



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

February 15, 2017

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Older adults considering the idea of 'living apart together' with new partners

By Christopher Maynard

Generated from News Bureau press release:

Many U.S. consumers might envision a typical, mature relationship as two married adults who own a house and live in harmony. But a new study shows that a new global trend may be taking form among older adults who have previously been divorced.

Researchers from the University of Missouri say that some older couples are choosing to forego typical living patterns for a more relaxed arrangement. Instead of living in the same place, they say that older couples that have experienced divorce are opting to keep separate homes, dubbed "Living Apart Together" (LAT).

"What has long been understood about late-in-life relationships is largely based on long-term marriage. There are now more divorced and widowed adults who are interested in forging new intimate relationships outside the confines of marriage," said researcher Jacquelyn Benson.

Positives and negatives

While LAT relationships are more commonly accepted in Europe than in the U.S., the researchers point out that there are some advantages to the system. In their study, the researchers found that LAT couples tended to be more self-reliant – tending more towards financial and social independence than couples in a traditional relationship.

However, there were also some drawbacks observed about LAT relationships. LAT couples had more trouble than traditional couples when it came to expressing the nature of their relationship to others, with many stating that the terms "boyfriend" or "girlfriend" were not sufficient. Additionally, LAT couples had trouble determining how caregiving for a child or "family" decision-making should be handled.

"While we are learning more about LAT relationships, further research is needed to determine how LAT relationships are related to issues such as health care and caregiving. Discussions about end-of-life planning and caregiving can be sensitive to talk about; however, LAT couples should make it a priority to have these conversations both as a couple and with their families," Benson said.

"Many of us wait until a crisis to address those issues, but in situations like LAT where there are no socially prescribed norms dictating behavior these conversations may be more important than ever.

Avoiding heartache

While some may suggest that the negatives outweigh the positives, Benson says that an LAT relationship may be perfect for older couples who have experienced the sting of divorce before.

"Recent research demonstrates that there are other ways of establishing long-lasting, high-quality relationships without committing to marriage or living together. . . If more people—young and old, married or not—saw LAT as an option, it might save them from a lot of future heartache," she said.

The [full study](#) has been published in [Family Relations](#).

MISSOURIAN

COLUMBIA'S MORNING NEWSPAPER

Why does higher education in Missouri always seem to be on the chopping block?

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ELLEN CAGLE

JEFFERSON CITY — Once again, Missouri state lawmakers are proposing steep budget cuts for higher education. If you think that sounds like nothing new, you'd be right.

This year's proposed budget cuts to the University of Missouri System are only the latest in a trend of decreasing state funding to higher education. It's happening nationwide, and in Missouri, it began more than two decades ago.

Gov. Eric Greitens released his proposed budget on Feb. 2, [suggesting a \\$159 million cut to higher education](#) from what the legislature appropriated last year. That was the single largest cut of any state department in the proposed budget.

About \$40 million of that cut would target the operating budgets of the UM System, which includes four campuses: MU, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and the Missouri University of Science and Technology.

"Higher ed is unlike any other state budgeting area," said Jennifer Delaney, an associate professor of higher education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "In bad times, it's one of the first areas on the chopping block."

State support has not kept pace with inflation. From 1990-2016, inflation-adjusted appropriations showed an overall trend of decreasing state funding. In 2016, the legislature appropriated 18 percent less to the UM System than it did 27 years ago, once the amounts are adjusted for inflation. There were periods over the past couple of decades when funding increased in the short term, but overall the downward trend has been consistent.

But even without taking inflation into account, funding has dropped in the past 17 years.

The UM System's state funding was at its peak between 2000 and 2010. In 2010, the legislature appropriated about \$476 million to the UM System (\$524 million adjusted for inflation). Last year, \$434 million was appropriated, a 9 percent reduction in real dollars, and 17 percent when adjusted for inflation.

Chris Kelly, a former state representative from Columbia, said he noticed the decreasing trend when he was a legislator. Kelly, a Democrat, was a House member from 2009-2014.

"They are destroying MU one little slice at a time," he said. "It's a direct attack on the institution."

Moreover, the system hasn't been getting all of its yearly appropriations. Each year, the legislature appropriates money based on projections. When those projections fall short, the university doesn't get all the appropriated money.

In January, Greitens announced he would withhold money from this year's appropriations because of a state revenue gap. He [mandated that the UM System cut \\$38 million](#) from this year's operating budget by June.

Last year, the UM System received \$416 million from the legislature after all withholdings, \$18 million less than the amount originally appropriated.

That figure puts Greitens' proposed cut for 2018 in perspective. Compared to the amount appropriated for this year, it's a \$40 million reduction, and \$8 million less than the actual amount received in 2016.

That would mean UM would be starting from a much lower baseline in 2018, and it's possible that funds would be cut as the year goes on.

The proposed budget now moves to legislative committees for debate. Legislators will likely amend the governor's suggestions, and several lawmakers have pledged to try to restore money to higher education.

Why is higher education taking the hit?

Experts say state lawmakers have cut higher education throughout the country because it's an easy target.

Delaney said legislatures consider funding for higher education discretionary, or non-mandatory.

Lawmakers can cut funds to universities knowing that they have alternative revenue streams, she said. That's not the case for other areas of the budget, she said, citing Medicaid and pension payments.

Universities can rely on students and donors for some of their funding, unlike other government programs that depend solely on state money, Delaney said.

Rep. Dean Dohrman, R-La Monte, said lagging state revenues haven't kept up with the rising cost of higher education.

"We're outgrowing the resources we have," said Dohrman, the vice chair of the House Committee on Higher Education. "Missouri lives on the money we get each year. It's a difficult balancing act."

"It's an easy place to cut funds from, because it can always be made up through tuition hikes and fee hikes," said Rep. Jason Chipman, R-Steelville, also a member of the Higher Education Committee. "To me, it's an easy scapegoat for funding cuts. It's just easier to do because you're not cutting from a population that really needs the help."

Chipman said the legislature had no other choice than to propose education cuts.

"Given our current budget situation and with the cuts that have been made, everybody is feeling the pinch, which probably makes it as fair as it possibly can be," he said.

Missouri colleges cannot raise tuition above the rate of inflation, [according to Missouri statutes](#). That requirement was adopted in 2008, after the General Assembly approved the Higher Education Student Funding Act. In 2016, the rate was 2.1 percent.

Universities can get a waiver to raise tuition above the rate of inflation through the Department of Higher Education. The cap has only been waived once — in 2012. That year, 11 of 14 higher education institutions got a waiver following state cuts, according to an [August statement from State Auditor Nicole Galloway](#).

The act does not prevent universities from raising student fees. Fees have risen 138 percent in the past six years, Galloway's statement said.

In 2008, tuition and fees covered 29 percent of the system's budget; in 2016 it paid for more than half, according to The Associated Press.

UM System Board of Curators [said tuition increases are a possibility](#) to mitigate the effects of Greitens' proposed budget cuts.

It's happening in every state

Rick Althaus, a professor of political science at Southeast Missouri State University, pointed out that enrollment at Missouri universities has risen as state funding has declined.

That has led to a precipitous drop in state dollars per student.

He ascribed the decline to a shift in the way lawmakers view the value of a college degree.

"Decades ago, we Missourians were more likely to view a college education as a public good — something that benefits the entire society," Althaus said.

Now, lawmakers see higher education as a private good, he said, and they are shifting the burden of paying for college to students and their families.

Some decry this shift.

"I think if higher education is cut and our tuition increases, I think less folks would think about attending universities here in our state," said Rep, Gretchen Bangert, D-Florissant, a member of the Higher Education Committee. "So, overall, that would affect our economy because we wouldn't have those young people coming in."

The trend is evident in nearly every state. Rising health care costs and other programs have squeezed state budgets, and stagnation or decreases in tax revenues have limited yearly revenues, Delaney said.

"I don't really see things changing structurally within state budgets in the short term."

Unless state revenue sources change, higher education funding will continue to decline.

"I can't imagine what would turn it around," Althaus said. "I don't know where the spigot of money would be for someone to turn on."



City seeks to intervene in firefighter death lawsuit

By Rudi Keller

A settlement in the wrongful death lawsuit stemming from the 2014 death of a Columbia firefighter was canceled Tuesday after the city filed a late motion to intervene and the University of Missouri requested a new judge.

The settlement would have made a payment to Leigh Kottwitz, widow of Lt. Bruce Britt, and established an annuity on behalf of their daughter, Stormy Britt. Circuit Judge Jodie Asel had been scheduled to hold a hearing Tuesday on whether to approve the terms.

The city filed its motion to intervene on Friday, claiming that it was worried it would not be able to recover reimbursement for the workers' compensation benefits paid since Britt's death. The city, attorney Rick Montgomery wrote, "has received information regarding the confidential settlement of this action that may substantially affect its right to subrogation in that plaintiffs propose to distribute the settlement among each other in a way that may eliminate or substantially reduce the city's subrogation lien."

Montgomery wrote that he intended to present evidence on the amounts paid by the city so far during a hearing on the motion. He could not be reached for comment Tuesday afternoon.

In a response filed Monday, Kottwitz attorney Rick Barry urged the court to reject the city's motion. The workers' compensation case is ongoing and the city cannot show its interests will only be protected by allowing it to intervene, he wrote.

"In fact, on at least two occasions, counsel for Plaintiffs has provided defendants with assurances, in writing, that it will keep all monies paid out from settlement of this action, with the exception of monies paid into an annuity and attorneys' fees and costs, in trust until such time as the workers compensation lien can be determined," Barry wrote.

Britt died while responding to a call that a roof had collapsed at University Village, 601 S. Providence Road. A concrete walkway collapsed, trapping him under debris and suffocating him, according to a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health report released a year after his death. The report cited a lack of information, planning and awareness combined with deterioration of the walkway as the primary factors in Britt's fatal fall.

In response to his death, the university had all of its buildings at its Columbia campus inspected and tore down the apartment building.

The terms of the proposed settlement have not been disclosed. Barry and university attorney Amanda Miller, in a joint motion filed Feb. 1 seeking approval of the settlement, wrote "that, considering all the facts and circumstances, plaintiffs are of the opinion that it is and will be in Stormy Britt's best interest to enter the settlement agreement under which she will receive the annuity."

Miller and fellow attorney John Roark declined to comment through their law firm on the motion for a change of judge.

Neither Barry nor Miller could be reached for comment on the delay.



Columbia Intervenes in Firefighter Death Settlement

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=d979a2a9-3b2d-4d21-949e-9a9720f2b190>

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

FEBRUARY 14, 2017 9:48 AM

[Dorm living and dining plans going up at University of Missouri System campuses](#)

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

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Campus housing and dining will cost students attending University of Missouri System campuses a bit more after June 30.

UM Board of Curators on Friday approved a hike in room and board rates for all four system campuses — Kansas City, Rolla, St. Louis and Columbia.

The increase for the “predominant plan,” is different for each campus.

University of Missouri-Kansas City students will pay 1.2 percent more, with the cost going from the current \$10,010 a year to \$10,132. On the Columbia campus students will see a 3.3 percent increase in the predominant meal and campus housing plan, taking the price tag to a total of \$10,070 for the year.

University of Missouri-St. Louis has the lowest rate increase at 1.1 percent, and the largest is 4.6 percent at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla.

The board had enough members present to vote on the room and board issues, but the terms of two of the six curators who attended the meeting have recently expired. Only four seats on the nine-member board are currently filled.

Gov. Eric Greitens has to make appointments to fill the five open seats. The student representative on the board is also vacant since Greitens removed MU senior Patrick Graham, who was former Gov. Jay Nixon’s unconfirmed nominee.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Editorial: University of Missouri's new sexual misconduct rules fail to address major weakness

By the Editorial Board

After more than two years of efforts by the University of Missouri system to devise rules making it a national leader on sexual misconduct and discrimination procedures, the school is still adjudicating rape cases instead of sending them to the courts, where such cases belong. The system's interim president, Michael Middleton, called the 355-page effort "Herculean," offering no explanation as to why student-faculty disciplinary committees are a reasonable substitute for courts in serious criminal cases.

University campuses around the country often try to handle crime allegations in-house, instead of taking cases directly to prosecutors and judges equipped to make necessary judgments about pursuing charges. University disciplinary committees are not trained in criminal law and not competent to decide guilt or innocence.

They also have a [conflict of interest](#). Their desire to keep problems out of the criminal justice system, where big headlines can harm a university's reputation, smacks up against their mission to protect students. Federal law requires universities to report crime, but formal charges against a student, high-profile athlete or faculty member can hurt recruitment, alarm donors and create campus unrest. If a student can be nudged away from filing a crime report and instead keep the matter in-house, the matter stays quiet.

Congress deserves blame for not amending language in the federal [Clery Act](#) that allows universities this flexibility. The [act requires](#) universities to advise student rape victims of their right to file criminal charges, which the new University of Missouri procedure does.

But counselors warn victims that police investigations can be invasive and uncomfortable, effectively discouraging them from seeking outside intervention. The Clery Act requires universities to offer victims alternatives, such as turning the case over to campus police or university investigators and invoking on-campus disciplinary procedures.

At MU system campuses, complaints are funneled through a Title IX coordinator who monitors for compliance with the federal law that bars sexual discrimination in education, including sexual harassment and violence. After conducting a preliminary investigation, the coordinator determines the best process for handling it.

In the revised rules, on page 289, under the heading Rights of the Complainant in the Equity Resolution Process, the 13th option is “To report the matter to law enforcement (if applicable) and to have assistance in making that report.”

The 2011 suicide of former MU swimmer Sasha Menu Courey prompted the university to overhaul its sexual discrimination policy. A year before her suicide, Menu Courey alleged that Mizzou football players had raped her. The university brought in the Columbia, Mo., police to investigate nearly four years later, following an explosive [ESPN report](#) citing the allegation in a story about sexual assaults on campuses. By then, it was [too late](#) for justice.

Universities must stop fooling themselves into believing disciplinary committees can do law enforcement’s job.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

[Messenger: NAACP president sends message to Missouri Legislature -- He will not be silenced.](#)

By Tony Messenger St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 1 hr ago

In January, Rod Chapel was in St. Louis for a historic occasion.

The president of the Missouri NAACP, a lawyer who lives in Jefferson City, attended a celebration for Kim Gardner, after she was sworn in as the first African-American circuit attorney in St. Louis. On his way back to the capital city, Chapel stopped to have drinks with me at a west St. Louis County bar. We wanted to chat about another little bit of history.

As one of his final acts in office, Gov. Jay Nixon had pardoned 16 members of the so-called “Medicaid 23.”

Those were the 23 pastors who during the 2014 legislative session had been arrested in the Senate gallery for chanting and praying during a protest calling on senators to pass Medicaid expansion. Last summer, Chapel was part of a team of attorneys representing the pastors as they faced trespassing and obstruction charges brought by Cole County prosecuting attorney Mark Richardson.

A jury had found the pastors not guilty of obstruction but guilty of trespassing. They faced no jail time, but a possible fine. Cole County Circuit Court Judge Daniel Green has yet to sentence any of the 23, but for 16 of them, the case is now officially over.

The rest, Chapel told me in January, plan to keep fighting, appealing the case once the sentencing is finally announced.

“The preachers we represent definitely feel that it is a serious issue about how people — particularly people of color — will be treated when they come to Cole County,” Chapel told me on that January evening. “The race issue is as important as the ability to express themselves through their First Amendment rights.”

On Monday, Chapel found out firsthand how difficult it can be being a black man who wants to testify against a bill in the Missouri Capitol. On behalf of the NAACP, Chapel was testifying against House Bill 552, which is one of several pieces of legislation moving through the House and Senate that will weaken discrimination laws in Missouri.

There is no dispute that the laws will make it easier to discriminate in Missouri — on the basis of race, religion and gender. Republicans and the business interests backing them have long wanted to water down Missouri's strong anti-discrimination laws. Twice, Nixon has vetoed similar measures.

This year's sponsor of the Senate's version of the bill, Sen. Gary Romine, R-Farmington, owns a rent-to-own business facing a current race discrimination lawsuit.

For Chapel, this sort of obvious self-dealing is madness. But on Monday, his target wasn't Romine, or even some of the business groups that support the legislation, but schools.

“I have to tell you that I'm kind of dismayed at the groups that have come forward today,” Chapel said. He mentioned the University of Missouri and his alma mater, Washington University. “Schools, where we send our children, are all in favor of expanding discrimination. ... This is nothing but Jim Crow. You cannot legalize discrimination on an individual basis and call it anything else.”

Then he reminded the committee why it could be so devastating for Missouri to make it easier to discriminate at this point in the state's history. He talked about Ferguson. He mentioned the Concerned Student 1950 protests at the University of Missouri's Columbia campus in 2015. When it comes to discriminating against black people, Missouri has been a national “laughingstock,” Chapel said.

That's when Rep. Bill Lant, R-Pineville, decided he had heard enough. He cut off Chapel's microphone and ended his testimony.

Chapel protested. Democrats protested.

Lant would have none of it.

Dissent, he apparently determined, is no longer an American value.

“I've never seen anything like it,” Chapel told me Tuesday morning. “It's nuts. He invited me to give public testimony at his committee and then wouldn't let me talk.”

The NAACP president and lawyer has testified before legislative bodies numerous times. He's a former director of the state Department of Labor and an administrative law judge, in both cases having been appointed by Gov. Matt Blunt, a Republican.

Lant can turn off Chapel's microphone, but he can't, and won't, silence Chapel.

The attorney made that clear months ago when the Medicaid 23 trial concluded. On that day, he stood outside the Cole County Courthouse in front of his clients, and spoke words that seem all the more prescient today:

"We as Americans have rights," Chapel said. "We have the First Amendment right to free speech, and if we can't exercise that right in the Capitol, I don't know where we can."



Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness to hold forum at MU on Thursday

ROSEMARY SIEFERT

COLUMBIA — The Missouri Supreme Court-appointed commission studying the problem of bias in the judicial system is making its first stop in Columbia this week.

The Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness was created in 2015 after the Department of Justice released its [now-famous report on Ferguson](#) in the aftermath of the fatal shooting of 18-year-old Michael

Brown in August 2014. **Events on MU's campus in fall 2015 simply underscored that Missouri was well overdue for creating such a commission, said the panel's executive director Julie Lawson, noting that such commissions already exist in 32 states.**

The commission held its first meeting Nov. 17, 2015, and has met twice since then, but this is the first time public feedback sessions have been held.

Lawson, who works for [FOCUS St. Louis](#), said, "The Ferguson report came out calling for the establishment of (a commission), and the Supreme Court said 'absolutely.'"

Acting UM President Mike Middleton is one of the commission's co-chairs, and retired Circuit Court Judge Gary Oxenhandler is among the panel's 60 members — lawyers and judges from all over the state.

The event will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday in MU's Law School, Hulston Hall.

The forum is open to all Missouri residents who want to gain insight into and respond to [the commission's recommendations](#) on how to remove bias and improve impartiality in judicial processes and the practice of law.

"I hope what we get from the public is that what we're suggesting reflects their needs and addresses their problems," said Lawson about the purpose of the public forums.

In return, she hopes the committee members will gain an understanding of what changes they need to make in the recommendations they present to the Supreme Court.

"We don't want to leave anything on the table," she said. "We can explain decisions we have made and if (Missourians) have recommendations, we can take them to the subcommittees."

The committee has been broken into six subcommittees that have been studying the judicial system as a whole, the civil justice system, the criminal justice system, the juvenile justice system, the municipal justice system and the practice of law. Its goal is "to examine and review current practices and recommend measures to ensure fairness, impartiality, equal access and full participation for racial and

ethnic minorities in the judicial process and in the practice of law,” according to the [Oct. 6, 2015 court order](#) that established the commission.

A few solutions for improvement have already been identified, including expanding hours to make municipal courts more accessible, ensuring a judge is on site during all court hours and no longer allowing judges to work in more than one municipality, Lawson said. The commission is also recommending cultural competency and unconscious bias training for all judges, she said.

Lawson hopes what the commission learns from the public is whether its recommendations reflect citizens' needs and address their problems.

“The commission is there to reflect the best interests of Missourians,” she said. “It is vital to us.”



[MU offers free heart-health screenings at city ARC](#)

MICHAEL CONNOLLY

COLUMBIA — If you wonder about the health of your heart, you'll be able to get it checked for free on Saturday.

Cardiovascular specialists from MU Health Care will offer heart-health checks from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Saturday at the city Activity and Recreation Center as part of American Heart Month.

The specialists will perform body mass index measurements, blood pressure screenings, nutritional guidance and cholesterol screenings.

The cholesterol checks require eight hours of fasting and a reservation by calling Fit for Life at 882-4283. The Activity and Recreation Center is located at 1701 W. Ash St.

February was designated American Heart Month by President Lyndon Johnson in 1963. In 2014, heart disease killed more than 600,000 people in the United States, according to Centers for Disease Control.

The CDC recommends limiting alcohol intake, avoiding smoking, eating foods low in saturated and trans fats, exercising regularly and maintaining a healthy weight to minimize the risk of heart disease.

MISSOURIAN

COLUMBIA'S MORNING NEWSPAPER

Pedestrian struck by car at University and College avenues

MICHAEL CONNOLLY

COLUMBIA — A pedestrian was hit by a car while crossing College Avenue at University Avenue at about 3:20 p.m. Tuesday.

Brooke Miller said she was driving north on College Avenue when she struck the woman with her car. Miller said she had a green light when the woman, who was wearing a pink backpack, ran out in front of her Ford.

Miller said she was driving around 30 mph and attempted to stop before hitting the woman.

A police officer who was nearby alerted authorities. A firetruck, ambulance and several police officers responded.

Miller said the woman was crying, saying "I'm so sorry. I thought I could make it," and her face was bleeding.

The woman was put on a stretcher and taken to a nearby hospital in an ambulance.

Maj. Brian Weimer of the MU Police Department said the woman was being treated for "minor" injuries. He could not provide her name.



UPDATE: Vehicle crash on University and College Ave., pedestrian injured

COLUMBIA, Mo. - One person was taken to University Hospital after a crash on University and College Ave. This was a pedestrian versus vehicle accident.

ABC 17 News has confirmed with the Columbia Fire Department that the scene has been cleared, but that information is limited.

ABC 17 News will continue to follow this story for updates.



MU offers free mumps vaccination to end outbreak

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=5fb51e6a-5bc6-45e7-a893-dccb8de1477a>

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri will offer 2,000 students mumps vaccinations in an effort to put an end to the outbreak on campus.

MU has seen more than 330 cases since the start of the 2016 fall semester. Although Dr. Susan Even, director of the University Student Health Center, said their campus has seen a decrease in cases, they are not in the clear.

"It takes 50 days with no new cases to call an outbreak over," said Dr. Even. "Our hope is we can stop this outbreak."

In her more than 30-year career with student health, Dr. Even said this is the first time we've had anything like this.

MU has partnered with the state and local health department to provide a vaccine at no cost to the students or university.

Dr. Even recommended all students get the third booster shot, which includes measles, mumps and rubella vaccines.

"It contains a live virus but weakened. But still those viruses together will amount to an additional immune response for most people," said Dr. Even.

The outbreak on campus had some students considering the vaccination.

"I was thinking about going just because it's been widespread at Mizzou more so here than I feel like at a lot of other places and my roommate yesterday was talking about how she was feeling she was getting swollen and that freaked me out so that's definitely why I'm thinking about going," said Lauren Rittman, an MU student.

While, other students were not too worried.

Isaac Brizendine, also an MU student, explained "I'm just really busy. I haven't really heard of anyone getting the mumps too recently so I feel like it's kind of passed. I don't know. I probably should go but at the same time it's not something that's too high on my priority list."

The mass immunization clinic will be held Feb 15 to 17 in the Memorial Union North on the second floor. It will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and it will be first come, first serve.

No appointment will be necessary but a valid MU identification will be required.

Trump Backlash at Howard

As the White House and congressional Republicans plan overtures to black colleges, activists on one campus rally to bar the president from campus.

By Andrew Kreighbaum, February 14, 2017

Leaders of historically black colleges have been surprised (and pleased) by recent [public overtures](#) from the Trump administration and Republicans in Congress. But protests at Howard University Monday reveal that many students at those institutions aren't eager to see their campus leaders engaging with representatives of a president they find toxic.

Howard student activists held a rally Monday on the university's main quadrangle days after the university president, Wayne A. I. Frederick, hosted Betsy DeVos, newly confirmed as education secretary. The students said they want advance notice from the university leadership of other visits by Trump administration officials and they want the president himself barred from the campus. Interacting with administration officials would diminish the values of the university while bringing no real value to Howard students, said Juan Demetrixx, a senior and representative of Concerned Students, 1867, the group that organized the rally.

“It’s so they can get a photo op, so they can say, ‘We have some black friends’ or ‘we have some black people who are aligned with us,’” he said.

Activists also linked the rally to ongoing black protest movements in the U.S. The name of the organization is a reference to Concerned Student 1950, the University of Missouri activist group that led protests in 2015 until Tim Wolfe, president of the Missouri system, resigned.

Howard students issued a set of their own demands to university leadership ahead of the rally, combining several longstanding requests to the university administration with new calls to distance itself from the Trump White House.

They renewed demands that the university declare itself a sanctuary campus, increase resources for underrepresented groups and establish a community center to engage with surrounding neighborhoods. And they added calls for the university to ban the president from all campus buildings and to “refuse to abandon its values in exchange for financial security.”

"It is up to us to make sure that our black institutions work for us," Durmerrick Ross, a Howard freshman and one of the rally organizers, told listeners Monday. While the crowd at the rally wasn't large, the event received online support from other black student groups at colleges across the country.

In a statement issued through the university's office of communications, Frederick said he received the list of demands Sunday night and was in the process of reviewing them with members of his leadership team. "We take the concerns outlined very seriously and support activism on this campus," Frederick said in the statement. "As a first step, I will meet later this week with those concerned students to discuss their demands in greater detail."

A crowd of about 25 students showed up at Monday's protest to hear organizers speak about their demands on the Howard leadership and plans to hold Frederick and other leaders accountable. Students hoisted a makeshift banner reading "Resist" in red lettering onto the university flagpole before heading to the administration building. The university later had the banner removed. If Frederick doesn't meet their demands by Wednesday, organizers said, they plan to pursue more direct actions, including class walkouts.

Shortly after wrapping up the rally, a group of students attempted to deliver a set of demands to Frederick's office, calling on him to distance the university from the White House. But after entering the Mordecai Johnson Administration building, students said, to their frustration, they were met by campus security.

"We did not feel like they were a presence that needed to be there, nor did we feel that it helped at that point," said Demetrixx. "That kind of puts a damper on our optimism about what might happen with Wayne Frederick later this week."

Lezli Baskerville, the president and CEO of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, an umbrella organization for HBCU institutions, said she supported students organizing and making their voices heard on campus. But she also said they should be open to an exchange of ideas with people they disagree with. "We encourage and support robust exchanges of dialogue," she said. "We encourage and support free expression of your opinion as long as it doesn't trample on the rights of another."

Baskerville said engaging with federal leaders is made more important by Howard's status, along with Gallaudet University, as a federally chartered institution that receives significant funding from the federal government. Both Democrats and Republicans in Congress have a history of supporting HBCUs, said University of Pennsylvania professor Marybeth Gasman, the director of the Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions. Meeting with those elected officials makes sense for HBCU leaders advocating on behalf of their institutions, she said. But Gasman said meeting with Trump was a different matter.

"We're dealing with someone who has purposely and strategically surrounded himself with white supremacists," she said. "I hope to see some HBCU president say, 'No, I'm not going to meet with Trump. I'm going to find other ways.'"