MU faculty council discuss search for new chancellor


COLUMBIA, Mo. - **The University of Missouri is moving forward in its search for a new chancellor.**

The MU Faculty Council met Thursday to discuss what qualities they would like to see in the next university leader.

Faculty members expressed their desired characteristics in a candidate to a representative from the UM System's Human Resources Department and to the Chancellor Search Committee co-chair.

"Ultimately, we need a chancellor who's going to help the faculty do what we've been hired to do," said Ben Trachtenberg, a search committee member and the faculty council chair. "So asking the faculty what we think is a good way to get there."

Some qualities desired by members of the faculty council included being able to effectively listen, having previous success at a university similar to MU, being willing to advocate for the university as well as being savvy about race relations and diversity.

"I could come up with a list a mile long and ultimately the different people on the committee are going to have things that are less important to them," Trachtenberg said. "We're going to come up with some names that are the most attractive to the group."

On Dec. 29, the university announced its 22-member Chancellor Search Committee, which is chaired by University of Missouri-Kansas City Chancellor Leo Morton and MU College of Engineering Dean Elizabeth Lobo.

An open forum will be held on Jan. 26 for community members to give suggestions to the committee chairs. Trachtenberg said the entire search committee will meet for the first time following the forum.
Trachtenberg said there's no official deadline for when the chancellor search needs to be complete, but said the committee is aiming for sometime in the spring or early summer.

"We're going to take as long as it needs to get it done."

**New study calls for more attention to end-of-life directives**


COLUMBIA - **New research from the University of Missouri School of Social work called for more attention to advanced directives, to ease the hardship of making difficult end-of-life medical decisions.**

The study said attention to the use of advanced directives in nursing homes may reduce unnecessary care and save health care costs.

Advanced directives, or living wills, are legal documents that an individual uses to communicate medical treatment preferences, in the event that the individual cannot speak for himself or herself.

A nearly $15 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services funded the study. The team then received an additional $19.8 million grant to expand the nursing home improvement project.

Colleen Galambos, the director of the graduate certificate in Gerontological Social Work program, spearheaded the study with her team of researchers, working with sixteen skilled-nursing home facilities. They analyzed more than 1,800 medical records.

"We found that in about 50 percent of the charts there was an advanced directive, which is slightly lower than national average which tends to be about 70 to 75 percent," Galambos said.
She said having an advanced directive on file helps the nursing facility understand whether patients should be sent to a hospital, or if they can be treated within the skilled nursing facility.

"With that information in the chart, we're better able to respond accordingly to the wishes of the individual," she said. "Another option designates a person, who we call surrogate decision makers, a person who can speak on your behalf in the event that you are unable to speak for yourself."

Most people set up advanced directives during a medical crisis, which Galambos said is the worst time to act.

"You’re never too young to have an advanced directive, and most importantly, if you have grandparents, or parents, and you don't know what kind of care it is they would like when they get into a situation where they’re not able to speak for themselves, start having those discussions,” Galambos said.

The study was published recently in Health and Social Work, a journal of the National Association of Social Workers.

Marilyn Rantz, Gregory Petroski and Julie Starr co-authored the study with Galambos.

Missouri women making little progress closing pay gap, report shows

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More Missouri women have health care than two years ago, but they are struggling to close the pay gap with men, a new report from the Women’s Foundation and a University of Missouri researcher shows.

The first update to the foundation’s 2015 Status of Women in Missouri report, issued Thursday, found that women working full time earn 78 cents for every dollar earned by men with full-time employment. When the first report was issued, women working full time were paid 77 cents for every dollar earned by men working full time.

The ratio by county ranges from 57.2 cents in Reynolds County in southeast Missouri to 96.2 cents in Miller County in Central Missouri. For Boone County, the ratio is 84.3 cents paid to women working full time for each dollar earned by men working full time.
The report was prepared by Emily Johnson, associate director and chief operating officer of the Institute of Public Policy at MU’s Truman School of Public Affairs. Johnson and Wendy Doyle, president and CEO of the Kansas City-based Women’s Foundation, presented the findings in a telephone news conference Thursday.

“Poverty, lack of education, employment, health care and pay equity can have an impact on women as they try to care for themselves and their families,” Johnson said.

Doyle praised former Gov. Jay Nixon for executive orders intended to reduce the pay gap in state government. Private industry can adopt practices, including salary audits, to determine whether women are given pay comparable to men in similar jobs, she said.

“As corporate leaders can see the data, they then can make the leap to really develop solutions,” she said.

Other findings of the report show:

- In 2015, 9.8 percent of Missourians did not have health insurance, compared to 13.6 percent in 2013. The uninsured rate is slightly lower for women, 9 percent, down from 12.2 percent in 2013. The overall uninsured rate is highest in Scotland County, at 39.1 percent, and lowest in St. Charles County, where it is 8.1 percent. For Boone County, the uninsured rate is 10 percent.
- There are no accredited child care providers in 38 percent of Missouri counties and no state-licensed providers in two counties. More than 69 percent of women and 92.8 percent of men with children younger than 18 work at least part time and pay from $5,600 to $8,700 a year for child care. The greatest access to child care is in Cole County, where there are 54.45 licensed day care slots for every 100 children younger than 5. In Boone County, the ratio is 52.4 positions for every 100 children younger than 5.
- More Missouri women than men live in poverty, and the gap is greatest among retirees. Poverty rates for women have decreased since 2010, the report said, “however, these improvements have been uneven at best.” Women older than 75 are twice as likely to live in poverty as men, and two-thirds of all Missourians older than 65 living in poverty are women.

The report is intended to help policy makers understand the needs of women, Doyle said. The foundation is pushing for ways to promote entrepreneurship for women, which will help increase incomes, she said, as well as enacting paid family leave to care for children and elderly parents.

The 2015 report, the first of its kind in 20 years, will be updated every two to three years, Doyle said.
COLUMBIA - A new report released by the Missouri Women's Foundation Thursday shows a need for policy changes to improve the status of women in Missouri.

The ongoing research examines five different issue areas related to the status of women in Missouri, and benchmarks the progress made in each area. Those areas are employment/income, education/childcare, social/economic, health and leadership/public engagement.

The group began research in 2015, and released Thursday's report as an update to what it found during the study's first year.

Some areas have improved. For example, researchers found that a higher percentage of Missouri women now have health insurance coverage than two years ago.

However, there was also regression. Despite women making up 51 percent of Missouri’s population, the report showed the percentage of women in the Missouri legislature is now only 22.3 percent, down from 25 percent two years ago.

**The lead researcher for the report, Emily Johnson with the Institute of Public Policy at the University of Missouri, said the most concerning part is the gender wage gap.** She said women who work full time in Missouri earn 78 cents for every dollar men earn. Nationally, women are paid 80 cents for every dollar earned by a man.

Johnson said Missouri's number is an improvement from where women started in the workplace, but improvement plateaued about six years ago.
"The Women's Foundation is definitely interested in pay equity," Johnson said. "It has put forth some different policies and pay equity guidelines to help encourage employers and the state to make a difference in those numbers."

The foundation's suggested policy changes include paid family and medical leave, further research into occupational licensing, pay equity guidelines and a project to encourage more women to fill leadership roles in Missouri government.

Johnson said everyone is able to and should help to make a change.

"I don't think there is anyone that is not a target for this information," Johnson said. "You know, all of us are obviously either women or have women in our lives or care about the circumstances and status of women in this state, in this country and in this world for that matter."

Mid-Missouri groups like the Columbia Chamber of Commerce work to include women in leadership roles. It uses its Women's Network division to hold programs that focus on women in business roles.

Chamber president Matt McCormick said the Women's Network works with women to help them excel in the working world.

"It's constantly making sure that we have programing and we have organizations that understand the continued growth of women in business, women in our leadership roles throughout our community as a whole," McCormick said. "Not necessarily in just one specific industry."

McCormick said, according to one national study, Columbia had a wage gap of only about 15 cents on the dollar, as opposed to the state's 22 cents. However, he said there is still a long way to go.

"It's good to see that Columbia ranked extremely high on the least amount of gap, but any gap is a bad gap. So, we continue to work that way to close the gap."

Johnson said she expects roadblocks along the way.

"We're talking about cultural and structural and institutional changes that are required; things that have been in place, you know, women's work being undervalued or not being paid as much in certain professions," Johnson said. "Those things have been around for a really long time and so it's going to require both a cultural and an institutional change to make progress on that."

Johnson said she expects the report to be released every three years or so from now on.
New research shows little economic improvement for women in Missouri

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Women in Missouri have not seen significant advancements towards equality in the past few years, according to research released Thursday during a web-based press conference held by The Women’s Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Kansas City.

Emily Johnson, chief operating officer and associate director of the MU Institute of Public Policy, was one of two speakers at the conference. Johnson highlighted the ways in which women are disadvantaged in Missouri.

“Even though women compose approximately 51 percent of the state’s population, only 22.3 percent of the 2017 general assembly seats are held by women, down from 25 percent in 2015,” Johnson said at the press conference. “Only 24 percent of state court judges are women, only 19 percent of all state prosecutors are women, and only two sheriffs in the state of Missouri are women.”

The issues women face are due to a number of factors; the research highlighted problems such as poverty, lack of education, unemployment, lack of healthcare and pay inequality.

“Women often face persistent gender disparities in several crucial aspects of their daily lives,” Johnson said. “Issues in one area are not separated from issues in another area. In fact, struggles across multiple areas can compound and escalate difficulties for women.”

Wendy Doyle, president and CEO of the Women’s Foundation, focused on how the foundation’s goal is to find a way to turn these findings into public policy that can be used to improve the lives of women in Missouri.

“First and foremost, we want to continue to build awareness of the issues and of what the findings are telling us,” Doyle said. “Our objective for the Women’s Foundation is to really benchmark and invest in this research to have the baseline to start to monitor our programs moving forward for Missouri.”

The Women’s Foundation plans on accomplishing this by releasing updated status reports every few years and developing partnerships and policy solutions. In the past year, the foundation has been able to establish programs and work with former governor Jay Nixon to close the wage gap.
“[On] April 10, 2016, Governor Nixon called for a directive and asked the office of administration to take those best-practice guidelines [outlined in Executive Order No. 15-09] and apply them to the state workforce,” Doyle said. “So we couldn’t be more pleased for the progress we made for Missouri in that. We hope to continue [that progress] under the new administration.”

In addition to working to close the wage gap, the Women’s Foundation has also been able to implement multiple programs to better the lives of women.

According to Doyle, when it comes to civic leadership among women in Missouri “we’re not moving forward, we're actually moving backward.” The foundation has worked to remedy this by instating the Appointments Project, which works to get women into leadership positions and encourages them to share their voice.

The foundation is also working to promote entrepreneurship and to help women gain paid family medical leave.

“We want to develop policy solutions and really develop partnerships in Missouri and share this information,” Johnson said, “so that we can start to move forward as a state and see some results for women and their families.”

**Mumps cases in Boone County continue to rise**

The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services continues to receive new reports of mumps cases, saying in a news release that it has confirmed 343 cases since fall.

*Of those 343 cases, 309 are University of Missouri students, 16 are students who attend other educational institutions and 18 are not students, the health department said.* People who have reported symptoms range in age from 15 to 65. The median age of individuals involved in those 343 cases is 20.

Infected MU students represent less than 1 percent of the university’s student population, the MU Student Health Center said, and all MU students with mumps had the school’s required two doses of the mumps vaccine.
In December, the MU Student Health Center, after discussions with health officials, suggested students receive a third dose of the vaccine, according to the health department’s website.

Kanye West Is the Focus of New Washington University Course
A new course at Washington University in St. Louis is focused on the world of Kanye West.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports that 75 students are registered for "Politics of Kanye West: Black Genius and Sonic Aesthetics," which began this week. There's a waiting list to get in.

The professor, Jeffrey McCune, says the course focused on the rapper, producer and fashion designer offers a way for students to connect issues of politics, race, gender, sexuality and culture.

It's not the first college course about West. Georgia State University offered one in 2015, and a 2014 course at the University of Missouri focused on West and Jay Z.

McCune says the court will neither fawn over West's music nor be an exercise in bashing him.

This story ran in multiple national outlets.
Groups Respond to Reported Plan to Cut Arts and Humanities Endowments

By Tom Hesse JANUARY 20, 2017

Supporters of the arts and humanities on Thursday sounded unanimous alarm over an article in The Hill reporting that President-elect Donald J. Trump’s administration plans to eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Neither endowment is commenting on the newspaper’s report.

"We are not going to speculate on the policies or priorities of the new administration," Theola DeBose, a spokeswoman for the humanities endowment, said in an email to The Chronicle.

But private organizations that team up with the federal cultural endowments are worried. Combined, the two agencies accounted for a little under $300 million of the $3.9 trillion in the 2016 congressional budget.

Funding for the NEH and NEA has not changed significantly under President Obama, though Republicans have frequently targeted the two agencies over the years for cuts and criticism.

A budget resolution put forward by Republicans in the House of Representatives in 2014 called for eliminating funds for both agencies. The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, released a list of reasons to eliminate support for the arts endowment in 1997. The Hill cited the Heritage Foundation’s work in its article on Thursday.
Robert D. Newman, president and director of the National Humanities Center, a nonprofit group dedicated to the study of the humanities, said supporters had rallied on behalf of federal funds before and would do so again now.

Mr. Newman said his organization received around $400,000 in NEH support in its current budget. He called the newspaper’s report "devastating news to us on a number of fronts" and said that the consequences of such an action could stretch further than just funding.

The center feels "great concerns," he said, about how eliminating the arts and humanities endowments would undercut the promotion and sustainability of cultural products for the nation as a whole — "not just inquiry into culture, but the production of culture."

Other groups expressed similar concerns.

"We see this as a kind of shot over the bow going after the arts and humanities and scholarship and intellectual life in the country," said Suzanne Nossel, executive director of the literary advocacy organization PEN America, in an interview.

"For these fields, this is a lifeline and, symbolically, this sends a very negative signal for what these communities can expect from the incoming administration," she added. "We’ll be mobilizing to make our voices heard and to petition members of Congress and elected officials to understand the importance of this funding."

The independent National Humanities Center hosts three residential fellowships in addition to public-engagement and education programs. As an example of the real-world impact of federal support, Mr. Newman highlighted one effort that is part of a broader NEH push to reach out to veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We have a number of sessions where they’re reading literary texts that have to do with war and having to talk through those experiences," he said, describing a project that is intended to lessen the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

The federal endowment’s agencywide "Standing Together" campaign, Mr. Newman said, does work to help returning veterans "heal and reacclimate in terms of being more positive and productive citizens after the experiences of war."

Pointing to previous defenses of the NEH and NEA, Mr. Newman said arts and humanities supporters will reach out "to arouse the general public as a whole into striking back to try to change this direction coming out of the incoming"
administration." The work of the two endowments, he said, is vital "so that we can have a better civilization."