Is Melting Away,” produced with Coral Davenport, Larry Buchanan and Derek Watkins.

Mr. Furst, The Times’s international photo editor, was also part of a team that placed second in the Online Feature Story Editing category for David Guttenfelder’s “Illuminating North Korea.” It was produced by Rodrigo de Benito Sanz, Douglas Schorzman, Rumsey Taylor and Mr. Furst.

In Multimedia News Story, Francesco Zizola of Noor placed first and Samantha Stark of The Times took second for “Love and Romance.” Nadia Sussman received an honorable mention for The Times for “In Rio, Pacification Without Peace.”

A Syrian freelance photographer covering his country’s conflict for Agence France-Presse won first place for Spot News and an award of excellence for News Picture Story. The same photographer took second in the World Press Photo contest’s General News category this year. Although AFP sends out the photographs under the name Abd Doumany, it is a pseudonym.

When asked about the use of pseudonyms last week, Francis Kohn, AFP’s photo director, confirmed that Abd Doumany was not the photographer’s real name. He said that local Syrian photographers and their families might be in danger if their actual names were published.

“We thought it was fine for these guys,” he said. “They chose their own names. And we agreed to that. We have a policy that we use real names, but in some really extraordinary circumstances we agree to use other names. The alternative would be to just use ‘stringer,’ which we do sometimes.”
The New York Times does not use pseudonyms in credits to avoid the risk of misleading readers, but will omit photographers’ real name if they might be in danger. The Times has previously published AFP photos using the credit Abd Doumany both online and in print without knowing it was a pseudonym. The Times has also published AFP photographs credited to Sameer Al-Doumy, another name that Mr. Kohn confirmed was a pseudonym.

Until he was contacted by Lens today, Mr. Shaw, of POYi, said he was not aware that “Abd Doumany” was a pseudonym.

“We understand that there are situations that we would not want to put somebody in jeopardy,” Mr. Shaw said. “I think it’s acceptable under certain circumstances that ‘Anonymous’ or a pseudonym can be used as a credit, as long as we can be transparent and divulge that to our audiences.”

Mr. Shaw also said that he would contact AFP and ask for a clarification, which would be added to the list of winners.

“My heart is with the photographers in the trenches working in conflict,” he said. “I want to do the right thing so they can continue to bring the images of conflict that we need to see.”