U.S. public universities say immigration ban problems 'clear'

U.S. universities in both Democratic and Republican-voting states said they were unnerved by President Donald Trump's executive order restricting immigration from seven Muslim-majority nations, many warning students and staff to avoid travel abroad.

The president's order, which bars admission of Syrian refugees and suspends travel to the United States from Iraq, Iran, Sudan and four other countries, led to the detention of more than a hundred travelers arriving at U.S. airports over the weekend and sparked protests in major cities.

Leaders of the prestigious University of California system, which is partly funded by the liberal state, called the order "contrary the values we hold dear", while Penn State President Eric Barron, whose state backed Trump, asked for the order be ended as soon as possible.

"The problems that are surfacing with the order are clear," Barron said in a statement.

U.S. universities are seen as bastions of free speech and protest, although the institutions themselves are typically not seen as inherently political.

Association of American Universities President Mary Sue Coleman said in a statement on Saturday that the order "is already causing damage and should end as quickly as possible."

University of Missouri Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said on Sunday that Coleman had expressed the concerns of universities to government officials, adding "I can assure you that our voices are being heard loudly and clearly in Washington." Missouri voters supported Trump.

The University of Texas and the University of Michigan also issued statements in support of their international students, without explicitly condemning government policy. They said they were working to try to help get their students affected by the ban back into the United States.

University of Texas at Austin (UT) President Gregory Fenves on Sunday said he was "proud to say we have 110 students, faculty members and scholars who are citizens of the seven affected countries".

Those abroad should "know that we are doing everything we can regarding your return to UT," he added.
Trump defended his order in a statement on Sunday, saying the United States would resume issuing visas to all countries once "the most secure policies" were put in place over the next 90 days. "This is not a Muslim ban," he added.

**Universities grapple with effects of Trump travel restrictions on international students**

By Ashley Jost • St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 15 hrs ago

**ST. LOUIS** • University leaders across St. Louis and Missouri scrambled through the weekend on a message for their international students who might be affected by a presidential executive order temporarily banning refugees and citizens from seven majority-Muslim countries.

Among the first schools in the area to send out a statement was Webster University, which, like many schools nationwide, suggested students who might be affected don’t leave the country as they might not be allowed back in.

A federal judge ordered a stay against portions of the executive order, but the fluid situation has college leaders still in limbo in what to share with students.

“These legal developments give our community pause as they present challenges for universities like ours which attract international students,” Webster University President Beth Stroble said in an email to students and employees Saturday night.

At least five Webster students come from the seven countries listed in President Donald Trump’s order, including Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Syria, Yemen and Somalia. The university has multiple international campuses, but none are in those countries. Webster University Provost Julian Schuster said he and Stroble are planning town hall meetings for students to address their concerns.
“This is a very fluid situation,” he said. “We need to be resolute in order to comfort our students.”

“Whatever (happens), it will not change our mission of being a global institution,” said Schuster, who was calling from an airport in Poland after visiting Webster campuses in Europe.

Washington University Chancellor Mark Wrighton said Sunday that the ban should be withdrawn.

“This has a really negative effect on Washington University, and I believe a negative effect on the entire United States research enterprise,” Wrighton said.

About 50 students at Washington University are from the seven countries listed in Trump’s order. Similar to Webster, Washington University is advising students to consult with the international office on campus before traveling.

Wrighton said he fully endorsed a statement against the executive orders published Saturday by the Association of American Universities.

“We value a long tradition of drawing talented people from all around the world to our community, and we must continue to vigorously encourage the open exchange of ideas and perspectives,” Wrighton said in a statement sent out to students, faculty and staff Sunday afternoon.

Multiple Missouri public university leaders shared Sunday that they were still figuring out what to share with students.

“We could not do what we do without you,” University of Missouri-Columbia interim chancellor Hank Foley said in a statement to students and employees Sunday. “We will make clear to our representatives the value of your place here and the importance of your roles in our enterprise.”
The numbers of affected students vary significantly by institution. Fewer than 10 students come from the countries in Trump’s order at Missouri State University and the University of Central Missouri, versus 117 at the Missouri University of Science at Technology and about 150 at Mizzou.

Increasingly, both public and private universities rely on recruiting international students, who are more likely to pay full tuition costs.

Chuck Ambrose, president of the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg said if things continue and students from those seven countries — and potentially more — aren’t allowed to attend Missouri schools, that could create “a double bind” for universities that are already unsure about the outlook of state funding.

He said companies in bigger Missouri cities seek out international students with degrees in subjects such as systems engineering, application design and cybersecurity, in hopes that they can secure extended visas to come work for flourishing companies.

“I talk with a lot of these students and I’ve asked them if they want to go back to their home country or if they want to stay (after graduation),” Ambrose said. “They always say they want to stay and work here.”

An Iranian post-doctoral student from Mizzou, who asked not to be named in this story to avoid unwanted attention, said she isn’t sure whether she will be allowed to stay until graduation this May. Her husband, who is also from Iran, has another year and a half of his medical residency program at Yale University, and he’s in limbo too, she said.

“We’re all kind of in shock at the moment,” she told the Post-Dispatch Sunday. “What do we do now? We’ve invested so many years here.”

She is hitting the job market soon, hoping to work as a consultant to pharmaceutical companies in the United States and in Europe. Aside from uncertainty about whether her pending work visa will be approved, she said potential employers might skip her regardless.
The cost of bringing on a new employee is expensive, let alone one who might not be allowed to stay here, she said.

“It will be a loss, and mainly for American people,” she said, if the executive order is kept in place. “I did my studies here, working on a (National Science Foundation)-funded study — that’s taxpayer’s money. I would love to stay and give it back.”

At least 130 Mizzou students possibly impacted by President Trump's temporary travel ban


COLUMBIA, Mo - On Monday, ABC17 dug into data from the University of Missouri on the number of international students.

According to data from the international center, Mizzou had nearly 3,000 international students from 110 countries last year.

The data also shows this school year the university has 130 students from two of the seven countries included in the travel ban.

The International Center reports it has 79 students from Iraq and 51 from Iran.

Those students are part of a much larger number, as it has been estimated this temporary ban will affect 218 million people.

This comes after the White House is defending the controversial immigration restrictions, calling the travel bans "a massive success story."

And while the temporary order is only in effect for 90 days, officials believe it will be a first step before establishing a broader ban.
So far, most Mid-Missouri law makers are keeping quiet about the order, but ABC17 will be checking in with them today to see how it will affect Missouri immigrants.

ABC17 will also be reaching out to Mizzou to see how it's helping those 130 students possibly impacted.

**UM system offers support and guidance following President Trump's travel ban**


COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri System released a statement Sunday in response to President Donald Trump's travel ban.

Interim President Michael Middleton stated, "We are writing today to offer support and guidance, as a new presidential order makes changes to the rules governing visas and entry into the United States."

The university encouraged affected individuals to use campus resources, such as counseling centers, academic advisors, and professors.

Middleton said they are working with national associations to communicate with the Trump administration how the order will affect the university's institutional mission.
Iranian MU graduate student doesn't know when he'll see his family again

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=a11c2366-3c9e-47f6-a268-d269aeed34d4

COLUMBIA — Yellow flowers filled the front steps of the Islamic Center in Columbia Sunday afternoon.

"We noticed there were people putting out flowers so my wife and I decided to come out and join," said Nasser, a MU graduate student from Iran.

"I feel like we've been casualties of this," he said.

For his safety, Nasser did not want to give his full name. Nasser, currently a green card holder, met his American wife in Istanbul, Turkey.

He spent the first year of his MU curriculum taking classes online. He moved to Columbia in August.

Nasser said he never felt any uncertainty about his status in the United States until this weekend, when President Trump signed an executive order blocking citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the U.S.

"On January 18th, I purchased my ticket to go visit my family in Iran to celebrate Nowruz, the new year," Nasser told KRCG13.

"I was advised not to leave the country, because if I leave, I will not be allowed to come back," he said.

Nasser is expected to graduate with his master’s in public health in May. He was hoping his mom would be there.
"She's not going to be able to come," said Nasser.

Sunday afternoon, community members crowded parts of downtown Columbia and Peace Park, proudly professing their support for those affected by Trump's order.

"It was wonderful to see the support, I was happy to be able to be there," said Dan Lester, Executive Director of the Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri.

His organization works with the Refugees and Immigration Services to relocate those fleeing war torn countries.

Lester said last year, the organization relocated 220 people, the second highest amount within the last decade.

"It is a challenge to see this legislation that creates some barriers to us being able to do what we feel is the right thing," Lester said. "With that being said, we really are feeling a bit helpless around this because there just isn't a whole lot we can do."

While Trump's executive order is geographically dividing families, demonstrators said Sunday it's bringing communities together.

"Things like this are triggering deep American values in people," Nasser said. "People are putting aside their superficial differences and they feel outraged on this uncalled for attack on their identity."

Nasser said Sundays demonstration was encouraging for him and his family, but the executive order has truly shaken him for the first time as a resident of the United States.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Trump’s Travel Ban Leaves Students Stranded — and Colleges Scrambling to Help

No MU Mention

By Karin Fischer January 29, 2017

Stay calm, you’re safe here. That’s the message American colleges have been trying to send to international students in the wake of an executive order, signed Friday night by President Trump,
that imposes a travel ban on visitors — including students and other people with valid visas — from seven largely Muslim countries.

Administrators at colleges across the country spent the weekend trying to reassure students from the affected nations— Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen — that they can continue their studies uninterrupted. In the meantime, officials advised students not to travel abroad during the 90-day ban.

But the soothing words belie deeper concerns. Since the presidential election, educators had been bracing for a "Trump effect" on international students. In a survey of prospective foreign students released last spring, when few gave the Republican businessman strong odds of winning the presidency, 60 percent said they would be less likely to study in the United States under a President Trump.

Few campus officials, however, anticipated the sweep of the executive order, which also placed an indefinite-day freeze on refugees from Syria. (A federal judge on Saturday blocked the immediate deportation of travelers from the seven countries who arrived in the United States and were caught up in the order. But that ruling affected only a small number of people stuck at airports in the United States; it left the underlying ban in place.)

"We were expecting something to happen," says Ronald B. Cushing, director of international services at the University of Cincinnati, "but not this flurry and not in the very first week."

Like many of his colleagues across the country, Mr. Cushing spent much of the weekend scrambling — fielding calls from worried students, consulting with his staff, and coordinating with departments across the university that work with international students, all while trying to celebrate his daughter’s 17th birthday.

The story continues: Trump’s Travel Ban Leaves Students Stranded — and Colleges Scrambling to Help
Forceful Response

The Trump administration’s entry ban triggered wide condemnation from colleges, associations, faculty groups and others in higher education.

No MU Mention

By Paul Fain January 30, 2017

Many higher education leaders issued statements over the weekend in response to the Trump administration’s executive order to ban immigrants and nonimmigrant visitors from seven countries, which are majority Muslim, from entering the United States. They criticized the ban for the disruption it caused to students and scholars and for confusion around the order and its implementation and, in many cases, expressed moral outrage.

The speed and volume of the response by the large number of colleges and academic groups -- some without a tradition of quickly weighing in on political developments -- was highly unusual.

The following is a sampling of the statements. (Others are quoted in this article.) Most are excerpts. Links to full statements have been included where available.

Alisse Waterston, president of the American Anthropological Association

“The order must be rescinded, immediately, and the hateful cultural ignorance behind it must be named …

“To our friends and colleagues around the world, we feel compelled to emphasize this new administration’s actions do not reflect the views of a majority or even a plurality of the American people. This government cannot hide behind the spectacle and highly charged xenophobic rhetoric of nationalism any longer. Its policies and practices must be based on knowledge gained from systematic observation. To do otherwise places human rights and the rule of law in peril. We are watching closely, and hold this new administration accountable for remaining within the guide rails of truth and justice.”

The story continues: Forceful Response
The Illusion of Action

Generated from News Bureau Expert Comment: Popular Provisions of Affordable Care Act in Danger if ‘Fundamental Bargain’ is Broken, MU Expert Says

By David Catanese | Senior Politics Writer Jan. 27, 2017, at 12:11 p.m.

President Donald Trump's first week in office has looked like a whirl of perpetual action, driven by a bundle of executive orders and memorandums imprinted with his definitive signature and promoted by his singular megaphone.

But while the president's actions were numerous – a dozen since his inauguration Jan. 20 – experts say much of what Trump produced was symbolic, and will take time and money to foster substantive change.

Trump has moved on health care, energy, trade and immigration, largely reversing the policy postures taken by President Barack Obama's administration. Images beamed out of the Oval Office of Trump at his desk – pen in hand, senior staff dutifully behind him – as he held up large sheafs of paper to demonstrate to the world the magnitude of the rapid-fire strokes.

The measures clearly identified his priorities and sent a signal to the country about the drastic shifts he's pursuing. But taken together, these actions were more about planting a flag for his supporters to celebrate and for his adversaries to see.

The truth is, like most things in Washington, sweeping change usually moves at the speed of a snail.

Here's an evaluation of why Trump's four most seemingly significant moves will take time and legislative muscle to bear fruit.

Obamacare

Trump's order taking aim at the Affordable Care Act was his first, squeezed between last Friday's inaugural parade that ran into a winter dusk and the evening balls where he danced to Frank Sinatra's "My Way."
But even the title of the order – "MINIMIZING THE ECONOMIC BURDEN OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT PENDING REPEAL" – spoke to its limits. The new president can't crush Obamacare with one simple swoop of a pen.

"It's basically an announcement of an intention, and it is far more symbolic than it is likely to have policy effects," Sam Halabi, an associate professor of law at the University of Missouri, told a medical trade outlet.

In the order, Trump empowered his incoming secretary of health and human services to ease the fiscal burden of the law on states by granting exemptions to portions of it, like the controversial individual mandate. But many experts believe that the health and human services secretary already holds that power.

Because Trump has said he wants to replace Obama's health care law as he simultaneously repeals it, it will be up to Republicans in Congress to draft language that provides alternative health care access. And as evidenced by the last system overhaul, dismantling the current byzantine set of regulations in place will take months, if not longer.

So until there is legislative movement, the Obamacare order is simply a sign of intent.

"The order does nothing substantive, grants no power or authority," tweeted Topher Spiro, vice president for health policy at the liberal Center for American Progress.

Trans-Pacific Partnership

Trump heralded his formal withdrawal from the 12-nation trade pact known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership as a "great thing for the American worker."

But in reality, it was already dead, since Congress never ratified it during Obama's tenure.

"President Trump will notice that thanks to largely Democratic and steadfast opposition to enacting a job-killing trade deal, the Trans-Pacific Partnership never became law in the United States," House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said.

Trump's memorandum ordered his trade representative to signal formal withdrawal from negotiations from the pact that had already languished in Congress, and served as a largely symbolic stroke of breaking with the bipartisan free-trade policy that's been embraced by presidents for decades.

Trump has said he wants to pursue bilateral deals in order to attain clearer terms and straightforward negotiating partnerships. But in doing so, he'll likely need Democratic support, scrambling traditional partisan alliances on an issue bound to present challenges to the new administration.

The more meaningful deal to watch is whether Trump retools or scraps the North American Trade Agreement, which the U.S. has been a part of for 23 years.
The Keystone/Dakota Pipelines

On Tuesday, the president signed a pair of memorandums respectively inviting TransCanada to resubmit its application for construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline and directing the secretary of the Army to move forward with approval of the Dakota Access Pipeline in a timely manner.

The moves make both of the projects – which were stymied by the Obama administration and environmental activists – much more likely.

And yet the Dakota Access Pipeline still faces review from the Army Corps of Engineers, which is in the midst of an environmental impact study.

The Natural Resources Defense Council’s Sharon Buccino told Vox the corps still has the discretion to move as fast or as slow as it wants on the Dakota pipeline's route approval. And if it OKs the pipeline's planned route, the decision is almost certain to wind up in court.

TransCanada, meanwhile, wasted no time in submitting a new application for the 1,180-mile Keystone pipeline on Thursday. But as The Wall Street Journal noted, in addition to a Trump State Department review, the project also will need the state of Nebraska to review the plan, a process that will take months.

Immigration

Trump started the engines on his signature campaign promise Wednesday by issuing orders calling for the "immediate construction of a physical wall" on the Mexican border as well as enhanced immigration enforcement tactics.

But the harsh realities of erecting a wall hit the Republican administration Thursday when it floated a plan to slap a 20 percent tax on Mexican imports, before backtracking and characterizing it as just one of many options on the table.

Meanwhile, congressional leaders suggested funding much of the roughly $10 billion to $20 billion project through a supplemental appropriation bill that could spark a Democratic filibuster. And during a GOP retreat in Philadelphia on Thursday, House Speaker Paul Ryan declined to say whether the costs of the wall would be offset by spending cuts elsewhere in the budget, a potential sticking point for fiscal hawks in the GOP.

The payment method is just one of the challenges facing the Trump administration. How far the wall will stretch, how high it will reach and when construction will commence are all questions to which there are no concrete answers at this point.
MU chemistry professor discovers new compound to make better medicine


COLUMBIA – A researcher at the University of Missouri has discovered a potential new set of materials that can aid in cancer therapy treatments.

Dr. Mark W. Lee, Jr. is an assistant chemistry professor and said the materials also help improve diagnostic tools for cancer and other diseases.

“There is a myriad of uses for these new materials, such as biomedical imaging, or the study of cancer,” said Lee.

The tests used to discover these helpful materials, known as boranes, came through extreme heat testing, which helps ensure the materials are non-toxic. These materials are attractive to researchers because of their resistance to heat, and are much more useful to the general public in terms of treatment.

Dr. Lee has worked at the University of Missouri since 2006 and been the assistant professor of chemistry since 2012. Lee says the discovery has been one of the best of his career.

“I was trying to do something entirely different and I recognized that the entire reaction failed but in the process of analyzing the products I saw that something unusual was happening so I watched what was happening to create a new class of molecule,” said Lee.

The ability to help treat cancer is the most exciting development of the findings Lee said. Lee and his fellow researchers are hoping this can be a step in making cheaper, more potent cancer treatments.
“We are using these clusters to design better drugs. We have already published on this, that we have exceptionally potent anti-cancer agents that are literally a million times more potent than what is used today,” said Lee.

The new materials discovered are designed to help make better drugs, not just for cancer treatment, but for other diseases as well.

“It’s a new class of chemistry that we have never seen before so it will be exciting to see where it goes from here,” Lee added.

Mizzou hires attorney to investigate academic fraud claims by former athletic tutor

BY TOD PALMER
tpalmer@kcstar.com

The University of Missouri has retained the services of prominent college sports attorney Mike Glazier to assist with its ongoing investigation into allegations of academic fraud brought by a former tutor in the Total Person Program.

Glazier — a managing member of the Overland Park-based law firm of Bond, Schoeneck & King — is “the founder and chair of the firm’s college sports practice,” according to his bio on the firm’s website.

He is leading Mizzou’s joint investigation with the NCAA into former tutor Yolanda Kumar’s allegations that she performed or assisted with coursework for 15 student-athletes during a 16-month period, according to a Nov. 21 letter from interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley to Glazier obtained by the Columbia Daily Tribune.

Glazier, who specializes in NCAA infractions, eligibility and compliance matters and worked seven years as an attorney for the NCAA, also handled MU’s joint investigation into impermissible-benefits infractions within the men’s basketball program.
That case, which was announced by the university in January 2016 and centered on a sham internship program in Georgia, resulted in a variety of self-imposed sanctions, including a postseason ban last year and scholarship reductions for the Tigers men’s basketball team.

The NCAA accepted MU’s self-imposed sanctions in August, though the Division I Committee on Infractions added one year of probation for the men’s basketball program.

Missouri announced an investigation into possible academic fraud Nov. 22 after Kumar tweeted about her involvement a few weeks after telling the school’s compliance staff she had taken online classes and tests for several Tigers student-athletes or assisted with tests in violation of NCAA rules.

The current investigation into Kumar’s academic fraud allegations could last several years, a source told The Star, depending on how cooperative witnesses are with the NCAA and Mizzou.

MU hires attorney for academic fraud investigation

MISSOURIAN STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS, Jan 28, 2017

KANSAS CITY — The University of Missouri hired lawyer Mike Glazier to lead an investigation into former tutor Yolanda Kumar’s allegations of academic fraud.

Glazier is a managing member of the Overland Park-based law firm Bond, Schoeneck & King.

Glazier specializes in NCAA infractions, eligibility and compliance matters and worked seven years as an NCAA attorney. Glazier has represented over 100 intercollegiate athletic programs, according to his biography on the firm's website.
He also led the university's joint investigation into impermissible-benefits infractions in the men's basketball program, which centered on a sham internship program in Georgia.

Missouri and the NCAA are conducting a joint investigation into allegations made by Yolanda Kuma, a former tutor at the university. She has said she took online classes or tests, or helped with tests for 15 student athletes, all of which violates NCAA rules.

**MU hires expert lawyer to lead academic fraud investigation and 'discover the truth'**

Missouri hired a collegiate sports attorney with expertise representing universities in NCAA matters to lead its investigation into allegations of academic fraud brought in November by former athletic academic tutor Yolanda Kumar.

**Attorney Mike Glazier and his law firm Bond, Schoeneck & King will spearhead MU’s investigation and work in conjunction with the NCAA. Glazier, who worked seven years on the NCAA’s enforcement staff, has represented universities in NCAA cases since the 1980s.**

“Michael Glazier is one of the most respected lawyers who appears in front of the NCAA Committee on Infractions,” said Rodney Uphoff, a professor emeritus in Missouri’s School of Law who served on the NCAA’s Committee on Infractions for six years, beginning in 2009. “He has a very, very good reputation. I think he’s a very good lawyer, and he does an excellent job representing his clients. He has a lot of credibility with the NCAA, because he’s well-known as a very strict-talking, good lawyer.”

The Tribune’s attempts to reach Glazier were unsuccessful.

For Missouri, Glazier is a familiar face. He guided the university through its most recent investigation into violations committed by the men’s basketball program, which resulted in MU self-imposing penalties last year.

Missouri’s engagement of Glazier to lead the academic fraud investigation was outlined in a letter sent by Chancellor Hank Foley to Glazier on Nov. 21. The Tribune obtained the letter this week via an open-records request submitted in December.
“You and your firm have been engaged by the Office of the General Counsel to lead the University’s efforts in investigating allegations of academic misconduct involving at least one member of the student-athlete academic support unit and student-athletes of various sport programs,” Foley wrote to Glazier in the letter. “If, during the course of your investigation, information indicating the possibility that other NCAA rules violations have occurred, you are to report that information to me and the Office of General Counsel.”

Foley wrote that Glazier is to investigate in conjunction with the NCAA enforcement staff and “assist in any way possible so that both the University and the NCAA may discover the truth.” Foley wrote that Glazier is to report to him and the Office of the General Counsel and that Foley expects “to be informed of all significant developments.”

“I expect the investigation to be unbiased, complete, and thorough, and it shall be dedicated to learning the full truth, whether or not it indicates that violations of NCAA rules have occurred or student-athlete eligibility has been affected,” Foley wrote.

Missouri announced on Nov. 22 that it had received allegations of potential academic rules violations committed by a former tutor who worked in athletics academic services. That came after Kumar posted a Facebook message, obtained by the Tribune and other media outlets, stating she cheated for athletes in revenue-generating sports with the encouragement of superiors, including two academic coordinators. She stated on Facebook that she resigned on Nov. 7.

Since November, Athletic Director Jim Sterk has offered little comment on the investigation. If the process unfolds like many other NCAA investigations, Missouri is in the early stages of lengthy process.

“I would tell people at Missouri that this is probably going to be a two-year process,” said B. David Ridpath, an associate professor of sports business at Ohio University and a national expert on NCAA matters.

If there’s a basis to believe Missouri committed NCAA violations, the NCAA would issue MU a notice of allegations.

“If I had to guess, there will be a notice of allegations coming, but it won’t be until the NCAA and Glazier and Missouri work together and share all that information,” Ridpath said. “Then, once that comes, that usually is when they get into the deeper investigation of the interviews and those types of things.”

From there, the case would proceed toward a ruling by the NCAA’s Committee on Infractions. In the meantime, Glazier might work with the university to self-impose penalties and take other corrective action, especially if the evidence is stacked against Missouri. Such moves can help lessen the penalties from the Committee on Infractions.

Glazier “will have to evaluate the evidence, along with the school, and he will recommend to the school, ‘I think we should fight this, because the evidence is weak,’ ” Uphoff said, “or he might
say, ‘The evidence is strong. It’s likely the committee will find infractions. If they do, we’re better off self-imposing penalties.’”

In the recent basketball investigation, which uncovered players receiving impermissible benefits and a sham internship program in which players participated, the Committee on Infractions accepted MU’s self-imposed penalties and added a year of probation.

At the heart of this investigation is whether Missouri engaged in academic fraud. Whether academic fraud occurred, Ridpath said, depends on two factors.

“Did the fraud aid an athlete’s eligibility, and did any member of the faculty or staff — athletic or nonathletic — have anything to do with it?” Ridpath said. “Any academic-fraud case has those two entities, and if what Yolanda is saying is true, I think it definitely meets that standard.”

According to online court records, Kumar pleaded guilty three times from 2009-10 to misdemeanor charges of passing bad checks and also has been the subject of multiple civil suits, which raises questions about the vetting process for hiring her as a tutor.

Ridpath said that although Missouri might try to question Kumar’s credibility, the case is more about the evidence gathered than the credibility of the witnesses.

“Yolanda Kumar may have passed some bad checks, and she may have done some bad things, but it doesn’t mean that she is not telling the truth,” Ridpath said. “She could be completely lying, too, but I think the evidence will support her. My analogy to that is kind of the baseball steroid thing. The least credible person in all of that was Jose Canseco, but he was the only one telling the truth. You just have to test the evidence.

“She may have an ax to grind. It doesn’t mean she’s not telling the truth. That’s where the investigation comes in.”

Unlike a criminal case, where prosecutor and a defendant enter a courtroom as adversaries, in an NCAA investigation, the NCAA and the university work together to gather evidence. Uphoff said an NCAA investigation is more like an alternative-dispute resolution process — similar to an arbitration case — than it is a criminal or civil trial.

“In an NCAA investigation, the school and the NCAA are, ostensibly, working together to try to figure out what really happened,” Uphoff said.

Of course, it doesn’t always unfold that way.

North Carolina has been under investigation for academic fraud for the better part of a decade, receiving three notices of allegations throughout the process. The UNC case centers on allegations of sham courses created for athletes within the school’s African and Afro-American Studies program.
North Carolina was “not very forthcoming in providing information, and then some people refused to talk and those types of things,” Ridpath said. “The best thing Missouri can do is, everybody should be able to talk freely. They should support the whistleblower and let her tell her story and let the evidence fall where it may. Being cooperative does help throughout the process. North Carolina certainly wasn’t that, and I think that that’s what has put a huge delay in that investigation.”

Of course, a university under investigation also seeks the best possible outcome in terms of the penalties assessed once the evidence is gathered.

That’s where Glazier’s expertise can help. Ridpath said Glazier will work to find the truth and then “frame the truth in the proper context.” That might include outlining mitigating evidence that could lessen potential penalties.

What Missouri shouldn’t do, Ridpath said, is try to bury the truth. Foley tasked Glazier with making sure that doesn’t happen.

“My overriding desire in this matter is to obtain a complete and unbiased review of the facts so that the full truth is discovered,” Foley wrote in his letter to Glazier. “Only in this way can the University maintain its integrity, which is of paramount importance.”

Missouri hires attorney for academic fraud investigation


The University of Missouri has hired college sports attorney Mike Glazier to help its investigation into allegations of academic fraud.

Glazier is a managing member of the Overland Park-based law firm Bond, Schoeneck & King.
The Kansas City Star reports Missouri and the NCAA are conducting a joint investigation into allegations made by Yolanda Kuma, a former tutor at the university. She has said she performed or took online classes or tests and helped with tests for 15 student-athletes, which violates NCAA rules.

Glazier specializes in NCAA infractions, eligibility and compliance matters and worked seven years as an NCAA attorney. He also led the university's joint investigation into impermissible-benefits infractions in the men's basketball program, which centered on a sham internship program in Georgia.

MU medical school awaiting decision on accreditation issues

The University of Missouri School of Medicine will learn in February how well it has answered questions about diversity and student mistreatment identified in a report that put its accreditation at risk.

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education in 2016 cited the school for lack of compliance because of low minority enrollment and lack of minority faculty and for high numbers of students who report being publicly humiliated or being subject to offensive, racist or sexist remarks.

If those problems, and others identified as out of compliance or in need of monitoring, were not addressed within a year, the committee threatened to put the school on probation. If the issues were not addressed within two years, the committee warned, the school could lose its accreditation.

An action plan, submitted in December, will be considered by the committee at its regular meeting Feb. 14-15.

“I think and I am confident that the LCME is going to find our report adequate,” said Mike Hosokawa, interim senior associate dean for education, in an interview during a luncheon for undergraduate students participating in Minorities in Medicine Outreach Week. If the plan is accepted, Hosokawa said, he expects site visits or reporting requirements to show progress.

The Minorities in Medicine program is one of the school’s oldest efforts to recruit a diverse student body. This year, more than 35 undergraduates spent up to four hours shadowing medical students and up to 16 hours shadowing physicians.
“That goal is not to have every student coming in with a 110 percent commitment to becoming a doctor,” said Rebecca Ringling, a third-year medical student leading the program. “It is a chance for them to examine it and learn if it is the right program for them.”

The school registers student diversity by tracking how many students are minorities, how many come from rural areas and how many come from poorer families. The committee reported that the school has a smaller proportion of black students than 2008 — 3.3 percent compared to 5.3 percent — but a higher percentage of Hispanic students and it had made progress recruiting students from rural areas. Blacks comprise 2.3 percent of faculty, double the number of 2008, and 2 percent of the faculty are Hispanic, where there were none in 2008, the report noted.

The school is noncompliant because “for some areas of diversity, there are fewer people now than eight years ago and little or no progress in other areas,” the report said. In addition, diversity is a long-term issue, and in a survey, faculty and students expressed concerns about the institutional culture.

“Historically, this has not been an easy environment to recruit to,” Hosokawa said. “First, it is rural. Second, the whole campus has a history that is not very positive. The community has a history that’s not very positive. The medical school has a history that is not very positive. So we are not only having to look into the future, but we are having to deal with some of the past issues.”

The student mistreatment issues were identified in a survey that found 20.7 percent of students reported being occasionally or frequently humiliated in public, compared to 9.1 percent of medical students nationally, and 15.5 percent reported they were subject to offensive remarks, compared to 8.2 percent nationally.

To combat the problem, Hosokawa said, the school has set up confidential reporting and raised expectations for department chairs.

“We need to find out what are the really disrespectful, abusive kinds of things that are going on and then learn how we need to educate our faculty and our staff,” he said.

During the luncheon, students heard from Laine Young-Walker, associate dean for student programs, and Kevin Stockard, a 2011 graduate of the School of Medicine who switched careers at age 39 to become a physician. Young-Walker advised the students to do more than work for a high grade-point average by seeking mentors, shadowing doctors and engaging in activities that show a commitment to the community.

“You need to have a complete package in addition to the numbers,” she said.

Stockard offered tips for winning admission to medical school. He emphasized the essay that accompanies the application as a place for students to show their personality and interests, asking them to include a personalized story to illustrate why they want to study medicine.
One participant, Christina Anderson, a junior from St. Louis, said that when she entered school she wanted to be an attorney but changed to pre-medicine because she saw it as a way to do more for people. During the week, she shadowed a neurologist and a surgical pathologist.

“You see that everyone is important,” she said of the program. “Every sub-specialty is crucial to how the hospital functions.”

The Minorities in Medicine program was expanded to allow more job-shadowing of physicians this year, and is one of the ways the school is strengthening its recruiting programs. The accreditation report has focused the school’s administration, Young-Walker said in an interview.

“I am 110 percent certain the whole school is aware of our diversity and inclusion issues,” she said.

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**Editorial: Search secrecy**

**Why on Earth would the University of Missouri Chancellor Search Committee decide not to follow the state Open Meetings and Records Law in conducting its chancellor selection advisory meeting?** As has become distressingly clear over many years, because it decides it can.

The committee’s Thursday meeting took place immediately after a gathering that was a replay of a similar event held in the run-up to selecting a new UM System president, at which the Presidential Search Committee asked a roomful of interested citizens for advice. We attendees had no official status. The search committee made no decisions at its private meeting. The university decided to follow public meeting procedures in the presidential search only because all members of the Board of Curators also were members of the search committee, as if the university only opened that meeting grudgingly because of the presence of the curators, a non-fact unrelated to the rationale of the law.

The state Sunshine Law explicitly says officials shall interpret the law to provide openness except for certain enumerated reasons. To put it mildly, the University of Missouri has long since demonstrated exceptional expertise in interpreting those exceptions liberally. In the case of the chancellor advisory meeting, university lawyers worked overtime to parse the definition of a “public body,” finding the gathering would not directly advise on the spending of money, only the selection of an official.

“The statute refers to committees that advise on expenditures, not those that advise on selection of personnel,” said the UM spokesman, adding a non sequitur, “The university will pay a new chancellor regardless of who the committee recommends.”
UM lawyers and other officials dedicated to limiting the scope of the law must have stayed up late crafting that one.

These advisory meetings are public by nature. The presidential search committee discussed in open session the input it heard at forums that included everyone from faculty members to local newspaper publishers and reporters to former curators to interested citizens from any and all walks of life. The chancellor advisers presumably should similarly represent a variegated spectrum of interested parties. Why on Earth would the university want to design this meeting otherwise? All it had to do was post the time and place of the meeting and welcome any and all willing to take time to come to the meeting.

Not only was this closure a pernicious example of flouting the law; it was simply nonsensical, indicating university lawyers and officials are capable of losing their minds when seeking ways to narrow the common-sense meaning of the Sunshine Law.

Hundreds in downtown Columbia protest Trump's executive order on immigration


Hundreds of people poured into Peace Park in downtown Columbia on Sunday and walked a few blocks to the Islamic Center of Central Missouri to show support for Muslims and to protest President Donald J. Trump’s executive order blocking people from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States for 90 days.

Demonstrators held signs and periodically chanted before heading to the Islamic Center, 201 S. Fifth St., where they were greeted by a group of Muslims who had set up a table with refreshments. The demonstrators, estimated to number more than 500, covered the steps of the Islamic Center in flowers.

The marchers were among thousands around the country who took to streets and airports to demonstrate against Trump’s order, which stops people from coming from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States for 90 days: Iran, Sudan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya and Somalia. His order also indefinitely barred Syrian refugees and suspended all refugee admissions for 120 days. A federal judge Saturday night issued a stay on the order for people who had arrived in the U.S. legally and were detained.
Demonstrations erupted over the weekend and continued in Washington, New York City, Atlanta, Virginia, Los Angeles, Boston, Michigan, St. Louis and other places.

After the throng of people made its way to the Islamic Center, and as they walked up to the steps to drop flowers to show their support, a member of the center addressed the crowd and thanked them. Fuad Khaleel, chair of the board at the center, said it was touching to see people come together from different races, creeds and backgrounds to show that Muslims are welcome here.

“I think the biggest thing is just to show the love and care, to know that we all care for each other,” Khaleel, 32, said. “It doesn’t matter what your background is, where you’re from. We just support one another, especially at a time when some people may stick to who they’re familiar with.”

Celebrities, some politicians and attorneys general from 16 states have criticized the ban, according to news reports. Some media pointed out that the ban does not include Muslim-majority countries in the Middle East where Trump has business interests. Trump had proposed a ban on Muslims entering the United States during his campaign.

**Thirty-year-old Fulbright scholar Anes Ouadou has been in Columbia for more than three years studying electrical engineering at the University of Missouri.** A Muslim from Algeria, a Muslim-majority country that wasn’t included in Trump’s ban, Ouadou said he was impressed by the turnout at Peace Park but disheartened by Trump’s order.

“It’s not a question of being Muslim or Arab or being from the Middle East,” Ouadou said. “It’s a question of protecting civil rights. These rights and these people are not defined by religion, faith or ethnicity. It’s a situation,” being a refugee, “that can happen to anybody anywhere.”

CoMo for Progress organized the rally by starting an event page Saturday on Facebook and, by the time the rally began at noon Sunday, about 300 people had planned to attend, according to the event’s Facebook page. Carrie Davis, a member of the organization, said the issue isn’t just about refugees and immigrants.

“These are people,” Davis, 27, said “This is their home, their home as much as the rest of us. Whether or not you were born here has nothing to do with whether you’re part of our community.”

A few signs at the event featured the Statue of Liberty and a couple of people held American flags. Among the messages on demonstrators’ signs were “Religious liberty for all,” “Veterans Against Bigotry” and “All are welcome here. No ban. No wall,” referencing a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border that Trump has ordered built.

Tamer Dawud, 52, held a small orange piece of paper that just said “No hate.” A Muslim and native Egyptian, Dawud said he’s been in the country for four years, gaining citizenship last year.
“We need to stop these stupid actions and we need to show them Muslims are like any other immigrants in America,” said Dawud, a cancer researcher at MU. “They are coming for the same purpose. The majority of them are coming for helping and the prosperity and growing of this community. The majority of them are just good citizens who want to have a good life and enjoy the freedom of this land.”

Also in the crowd was Helene Fehling Tatum, an immigration lawyer who represents many international MU students. She said it’s a “scary time” for many of them, some of whom are worried about being kicked out of the country or not being able to return if they go home to visit family.

Trump’s ban goes against many ideals the nation was founded on and what the country stands for, she said.

“It’s completely unconstitutional,” Fehling Tatum said. “I mean he’s discriminating against entire groups of people based on religion. It’s terrifying.”

Former chair of the Islamic Center’s board, Rashed Nizam, 62, said he couldn’t understand Trump's rationale. The outpouring of support reminded him of how many in Columbia reacted after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, when people voiced their support and also sent flowers to the center.

He added that the ban already has hurt the country’s reputation abroad.

“People are laughing at us, at what is going on here in America,” said Nizam, a native of Bangladesh who is now a U.S. citizen. “We’re supposed to be the best country, law and order and love and affection and compassion.”

Hundreds protest in Peace Park against President Trump's ban on refugees and travelers

BY DAPHNE PSALEDAKIS, TESSA WEINBERG AND TOM COULTER, 11 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Abdelmoneim Elfagir hasn't seen his family in four years, and he doesn't know when he'll see them again.
A 30-year-old MU student, Elfagir completed his undergraduate studies in Libya. Four years ago, however, he came to MU and began working on his second master's degree. His goal, he said, was to get his doctorate.

But recent events have reigned confusion on Elfagir. On Saturday, international students who arrived at airports were stopped after President Donald Trump's executive order banned citizens of seven predominantly Muslim countries, including Libya, from traveling to the United States. With such an order as that, Elfagir doesn't know what the future holds for him in America.

"Honestly, I'm surprised," he said. "I never expected such an action to take place with the new administration. I don't know really what the effect will be on me, as an international student. I don't know what's next."

Elfagir wasn't the only one confused and dismayed by the executive order. On Sunday, hundreds gathered at Peace Park to protest the ban on refugees from entering the country for 120 days and any citizens of Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia or Yemen from traveling to the country for 90 days, according to the Associated Press.

The executive order sparked a string of protests at airports across the country on Saturday and Sunday. A federal judge issued an order Saturday night that temporarily stopped the U.S. from deporting travelers affected by the executive order, according to the AP.

After gathering in Peace Park, the crowd of more than 200 marched to the Islamic Center of Central Missouri, where many placed yellow flowers on the center's front steps as a sign of friendship. The protest was organized by CoMo for Progress, an advocacy group that focuses on outreach and inclusiveness.

“We want to make sure that refugees that have come to our community … know that we want them here, and that we welcome them and that we support them,” Kate Canterbury, 40, who helped organize the rally, said, “and also to let our citizens of Columbia who happen to be Muslim know that we don't have any ill will. The community here is for everyone.”
University of Missouri System administrators released statements Sunday saying the university's leadership would work with state and federal legislators to support MU's international community.

Interim UM System President Michael Middleton and soon-to-be President Mun Choi offered support for international students in a letter released Sunday night.

"The situation remains fluid and we will continue to monitor it closely, and update you as the situation warrants," they wrote in the letter.

They encouraged students affected by the executive order to seek assistance from campus resources, such as the counseling center, university staff and academic advisers.

Hank Foley, the interim MU chancellor, also released a statement Sunday.

"You are an essential part of our university community. We welcome you and value you," Foley said about international students. "We could not do what we do without you. We will make clear to our representatives the value of your place here and the importance of your roles in our enterprise."

Missouri's two senators were divided on the travel ban, with Democrat Sen. Claire McCaskill opposing it and Republican Sen. Roy Blunt in favor, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

On Sunday, people of several different religions and nationalities gathered to demonstrate their disapproval of the executive order.

Tariq Shah, 45, hadn't been to a rally since he was 18, but the refugee ban prompted him to voice his opposition. Shah immigrated to the U.S. from England in 2009, and he worried the ban could promote overt prejudice against Islam.

“How does (someone) know that I'm not a Muslim, that I'm a Christian and my father was Muslim?” Shah asked. “How does (someone) differentiate ... if (someone) just takes the name
Tariq Shah as an Islamic name — which it is — and then says, 'Okay, well you're banned because you have a Muslim-sounding name'?

Miriam Golomb, 71, an MU associate professor emeritus, said she felt that history is repeating itself in light of President Trump's executive order, which was announced on Holocaust Remembrance Day. Golomb's parents were refugees from the Holocaust, she said. Her father was a "stateless" person for many years, she said, and her grandparents were killed by Nazis.

Golomb said she liked seeing people gather in solidarity with the Islamic faith, especially with her family connections to the religion. She said one of her family members who survived the Holocaust was sheltered in Afghanistan, a predominantly Muslim country, and that her grandmother's life was saved several times by a Muslim doctor in Germany when no other doctor would treat her.

"I want to defend our Muslim brothers and sisters," she said.

Rick Baker, 49, and Rasha Abousalem, 35, attend services at the center. They said they came to the march to protest not only the recent ban on travel but what they saw as an attack on American values.

Abousalem immigrated to the U.S. from Abu Dhabi when she was 4 years old with her parents, who faced discrimination in the Middle East as Palestinian refugees. The couple met on Abousalem's first trip serving as an Arabic translator for Baker and a group serving with the international medical relief organization Global First Responder.

Baker, a Columbia native, converted from Christianity to Islam two-and-half years ago after going to the Middle East for a mission trip.

"I came to Islam in my late forties," Baker said, "and this has been the most accepting group of people I have ever met in my life."
Baker said it was important for him to march alongside his wife to show a different face of Islam than what most people typically associate with the community.

Two of the first people blocked from entering the United States on Saturday were Iraqis with links to the U.S. military, according to the AP. One local protester, Nadeem Ramiydh, 37, was a former U.S. Army translator in Iraq.

“It was very dangerous for me and my family to stay living there,” Ramiydh said of working in Iraq. “Even if you live there, you kind of just have to play hide and seek just to try to escape with your life. If somebody knew you work with Americans, it's the end of the game for you.”

The risks forced Ramiydh to move to Columbia with his wife and son in 2009, and they became naturalized citizens last year. However, his family in Iraq, who are trying to come to the U.S. as refugees, faced a state of uncertainty following the executive order.

"With this ban, the whole thing is under shutdown right now," he said, "so we don't know what's going on."

Elfagir, the student from Libya, felt a similar apprehension. He didn't know if he would have the opportunity to see his family outside of Skype and FaceTime.

"Now, after four years, when I see their pictures, when I talk to them, I feel the difference," Elfagir said of his relationship with his two brothers and sisters, who live in Libya. "My little brother is like a grown man. Even though I speak to them regularly, I feel that difference."
UPDATE: Hundreds join local protest of President Trump's travel ban

BY MISSOURIAN STAFF, Jan 29, 2017 Updated 17 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Hundreds gathered Sunday afternoon at Peace Park in protest of President Donald Trump's executive order banning refugees from traveling to the United States.

On Friday, President Trump signed an executive order banning refugees from entering the country for 120 days and any citizens of Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia or Yemen from traveling to the country for 90 days, according to the Associated Press.

In response, local group CoMo for Progress planned the protest. The protest began at noon Sunday at Peace Park, on the corner of 8th and Elm streets and proceeded to the Islamic Center of Central Missouri on Fifth and Locust streets, according to the Facebook event page.

Around 1 p.m., the protesters marched to the Islamic Center of Central Missouri and placed yellow flowers on its doorstep.


Sunday's protest attracted people of all stripes.

Fourth Ward Councilman Ian Thomas, who said he came to the United States from Great Britain in 1990 on an academic visa, attended.

Nadeem Ramiydh, who said he used to work as a translator for the U.S. military in Iraq, attended the protest with his son.
Miriam Golomb,* a professor emeritus who attended the rally, said recent events made her feel like history was repeating itself. Her grandparents were victims of the Nazis, she said.

Valérie Berta said she was originally from France and became a naturalized citizen in April. At the protest, she held a sign that read, "We are all immigrants."

President Trump's executive order sparked a string of protests at airports across the country Saturday. And, on Saturday night, a federal judge issued an order that temporarily stopped the U.S. from deporting travelers affected by the executive order, according to the AP.

On Jan. 21, thousands participated in a local march protesting the president.

Locals rally behind Islamic community following Trump’s ‘Muslim ban’

An executive order limiting immigration from seven majority-Muslim countries issued by President Donald Trump on Friday spurred a rally and acts of solidarity in Columbia over the weekend.

The executive order suspended all travel to the U.S. by citizens of Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Sudan, Syria and Somalia for 90 days, regardless of their visa status. Under the order, even those with student visas are blocked from entering the country. The order also put a stop to refugee admissions from all countries for 120 days and suspended the acceptance of all refugees from Syria indefinitely.

After Saturday’s midday prayer at the Islamic Center of Central Missouri, Fuad Khaleel, president of the Operating Council of ICCM, was speaking with other prayer attendees in front of the mosque when a woman approached them.

The woman was Kelly MacNevin, an activist and member of the group CoMo for Progress. She carried yellow flowers and asked permission to place them on the front steps of the mosque. Khaleel granted her permission, and MacNevin let the men know that some of her friends would be bringing more flowers throughout the afternoon.

MacNevin’s childhood experience of living on a military base in Germany sparked the idea to bring flowers to the mosque.
“When 9/11 happened, all of the German community brought flowers on the steps of the church that my parents belonged to on the military base,” MacNevin said. “My mom said that she just felt so connected with the community after that. She felt supported. I wanted to do yellow because it’s a sign of friendship.”

Khaleel and ICCM member Abdelmonein Elfagir set up a folding table and chairs outside of the mosque and passed out cookies and juice to those bringing flowers and messages of support.

“It’s just sad because I feel like as a society, you talk about trying to bring people together, thinking about what’s best for your neighbor, so on and so forth,” Khaleel said. “Values that are taught to people when they’re children. And you know, I still think those are values that people still have. It’s sad that sometimes you get people that push fear.”

Elfagir is working on a master’s degree in health informatics at MU, and already holds a master’s in public health. He came to the U.S. from Libya in 2013 on a student visa. Because his visa is single-entry, he has not seen his parents or siblings since he moved in 2013.

Now, under Friday’s executive order, he is unsure when he will be able to return to Libya. Doing so would leave him unable to re-enter the U.S., at least until the order expires.

“[The flowers show] that we are not alone in this time of political uprising that is going on around us,” Elfagir said on Saturday. “To me, it means a lot personally. I really appreciate people who took the time and came to show their love and support. It’s really something valuable for us.”

Saturday evening, MacNevin contacted a friend and mosque member on Facebook who gave her Khaleel’s contact information, and she asked permission to organize a rally on Sunday in solidarity with local Muslims. Khaleel accepted her offer, and MacNevin spread the word to CoMo for Progress through their Facebook group.

The group gathered at Peace Park at noon Sunday, holding signs and yellow flowers. Within an hour, at least 200 people were in attendance.

At 1 p.m., a representative of ICCM led the group to the mosque, where members were waiting with cookies, snacks and juice to pass out to the marchers. Marchers laid their flowers and signs on the front steps of the mosque, then returned to Peace Park so as not to block the streets.

Khaleel addressed the crowd as the marchers gathered around the front steps. With no microphone, he asked the crowd to shout his words back to him so that those in the back could understand what he was saying.

“We appreciate the love, care and support that we’ve received from both here in our community in Columbia, Missouri, and across the nation, and across the world,” Khaleel said.
MU sophomore Maha Hamed and junior Mubinah Khaleel are Columbia natives and mosque members who joined in the rally and march. They both agree that attitudes about Muslims have shifted in recent years.

“Growing up, it was quiet,” Hamed said. “We grew up in a post-9/11 world, so we didn’t really see it first-hand. We’re adults now, and we see this bigotry first-hand, so we wanted to make sure to be a part of [the march]. And it’s also nice to see so much support from different communities all around.”

On Sunday afternoon, interim Chancellor Hank Foley released a statement expressing support for international students and providing resources to those affected by the executive order. He concluded the statement by offering his personal assistance to affected students, saying: “I am optimistic this will work out, but in the meantime, know you have our support and caring.”