MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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Choi, Cartwright pitch plans for University of Missouri to state lawmakers

By Rudi Keller

JEFFERSON CITY — The University of Missouri is trying to repair its image by cutting the cost of education, changing rules to address legislative concerns and engaging with the public, UM System President Mun Choi said Wednesday.

Choi and Columbia campus Chancellor Alexander Cartwright spent about 30 minutes testifying to the Joint Committee on Education, a hearing that was far tamer than a meeting of the same committee held just a few months after the November 2015 campus protests that helped force out their predecessors.

“The problems the University of Missouri faces and the problems the university faced in November 2015 are problems we now own,” Choi said.

The university is working to fix enrollment issues by cutting costs and increasing scholarships, Choi said. At the same time, it is moving ahead with construction of research and teaching facilities without depending on state support to finance them.

“One problem the University of Missouri faces is that business as usual will not occur and we are committed to being more collaborative, transparent, efficient and most importantly accountable to all of you and the citizens of Missouri,” Choi said.

The lack of pointed questioning shows the change in attitudes toward UM, Chairman David Wood, R-Versailles said afterward. Lawmakers are receiving far fewer complaints about the university and want to give the new leaders a chance to implement their plans, he said.

“Dr. Choi and Dr. Cartwright are doing a good job but you are also in a honeymoon phase,” Wood said. “It is still the very early stages and the beginning and I think they have made some good steps, and we will just see how those pay off.”

Choi began his duties on March 1 and Cartwright began working on Aug. 1. The hearing was just the second time they have testified together before a legislative committee. Speaking after the hearing, Choi said he thought it was a good session and that he was able to deliver a message
that the UM System is more responsive to the public and concerned about student success, research and public engagement.

During the past 10 months, he said, he has tried to meet with as many lawmakers as possible in their home areas as he travels the state.

“Through those exchanges I get to meet with their constituents and learn how we as the University of Missouri system can improve their lives,” Choi said. “They want us to be more accountable. They want us to be able to say we have made investments in programs that really does lead to student success, so our students are trained to become critical thinkers and trained to be resilient.”

In his testimony, Cartwright focused on affordability and enrollment issues on the Columbia campus. In the fall, enrollment of first-time college students was more than 30 percent below 2015 levels and overall campus enrollment is down almost 13 percent from the record set in 2015.

In the spring of 2017, only 16,151 students applied for admission to MU, down almost 6,000 from the spring of 2015. Last year, the university announced new scholarship programs including the Land Grant Compact, which will cover unmet tuition costs for students eligible for Pell grants and all unmet costs for honors students who receive Pell grants. The university also cut room rates for some residence halls and changed meal plans to provide lower-cost options.

The result is an increase in applications, Choi and Cartwright said, with Choi adding that all four campuses are seeing an upswing in applications.

“It is a public institution that first and foremost serves Missouri and I want people to understand and expect that their public land grant institution will do the things that are best for Missouri and to move this whole state forward,” Cartwright said.

During questioning, Wood asked about renting unused dorm rooms for football weekends and campus events. He was worried, he said later, that it showed desperation for cash.

“When you can start using your dorm rooms as hotel rooms, you are in a bit of an issue,” he said.

The response, that the dorm rooms sold well and that the guests enjoyed reliving a bit of their college days, pleased him, he said.

Rep. Courtney Allen Curtis, D-Ferguson, focused on issues at the School of Medicine, which received an accreditation report last year that cited a lack of diversity as an issue. This year’s applications for medical school, Choi told him, reflect a 48 percent increase in the number of underrepresented minorities seeking admission.

That’s a remarkable achievement, Curtis said, asking that he receive a report by the end of the legislative session on the actual admissions for the fall.
“They have had problems for years and it seems if you were able to solve that so quickly, it seems that someone didn’t want to do that in the past,” Curtis said.

MU leadership promotes progress to joint education committee

BY TYLER WORNELL

Mun Choi and Alexander Cartwright told state lawmakers Wednesday afternoon that MU is roaring back.

The UM System president and MU chancellor, respectively, spoke to the Joint Committee on Education, providing an update on system and campus improvements over the past year.

The new leadership duo, which took office in early 2017, has been working to repair relationships with the state legislature following the fall 2015 protests. Choi said he and Cartwright will own any future problems the university may face.

“Going forward,” he said, “I can assure you that business as usual will not occur, and we are committed to being more collaborative, transparent, efficient and, most importantly, accountable to all of you and the citizens of Missouri.”

Choi gave an optimistic outlook for both the system and the campus, despite budget cuts and layoffs over the past year.

He told the committee in an opening statement that the system has been working hard to find savings and operate more efficiently. He referenced a $100 million operating budget cut in June and an administrative
review launched in September. By affirming the university’s commitment to free expression in August, Choi said, the system is serious about making progress on diversity fronts.

“We will continue to promote the diversity of background, experiences as well as perspectives,” Choi said. “We believe that universities are the ideal institutions where controversial and difficult topics must be discussed so that we can help train the next generation of global citizens.”

Likewise, Cartwright feels confident that MU is headed on an upward trajectory.

“There is an optimism on the campus that we are headed in a different direction that will move the institution forward in terms of excellence,” he said.

A lack of a strategic enrollment management plan, coupled with the events of 2015, has led to a decline in enrollment at MU over the past two years, Cartwright said. However, those numbers are beginning to rebound.

Moving forward, Cartwright said he wants to change what it means to be a land-grant university. Thinking about the term “land-grant” in a broader way and making MU a “porous” university — one that serves the entire state and engages with the community — is Cartwright’s goal.

“I want us to be seen as part of the state,” Cartwright said. “I want people to understand that it is their institution and they can come in and out and work with us. We learn just as much from our community as they learn from us.”

Rep. Courtney Allen Curtis, D-Ferguson, asked about the state’s other land-grant university, Lincoln University in Jefferson City, and whether it should receive similar support as MU. Curtis said doing so “can only enrich the state that much more.”

Cartwright said MU has been working with Lincoln, “and we’ve actually been talking about how we are complementing each other with some of the things that they’ve been doing in agriculture and other areas. We don’t have some of the capabilities and expertise that they have, so we’re working together.”
Curtis also inquired about the state of the MU School of Medicine, which has struggled with diversity and student mistreatment, according to a June 2016 Liaison Committee on Medical Education report. Specifically, Curtis wanted to know if the school had made any progress on diversity efforts.

“If we’re not solving those problems as well, the problems that started this conversation will only bring us right back here again,” Curtis said.

Choi said there has been a 48 percent increase in the number of applications from underrepresented minority students to the medical school. The number of those that are accepted should be available by the end of the legislative session.

“That took a lot of proactive approaches to show that we are committed to diversity of background, experiences and perspectives, that we need to serve all of Missouri through the medical school,” Choi said. “That’s a trend that’s going to continue.”

Choi told the committee he plans to communicate and visit with the legislature frequently.

The committee’s chair, Rep. David Wood, R-Versailles, said he wants to keep a channel of communication open with Choi and Cartwright moving forward.

“I very much welcome you into any of our offices,” Wood said. “I think there’s been a communication issue with the legislature and I’m glad to see you here today.”
MU Chancellor wants governor support during State of the State Address

By MARK SLAVIT

COLUMBIA — MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said he hopes Gov. Eric Greitens realizes the importance of the University of Missouri during his State of the State Address Wednesday evening.

Cartwright said he urged lawmakers to support higher education during his trip to the State Capitol building on Wednesday afternoon.

Missouri colleges and universities would likely take a huge financial hit under the governor’s proposals for this year’s state budget. Cartwright wanted to keep money flowing into Mizzou while keeping tuition costs down.

“We want to make sure that we can help people fulfill their dreams in terms of what they want to do in higher education,” Cartwright said. "I want people to see how much this university means to the State."

Cartwright admitted Mizzou’s racial protests in 2015 angered some state lawmakers and donors. He has worked with a national marketing firm to help reverse any damage.
MU to close campus early Thursday, citing weather

Missourian Staff

The MU campus will close at noon Thursday because of a pending winter storm.

In a tweet sent at 6:30 a.m., officials said the campus would close at noon. Only employees whose jobs are critical will need to report for work, an email sent to faculty and staff stated. A decision to resume normal operations will be made by 5 a.m., Friday.

“Due to a winter weather advisory for our area and out of concern for the safety of our campus community, we have decided to close the campus at noon on Thursday,” said Gary Ward, MU vice chancellor for operations, via email. “We have been working closely with local and state officials and, given the current information, believe this is the best course of action at this time. Depending on road conditions a decision will be made early Friday morning as to whether to resume normal operations.”

All MU Health Care hospitals and the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital will remain open and operate on regular schedules. The MU Student Center, Student Recreation Complex and select dining facilities will remain open with limited service. A new semester of classes begins Tuesday, so many students haven't returned to campus yet.
MU campus to close at Noon Thursday due to weather

By JOE MCLEAN

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: MU campus to close at noon on Thursday, Jan. 11

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri announced Thursday that due to impending winter weather, a full closure of the MU campus will take place at noon.

Officials said "situationally critical" employees will still perform their normal jobs.

"Due to a winter weather advisory for our area and out of concern for the safety of our campus community, we have decided to close the campus at noon on Thursday," said Gary Ward, MU vice chancellor for operations. "We have been working closely with local and state officials and, given the current information, believe this is the best course of action at this time. Depending on road conditions a decision will be made early Friday morning as to whether to resume normal operations."

The University Hospital facilities will stay open, as will the Veterinary Health Center, the MU Student Center, Student Recreation Complex and select dining facilities.

Officials will make the decision to reopen the campus by 5 a.m. Friday.
Area schools announce early closures

By KATIE MOELLER

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: **MU campus to close at noon on Thursday, Jan. 11**

MID-MISSOURI — A number of mid-Missouri schools announced early dismissals Thursday due to expected inclement weather.

**The University of Missouri said its Columbia campus would close at noon.**

Columbia Public Schools was scheduled to dismiss students two and half hours early.

Southern Boone R-1 said it would dismiss students at 12:30 p.m.

College Park Christian Academy was scheduled to dismiss at noon.

Boonville Public Schools said it would dismiss students at 1:00 p.m.
MU Campus to Close at Noon Thursday as a Precaution for Winter Weather

By KBIA STAFF

The University of Missouri announced this morning a full closure of the Columbia campus beginning at noon today, in anticipation of rain followed quickly by a drop to freezing temperatures today.

The school says only employees who are situationally critical should report to work. All MU Health Care hospitals will stay open, and the Veterinary Health Center and Equine Center, will remain open for emergencies.

Late yesterday afternoon Columbia Public Schools announced it will close two and a half hours early today.

SOME LEGISLATURES LACK SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICIES, TRAINING

Generated from News Bureau expert pitch

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — After a tumultuous few months that saw numerous lawmakers
accused of sexual misconduct, a majority of state legislatures across the country are considering strengthening sexual harassment policies that have gone unheeded or unchanged for years.

A 50-state review by The Associated Press found that almost all legislative chambers now have at least some type of written sexual harassment policy, though they vary widely, and many are placing a greater emphasis on preventing and punishing sexual misconduct as they convene for their 2018 sessions.

This week alone, lawmakers in Arizona, Idaho and Rhode Island underwent detailed training about sexual harassment, some for the first time.

Yet about a third of all legislative chambers do not require lawmakers to receive training about what constitutes sexual harassment, how to report it and what consequences it carries, the AP’s review found.

The AP also found that only a minority of legislative bodies conduct external investigations into complaints, with most others entrusting lawmakers or staff to look into allegations against colleagues. That has contributed to a culture in some capitols in which the targets of sexual harassment have been reluctant to come forward with complaints — until recently.

Lawmakers around the country have said it’s now time to take concrete steps to change that culture.

“Let’s treat all women — regardless of their background, their age, their political affiliation, their role in the process — as ladies, as we would like anybody to treat our wives, our daughters, mothers, sisters,” said J.D. Mesnard, the Republican who heads the Arizona state House, where lawmakers took part in mandated sexual harassment training this week.

A wave of sexual misconduct claims against prominent figures in entertainment, media and politics gained momentum last fall after a multitude of women made allegations against movie producer Harvey Weinstein.

In the past year, at least 14 legislators in 10 states have resigned from office following accusations of sexual harassment or misconduct, according to the AP’s review. At least 16 others in more than a dozen states have faced other repercussions, such as the voluntary or forced removal from legislative leadership positions. Some others remain defiant in the face of ongoing investigations into sexual harassment complaints.

The AP found that about three-fourths of the states have at least one legislative chamber that has updated its sexual harassment policy during the past several months, developed specific proposals to do so or undertaken a review of whether changes are needed.

The Arizona House had no written sexual harassment policy until November, when Mesnard issued one after a female lawmaker accused a male colleague of sexually harassing her. In the weeks that followed, several other women came forward with stories of crude behavior by state Rep. Don Shooter.

On Tuesday, at the start of mandatory sexual harassment training, Shooter stood before colleagues and apologized for conduct he called “jarring, insensitive and demeaning.” But he
denied the most serious complaint — that he tried to pressure Rep. Michelle Ugenti-Rita into a sexual relationship.

Ugenti-Rita was sitting just three rows in front of Shooter and appeared shaken at times as he spoke.

Shooter, a Republican, has been removed as head of the appropriations committee as an investigation into his conduct continues.

In Kentucky, the acting House speaker has appointed a committee to devise a formal system to address workplace complaints. That comes after former Speaker Jeff Hoover resigned his leadership post following revelations that he had paid to keep a sexual harassment settlement secret. Three other lawmakers who signed the secret settlement were removed as chairmen of various committees.

“If people felt like they had to be accountable and responsible for their behavior and there were strict guidelines for what they had to follow, sometimes that’s all people need is a list of duties or a list of dos and don’ts,” said Kentucky Rep. Mary Lou Marzian, who has been pushing for a formal House policy.

Legislative chambers in Alaska, California, Colorado, Minnesota, Nevada and Ohio are among the states considering improved policies on sexual harassment — in each case after sexual harassment claims were brought to light.

In Washington state, more than 40 lawmakers joined scores of other women in a letter last November calling for a change in the capitol culture. They wrote it has “too often functioned to serve and support harassers’ power and privilege over protection of those who work for them.”

A Senate panel subsequently approved annual training for senators and staff.

Among states that require sexual harassment training for lawmakers, the frequency varies greatly. Some offer it annually or every other year, while others require it only once, when a lawmaker is first elected.

The New Mexico House and Senate last provided sexual harassment training to lawmakers in 2004, but will hold mandatory training next week.

Experts say more frequent training is best, but they emphasize that its effectiveness also depends on how it is conducted.

Providing only generic definitions of sexual harassment or relying solely on online and video training can be unproductive, said Jennifer Drobac, a law professor at Indiana University who focuses on sexual harassment law. A better approach uses in-person training with real-life scenarios about what constitutes harassment and what to do about it, she said.

**Debbie S. Dougherty, a communications professor at the University of Missouri who researches sexual harassment policies, recommends that such policies include more emotional language — referring to harassers as predators, for example — to emphasize the seriousness of the issue. They also should be tailored to the unique work culture of a legislature, where the people with the most influence are elected rather than hired.**
Experts say external investigations also are important for people to feel comfortable in reporting sexual harassment allegations. Yet the AP’s review found that only about a dozen House chambers and slightly more Senate chambers conduct external investigations, with several additional chambers offering it as an option.

Among those is the Texas House, which until December had a written policy encouraging accusers who wanted to pursue an external complaint to call a phone number that didn’t work at a state commission that was defunct. The revised House policy explains the internal complaint process in greater detail, offers an external review on a situational basis and gives accusers options for filing complaints through an external agency.

The Missouri House updated its policies after former Speaker John Diehl Jr. resigned in 2015 while admitting to sending sexually suggestive text messages to a House intern. Among other things, the new policy requires a private attorney to be hired to investigate any sexual harassment allegations involving lawmakers.

House Speaker Todd Richardson said the chamber continues to review its procedures.

“As I said from the day we implemented that policy, it was going to be an ongoing effort to make sure that we got it right,” he said.
Welcome back, Drew

He never went anywhere, but we glad to have Drew Lock back anyway.
The Missouri quarterback announced Tuesday he’d return for his senior year. Speculation that Lock might declare early for the NFL draft became more and more a talking point by fans and analysts as the season wore on. Fans can now breathe a sigh of relief, for one more season, at least.

What we can say with absolute certainty is that the 2018 Tigers will be better off with Lock behind center than without him. We can also say with certainty that head coach Barry Odom must find an heir apparent now. With a successful, albeit rollercoaster, 2017 season now in the books, Mizzou looks to be in a good position to build on this season’s success. The team certainly has enough of the right offensive pieces returning to expect another strong performance from Lock.

The loss of senior Ish Witter at running back will be tempered by a healthy Damarea Crockett and Larry Rountree III, who emerged as a viable playmaker as a freshman by rushing for 703 yards and six touchdowns, averaging 5.6 yards per carry. With receiver J’Mon Moore likely headed for the NFL, Lock will still have Emanuel Hall and Johnathon Johnson catching passes. The two combined for more than 1,500 yards and 14 touchdowns in 2017. And let’s not forget standout tight end Albert Okwuegbunam, who proved to be the best red zone receiving threat in the Southeastern Conference — as a freshman. The entire offensive line will return as well. As excited as Mizzou fans were for this season, the stars are aligned and shining even brighter for next.

What impressed us most about Lock this year wasn’t his stats on paper, impressive as they were (nearly 4,000 yards passing and 44 touchdowns). Lock’s perseverance is what we admire. The team’s six-game winning streak to close out the regular season is a testament to the character and heart of not just Lock but every Mizzou player to put on pads. Less than halfway through the season many of the Mizzou faithful all but abandoned the team, with Faurot Field appearing half empty during the final home games.

Throughout this season there was no shortage of Lock critics. Many believe he wasn’t ready for the NFL this year. Maybe they are right. Or maybe not. But for today, who cares?

We can have that argument next year, because Drew Lock is coming back, and behind center wearing black and gold is where we all want him to be in 2018.
Missourians In Favor Of Law Enforcement According To Survey

By: Intisar Faulkner

Missourians seem to be in favor of law enforcement.

According to a survey conducted in 2016 by the University of Missouri Sociology Department and the Missouri State Highway Patrol, about 90% rated the overall job of their local police department as good.

In all, 2,008 people across the state were surveyed by phone.

When it came to law enforcement being effective, only 12% said they disagreed.

Nearly 86% of respondents said law enforcement was effective in controlling crime.

The survey was given during the rise of the National Opioid epidemic. 60% said police in Missouri do a good job at controlling drugs.
SANDY DAVIDSON: 'Fire and Fury' is latest example of presidential mistrust of the press

SANDY DAVIDSON

Sandy Davidson, Ph.D., J.D., teaches communications law at the MU School of Journalism. She is a curators’ distinguished teaching professor and the attorney for the Columbia Missourian.

On Jan. 4, President Trump’s lawyer sent an 11-page cease-and-desist letter to the publisher of Michael Wolff’s book “Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House.” The letter read, in part, “Mr. Trump hereby demands that you immediately cease and desist from any further publication, release or dissemination of the book, ... and that you issue a full and complete retraction and apology to my client as to all statements made about him in the book ... that lack competent evidentiary support.”

That tactic might terrify a publisher into submission in a country controlled by an authoritarian government, but in this country, controlled by the First Amendment, the letter heaped more fuel on the firestorm of interest in “Fire and Fury.” The book’s publisher, Henry Holt and Co., bumped up publication, releasing the book the next day, Friday, instead of waiting until the following Tuesday.

In 1931, in Near v. Minnesota, the Supreme Court made clear that prior restraint is permissible only in “extraordinary cases.” If national security were an issue, or if the book were allegedly obscene, then maybe a court could order, “Stop the presses!” But censorship is off limits when the charge is libel.

While books were flying off the shelves and through the mail, the president’s tweets were also in full flight. Trump called “Fire and Fury” a “phony book.” Perhaps, but clearly it’s a blockbuster, with sales soaring as the president’s criticism continued and news organizations interviewed the author and held
panel discussions. The president’s fury over “Fire and Fury” helped send the book’s sales into the publication stratosphere.

Trump’s tweet that the book is “Full of lies, misrepresentations and sources that don’t exist” is not surprising for a president who is fond of the phrase “fake news.” He calls Wolff “a fraud.” From a historical perspective, presidential criticism of authors and the press is part of our American tradition.

Presidents who criticize the press are in good company, as the following examples show:

Thom

as Jefferson

On June 14, 1807, President Jefferson replied to a letter from John Norvell, who later co-founded The Pennsylvania Inquirer: “To your request of my opinion of the manner in which a newspaper should be conducted, so as to be most useful, I should answer, ‘by restraining it to true facts & sound principles only.’ Yet I fear such a paper would find few subscribers. ... Nothing can now be believed which is seen in a newspaper. Truth itself becomes suspicious by being put into that polluted vehicle.”

Jefferson said: “I will add, that the man who never looks into a newspaper is better informed than he who reads them; inasmuch as he who knows nothing is nearer to truth than he whose mind is filled with falsehoods & errors.” And he included this zinger: “Perhaps an editor might begin a reformation in some such way as this. Divide his paper into 4 chapters, heading the 1st, Truths. 2d, Probabilities. 3d, Possibilities. 4th, Lies. The first chapter would be very short...”

Trump’s view of the press would surely align with the viewpoint expressed in Jefferson’s letter.

Theodore Roosevelt

President Teddy Roosevelt’s “Man with the Muck-rake” speech, made at the laying of the cornerstone of the U.S. House of Representatives’ office building on April 14, 1906, sparked the epithet “muckraker” for journalists. Roosevelt said: “In Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress you may recall the description of the Man with the Muck-rake, the man who could look no way but downward, with the muck-rake in his hand...”
Roosevelt continued: “... The Man with the Muck-rake is set forth as the example of him whose vision is fixed on carnal instead of on spiritual things. Yet he also typifies the man who in this life consistently refuses to see aught that is lofty, and fixes his eyes with solemn intentness only on that which is vile and debasing. Now, it is very necessary that we should not flinch from seeing what is vile and debasing. There is filth on the floor, and it must be scraped up with the muck-rake; and there are times and places where this service is the most needed of all the services that can be performed. But the man who never does anything else, who never thinks or speaks or writes, save of his feats with the muck-rake, speedily becomes, not a help to society, not an incitement to good, but one of the most potent forces for evil.”

Journalists as muckrakers? Trump would appear to agree with that view, too.

Harry Truman

President Truman wrote a letter to music critic Paul Hume, who had written a negative review of the singing prowess of Truman’s daughter for The Washington Post, Dec. 6, 1950. Truman said: “I’ve just read your lousy review of Margaret’s concert. I’ve come to the conclusion that you are an ‘eight ulcer man on four ulcer pay.’” He opined: “It seems to me that you are a frustrated old man who wishes he could have been successful. When you write such poppy-cock as was in the back section of the paper you work for it shows conclusively that you’re off the beam and at least four of your ulcers are at work.”

And then came Truman’s threat to Hume: “Some day I hope to meet you. When that happens you’ll need a new nose, a lot of beefsteak for black eyes, and perhaps a supporter below!”

Wow! Trump has yet to tweet a threat with that much panache!

Richard Nixon

On a tape recording from Dec. 14, 1972, President Nixon says to his national security advisers Henry Kissinger and Alexander Haig: “Never forget, the press is the enemy, the press is the enemy. The establishment is the enemy, the professors are the enemy, the professors are the enemy. Write that on a blackboard 100 times.”

Wouldn’t Trump gladly hand over the chalk for that?
Donald Trump

And in Nixon-esque fashion, on Feb. 17, President Trump tweeted: “The FAKE NEWS media (failing @nytimes, @NBCNews, @ABC, @CBS, @CNN) is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American People!”

Missouri Makes Top 10 Travel List of Places to Avoid

NO MU MENTION

By ANDREA TUDHOPE

Usually making a travel list is a good thing for a city, state or country — but Missouri is now on Fodor’s 'No List' of places to avoid in 2018.

Among a list of destinations to avoid for reasons like high murder rates (Honduras), ethnic cleansing (Myanmar) and the environmental threats of tourism (Thailand), Missouri makes the list for apparent racism.

There's no question the state made national headlines last year.

Last June, the local chapter of the NAACP issued a travel advisory warning travelers of color to proceed with caution when visiting Missouri. The advisory came after the passage of SB 43, a bill making discrimination cases harder to prove, and removing various workplace protections.

Missouri NAACP President Nimrod Chapel Jr. issued the advisory because of the bill, but also due to widespread racial profiling — a 2015 statewide report showed black drivers are about 3 times more likely than white drivers to be pulled over in Missouri. Fodor's cited both the NAACP's travel advisory, and the passage of SB 43.

House Minority Leader Gail McCann Beatty, a Democrat from Kansas City, has said that repealing SB 43 is one of her highest priorities. "Missouri had some of the strongest anti-
discrimination laws, and we took them to some of the weakest," she said. "And that is incredibly unfortunate."

Another reason on the list? A hate crime that lead to the killing of an Indian-American man, which actually happened in Olathe, Kansas.

Andrea Tudhope is a reporter for KCUR 89.3. Email her at andreat@kcur.org.

The Lincoln Journal Star is a daily newspaper serving Lincoln, Nebraska.

**AAUP committee set to investigate due process lapse at UNL**

By CHRIS DUNKER

A three-person committee will investigate whether or not the University of Nebraska-Lincoln violated the due process rights of a graduate student lecturer dismissed from her teaching duties in November.

The committee from the American Association of University Professors will interview UNL administrators, faculty and others Thursday and Friday, more than four months after a video showing a confrontation between Courtney Lawton and Kaitlyn Mullen swept across social media.

Lawton, a graduate student lecturer at UNL, could be seen calling Mullen, a second-year student from Highlands Ranch, Colorado, a "neo-fascist" on Aug. 25 during a recruiting event for Turning Point USA, a conservative student group that maintains the "Professor Watch List" of faculty members it deems too politically liberal.

Not long after the incident, UNL removed Lawton from her teaching duties — a move both Lawton and university said were for safety reasons and not to discipline her — but after several weeks of pressure from a trio of state lawmakers, Chancellor Ronnie Green and Executive Vice Chancellor Donde Plowman informed Lawton her contract would not be renewed.

That action was considered a summary dismissal that violated Lawton’s right to an administrative hearing, the AAUP said in a December letter to Green.
“Due process is tied to what kind of power someone has over you,” said Hans-Juerge Tiede, the associate secretary of the AAUP. “We, as citizens of the United States, are entitled to due process when it comes to government prosecution.

“Faculty are entitled to due process when it comes to disciplinary actions against them,” Tiede added in a phone call earlier this week.

It will be the work of the investigation committee — made up of faculty volunteers from institutions of similar size and mission to UNL — to determine whether or not UNL violated Lawton’s right to an administrative hearing before her contract was ended.

The committee will sit down with Lawton and other faculty involved in the Aug. 25 incident, as well as administrators involved in ending the Department of English lecturer’s employment.

“We want the process to be fair and give an opportunity to the administration to present its side,” Tiede said.

The AAUP also reached out to Mullen, whose event for Turning Point USA drew protest from about a half dozen graduate students and faculty members, to ask if she wanted to take part in the investigation. Mullen did not respond to the AAUP’s request as of Tuesday, Tiede said.

Once its investigation is compiled, the AAUP will offer the UNL administration a chance to review the document and correct any factual errors. The AAUP will then revise the report and present it to the AAUP’s Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure for its review at its annual meeting in June.

The process is expected to take six to eight weeks.

While the AAUP has no power to strip the accreditation of UNL or impose any other discipline on the university, the Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure could vote to censure the university, which could harm faculty recruitment efforts and put a stain on UNL’s administration.

“That’s an indication to the public and the members of the academic profession there are concerns about the state of academic freedom and due process at this institution,” Tiede said. “That’s a very serious issue. In order to function, universities require a good climate of academic freedom.

“If there are concerns that legislators and the outside public can interfere with the university’s academic freedom and due process, it doesn’t speak well for the university,” he added.

A total of 16 universities have been censured by the AAUP since 2010, including the University of Missouri in 2016, which dismissed assistant professor of communications Melissa Click the previous year after Click was filmed calling for “muscle” to remove two student journalists from a public area of campus.
The AAUP found the University of Missouri did not provide adequate grounds for Click’s dismissal because it denied her a hearing and other procedural rights outlined in AAUP and university regulations, the 2016 report states.

It concludes saying the board’s action against Click, threats made toward the university from lawmakers "and unresolved administrative turmoil," demonstrated academic freedom and shared governance were endangered at the University of Missouri.

The University of Nebraska follows similar policies of shared governance, and bylaws and policies enacted by the Board of Regents outline the process for due process afforded to members of the faculty.

Story continues.

Woke politics and gender-fluid bathrooms: Why 'Grown-ish' isn't this generation's 'A Different World'

Mentions 2015 protests at MU

By: Sherri Williams

The hot spot on campus is an open space surrounded by trees where a multiracial group of college students gathers, some dancing, others sitting and one taking a selfie.

The campus “lame spot” is where two white students wearing red-white-and-blue trucker caps and what appear to be Trump T-shirts distribute fliers near a table dotted with American flags and a banner with a fake brick pattern and the words “build the wall.”

This is college 2018 for Zoey Johnson. This is “Grown-ish.”

The new Freeform network show, a spinoff of ABC’s “Black-ish,” debuted this month to solid reviews and a sizable audience, following Zoey from her suburban multigenerational California home
with her doctor mother and advertising executive father to college at the fictional and multiracial California University of Liberal Arts.

“Grown-ish” is drawing comparisons to the influential 1980s sitcom “A Different World,” a spinoff of “The Cosby Show” set at the fictional historically black Hillman College, where the Huxtables’ daughter Denise attends their alma mater. Both sitcoms illustrate how politics play an important role in black college students’ lives, but they also reveal how the black college experience has changed in a generation. The first episode of “Grown-ish” established the political landscape on college campuses. Zoey acknowledges that the university’s founder “dabbled in slavery.” The campus has gender-fluid restrooms. Aaron Jackson, a black male student, noted the lack of black professors on campus and his desire to have more of them.

On “A Different World,” which aired on NBC from 1987 to 1993, student Freddie Brooks discovered that her campus also has a slavery connection and was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Her schoolmate Whitley Gilbert revolted when the dorm and the restrooms go co-ed. And at Hillman, all of the college’s professors were black and constantly pushed black students to be twice as good in a world that will dismiss them even with a college degree. The show was credited with contributing to a rise in black college enrollment in the 1980s and 1990s.

Because both are spinoffs of groundbreaking sitcoms about black families, some comparisons between “Grown-ish” and “A Different World” are natural. Both series were developed around cool and confident young black women who are trendsetters on and off screen. Yara Shahidi, who portrays Zoey, is a social justice activist who often appears on magazine covers. Lisa Bonet, who portrayed Denise Huxtable, was an it-girl of the 1980s whose unique style and independence endeared audiences.

But “Grown-ish” isn’t this generation’s “A Different World,” and it shouldn’t be.

Black college students today have different experiences than their Generation X parents. They’re more likely to attend predominantly white institutions, where white supremacists have marched on campus carrying burning tiki torches. They’re facing acts of intimidation from roommates and they’re fighting against systemic racism at institutions across the country, most notably at the University of
Missouri, where protests led to resignations of the chancellor and the university system president. On historically black campuses today, students are enrolled in colleges that are underfunded and struggling to survive.

This generation of black college students needs its own show that addresses contemporary issues they face, and it deserves more than one. Black people don’t exist as a monolith, and neither do their experiences.

In recent years, television has responded to the experiences of black college students with fresh portrayals. Last year, BET debuted “The Quad,” a one-hour drama set on a fictional historically black college campus where issues of sexual assault, hazing and institutional funding were explored. Netflix’s 2017 series “Dear White People” addressed the interpersonal prejudices black students face along with clashes they have with campus police to administrators.

This new era calls for new narratives.

But “A Different World” will always be an important portrayal of black college students’ experiences. It was a groundbreaking show because it was among the first TV programs to address the AIDS epidemic, date rape, the police beating of Rodney King and the resulting Los Angeles rebellion. And the show did it through a black lens and illustrated how current events off campus affected black students on campus. The show was a significant representation of black culture and it is the reason I attended two historically black colleges.

Although it was edgy for its time, “A Different World” was devoid of LGBT representations and people with diverse sexual identities and gender expression. Black college students with those identities existed then and they do now.

“Grown-ish” moves to where college students are today and includes the issues they face, even if the rest of us don’t want to face them. The show offers an authentic, realistic and diverse portrayal of college life today from students’ drug use to social class clashes within families and LGBT identities. “Grown-ish” shows there are many paths that lead to the first day of school and graduation day.
In its first two episodes, “Grown-ish” has made clear that it is prepared to be real about today’s college students’ experiences and how they’re affected by the political climate. It is what this generation needs now and what the rest of us need to see.

**Job Cuts Coming at Southeast Missouri State**

**NO MU MENTION**

By RICK SELTZER

Southeast Missouri State University is eliminating 4 percent of its full-time work force in the midst of a multiyear budget crunch.

The university will cut between 20 and 25 staff members and chop 15 to 20 vacant staff positions, it announced Tuesday. No faculty positions are currently being eliminated, according to officials. But some vacant instructional positions could remain unfilled.

Cuts come as the university grapples with $3.43 million in one-time withholdings for the 2017 fiscal year and faces a $6.6 million budgeted need for 2018. Its state appropriations are dropping by 9 percent in 2018.

The university has previously reorganized divisions, put in place a voluntary retirement program that will net 74 faculty and staff retirements this year, eliminated vacant staff positions, and revamped the university’s benefits program. A four-month hiring delay is also in effect.

“As we navigated our initial budget challenges, we worked very hard to avoid impacting individual members of the university community,” President Carlos Vargas said in a statement. “But as we continue to operate in difficult times, the current realities have required tough decisions.”
Southeast Missouri State enrolls about 10,500 undergraduates and 1,000 graduate students on a head-count basis. Officials say it has about 4,000 more students than it did in 1999 but that its state appropriation is lower than it was that year.

Employees losing their jobs will be told in two rounds of notifications ending this spring. They will have five months’ notice before their last day.