College leaders meet with Greitens for the first time

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

ST. LOUIS • Six university leaders met with Gov. Eric Greitens for the first time Tuesday for a talk focused on affordability in the wake of recent budget cuts.

Missouri State University President Clif Smart called the meeting “very positive.”

“We talked about how excellence in higher education was his number one priority, and that to have excellent programs you have to be willing to make tough decisions and eliminate other programs so you can focus resources in the areas you’re really making a difference,” Smart said.

Some college leaders had previously met with members of his policy team, but never with the governor.

The meeting comes on the heels of current-year budget withholds announced by Greitens, the bulk of which were bore by colleges and universities. That was followed by a fiscal year 2018 budget proposal from the governor that included additional cuts to both two- and four-year schools.

Greitens didn’t talk about higher education in his State of the State speech shortly after taking office, but has since made comments about hoping schools keep college tuition steady, despite the budget cuts.

His comments have largely been focused on concerns about waste on campuses, most recently referring to an audit of the University of Missouri System this week that highlighted concerns about “excessive” spending.

“In the higher education budget, we asked college administrators and executives to find ways to tighten their belts. They told us that they had done everything they could to cut costs. Then, some of them told us they might need to raise students’ tuition or fees,” Greitens said in a statement about the audit Monday.
He went on to say that Missouri will continue to invest in making universities the best they can be, but affordability and cutting “waste” will be a priority.

The University of Missouri System, Missouri State University, Missouri Southern State, Northwest Missouri State, Harris-Stowe and Truman State were all represented at the meeting. Missouri Department of Higher Education commissioner Zora Mulligan was there along with Greitens.

“The meeting was positive as the governor discussed his vision for higher education and what universities can expect from his administration,” Paul Wagner, executive director of the Council on Public Higher Education in Missouri, said in a statement.

Greitens meets with university presidents from across Missouri

By Joe McLean


JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - Gov. Eric Greitens met with more than a dozen university leaders Tuesday morning to discuss the future of higher education in Missouri.

Among those present was UM system president Dr. Mun Choi, one day after a state audit report was released criticizing his predecessors for millions in hidden bonus payments to top administrators.

A Greitens staff member told ABC 17 News the audit was mentioned in Tuesday's meeting as was the governor's budget cuts to state higher education.

Choi plans to hold a press conference Friday morning in Columbia and ABC 17 News will be there.
R. Bowen Loftin responds to state auditor's report on UM System


By Marissa Hollowed

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Tuesday night, ABC 17 News spoke with former Mizzou Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin about his response to state auditor Nicole Galloway's report on hidden bonuses at the University of Missouri.

Galloway's report hit Loftin for receiving a six-figure salary, bonuses and keeping a luxury car stipend after his resignation as chancellor.

Loftin spoke on the phone with ABC 17 News from Washington D.C. at a U.S. Department of Defense meeting and stressed three of his main concerns with the report.

First, he was disappointed no one from the auditor's office contacted him for the audit. Second, he said there were a number of factual errors in the report. When asked what those errors were, he said it would take too long to go through everything. He also said in the contract he signed in 2013, he was promised 75 percent of his salary if he left the chancellor role.

Loftin also claimed he has documentation and evaluation reports to prove he has been consistently working. ABC 17 News will be working to get those documents and a response from Galloway on Loftin's accusations.

In audit report, state reveals ‘excessive’ UM System spending

By Nancy Coleman
The UM System spent more than $2 million on executive compensation over a period of two years, according to an audit of the system released Monday. Of these expenditures, portions “appear excessive,” lack transparency, were made without a clearly defined decision or approval process and possibly violate the Missouri Constitution.

Nearly $1.2 million went to incentive payments to top system administrators, including over $100,000 to former UM System President Tim Wolfe. The rest of the $2 million was spent on additional payments and allowances for vehicles, housing, relocation and retention.

The audit, conducted by Missouri State Auditor Nicole Galloway, was released in a time of financial limbo for MU. The university is already facing millions of dollars in budget cuts on top of decreasing enrollment numbers.

Galloway rated the UM System as “fair,” the second-lowest of four ratings. Here’s a breakdown of the issues found in the system’s spending and how it can start to make improvements.

**Incentive payments**

Incentive bonuses nearing $1.2 million were approved by either the Board of Curators or the system president. And while these payments were made in accordance with the system’s rules and regulations, the process by which payment amounts were decided and doled out is unclear.

The audit found that the ambiguous process for earning, determining and approving incentive payments is informal and not “clearly defined,” which makes these payments seem like year-end bonuses that could violate the Missouri Constitution.

According to the audit, the irregularity in how much various administrators make in incentive payments “gives the appearance the incentive payments are primarily a means to provide additional compensation rather than an incentive for high performance.”

In addition, the audit found the criteria for earning these bonuses to be subjective. There is currently no formal way to measure executives’ performance, and as a result, many of the awarded incentives were given out for meeting standard job requirements.

The audit cites one “goal” for the chief financial officer as an example of a high performance incentive intersecting with an average job expectation. The goal for the officer to receive an incentive payment was “to implement and support the effective use of a new budget system.” Brian Burnett, the current CFO, received over $56,000 in incentive payments through fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

The audit recommends setting more clear performance goals that extend beyond regular expectations, as well as incorporating data to measure administrators’ progress toward these goals.

“Ensuring the goals to be achieved represent performance that warrants incentive payments, and not just performance of standard job duties, can reduce the perception these payments are merely
additional compensation, and would make the executive incentive program more likely to be allowable under the Missouri Constitution,” the audit states.

The audit also notes a lack of transparency with these payments. None of the $2 million in incentives and other forms of nonsalary compensation, including relocation and retention payments and allowances for housing and vehicles, are included in public compensation information, according to the audit.

**Loftin’s transition**

After former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin resigned in November 2015, he was given “significant compensation not required by his original chancellor contract,” which the audit found amounted to approximately $200,000.

Loftin transitioned into a newly created role: director of national security research development. His compensation for the new position was set at 75 percent of his salary as chancellor, which is 31 percent more than the highest-paid campus research administrator, according to the audit.

In addition, Loftin went on “developmental leave” for six months in 2016 with no reporting requirements for his work during that period, the audit states.

The $200,000 includes approximately $50,000 in “unnecessary salary,” an additional $35,000 annual stipend and over $15,000 in vehicle allowance per year. The audit notes that no other director-level employee receives a vehicle allowance.

Loftin also received a $100,000 retention payment that was negotiated as part of his contract as chancellor. While the original conflict stated that he would not receive this payment if he “voluntary terminated employment,” which he did when he resigned from his position, the audit states that Loftin was allowed to keep the same retention payment if he stayed in his new role until January 2017.

**Vehicle allowances**

Vehicle allowances are specifically cited in the audit as appearing to be “excessive” and lacking transparency. Approximately $407,000 in vehicle allowance payments were made to administrators over the two years examined in the audit.

On average, 15 administrators received a monthly vehicle allowance of $1,240, including the system president and all four campus chancellors.

These allowances don’t estimate the actual amount owed to administrators based on mileage and fuel costs — rather, they are based on what it would cost if the system leased a “luxury vehicle” to executives instead.

The audit found that the “costs associated with the allowances are significantly higher than the potential costs of paying mileage reimbursements.” According to the audit, reimbursements for
executives cost an average of more than three times as much as if they had been reimbursed for their actual mileage with the system’s standard rate. This rate, for all other UM System employees, is a reimbursement of 51 cents per mile. The audit recommends basing vehicle allowances on “reasonable estimates of actual mileage.”

**MU fossil researchers to use government's grant to raise awareness of STEM education**

ALYSSA WEISBERG AND ASHLI ELLERMAN, 13 hrs ago

*Generated from News Bureau press release: NSF Grants $1 Million to MU Researchers to Enhance Early STEM Education, Study Environment*

COLUMBIA — John Huntley wants to explore the most recent sea level cycles in the geological record. Jim Schiffbauer wants to look at fossil preservation of the Cambrian Period and then educate Columbia students about it.

“We’re trying to train the next generation of scientists,” Schiffbauer said.

Now, the MU paleobiologists, both assistant professors in the Department of Geological Sciences, are a big step closer to their goals. The National Science Foundation has presented each with the Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) award.

They will use their respective awards of $500,000 over the next five years to integrate research with an educational plan.

“To receive this level of federal funding at the same time shows that their research and academic projects are of the highest caliber and highlights the outstanding educational opportunities for our undergraduate and graduate students,” Mark McIntosh, MU interim vice chancellor for research, said in a news release.
According to the National Science Foundation’s website, the CAREER program offers early-career faculty prestigious awards to help them become role models and leaders in education and research. Paleobiologists study the biology of fossil animals and plants.

Huntley, who joined the Geological Sciences Department in 2013, said the money will go toward analysis and lab work, salary and tuition for graduate students and travel funds for field work.

He is researching the effect of sea level changes on coastal ecosystems, like lagoons and estuaries and also focuses on the direct relationship between increasing sea levels and how common parasites are.

Huntley said the funding will also make it possible to learn more about temperature changes and nutrient availability.

“I want to help unravel the past to better predict the future,” he said.

Huntley said he will develop an undergraduate course, called Geology of the Columns, because understanding the origin behind such a treasured symbol — the columns on Francis Quadrangle — will be beneficial to society.

“It has everything to do with how the Earth works and how we fit into it,” Huntley said.

The NSF CAREER project wants a tightly integrated research and education plan. Huntley said that by using a multifaceted approach, they can build upon the materials from undergraduate students at MU. “This will help provide more materials and meaningful lessons to teachers, hopefully trickling down to their (middle and high school) students,” he said.

Since arriving on campus, Huntley has been pleased with the support MU has provided. “I’m very grateful, and it has certainly translated into a payoff in their investment in my work,” he said.

Schiffbauer studies preservation, specifically at the Ediacaran-Cambrian transition and specializes in taphonomy (which deals with the processes of fossilization), biochemistry and paleobiology. His goal is to explore the rapid diversification of animals and the aftermath of the Cambrian Period, which took place about 500 million years ago.
“I think you can gain an appreciation for where animals came from and how much change there has been through the last 500 million years,” Schiffbauer said.

Schiffbauer received a grant this past summer to acquire a scanning electron microscope for the Department of Geological Sciences. After receiving that, funds were raised to purchase a microcomputed tomography X-ray microscope. These new devices will help Schiffbauer and his graduate students educate children.

Schiffbauer’s plan is to revise one of the courses he teaches, called Dawn of Animals. He hopes to turn the five-week, one-credit hour course into a semester-long, three-hour one.

He also wants to get other majors involved, especially education, to extend knowledge of the history of animals.

“A lot of kids have a background or an interest in things like dinosaurs,” Schiffbauer said. “We want to get them interested in the history of all animals. That’s kind of the goal of redesigning this course.”

After the redesign, Schiffbauer said he hopes to take his students into late elementary and early middle school classrooms around Columbia to educate children on the Cambrian Period. He sees this period as an essential part of learning about biology.

“The earlier we can get kids involved in STEM, the more likely we are going to increase STEM majors in college,” Schiffbauer said.

Though Schiffbauer, 38, and Huntley, 39, have separate areas of research, they have known each other since 2004. They were graduate students together at Virginia Tech, where they both earned their doctorates and ended up landing in the same place again at MU.

They agree on the importance of education and often collaborate on projects. Both Schiffbauer and Huntley’s graduate students have been encouraged to work together to gain resources from each other, Schiffbauer said.
“One of our goals together from the very beginning was to make this a top paleobiology program here at MU,” Huntley said. “This grant is a good step in getting us into that position.”

MU Student Health Center to start billing for office visits, psychology appointments

LIBBY MOELLER, 14 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — The MU Student Health Center will begin billing students for office visits starting July 1.

This change is tied to rising health-care costs, according to an email sent from the MU Student Health Center.

The student health fee will no longer cover psychiatry and psychology services, said MU spokeswoman Liz McCune. Students enrolled in more than six credit hours will still be required to include the fee when they pay tuition, though. For the spring semester, that fee was $102.

"Previously, students could have up to four visits with a psychologist or psychiatrist as a part of the student health service fee, and now those will be billed like an office visit with a co-pay," McCune said.

All medical consultations with MU Student Health Center providers, even those that do not lead to further medical procedures, will be billed to the student, McCune said.

"The fee was not keeping up with the cost of health care," McCune said. "Students can still go to get consultations. It’s just now it’ll be billed through their insurance. So if they have a co-pay, they’ll have to pay a co-pay when they go to the doctor."
Currently, the health fee covers consultations with the MU Student Health Center providers, as well as programs for health promotion and wellness, according to the MU Student Health Center website. The fee does not cover casting or splinting, stitches, lab tests or costs associated with referral appointments.

The portion of the student health fee that covers classes, organizations and additional services will not be affected by the billing change. Activities promoting healthy eating, exercise, stress management and more will continue, according to McCune.

“The Student Health Center will continue to do things like emergency management and public-safety events like the mumps clinics we had recently,” McCune said. ”They're also charged with records tracking, and they will continue doing that.”

In the past, certain medical procedures not covered by the fee would require referrals to other providers, McCune said. Starting in July, students will be able to have those procedures conducted through the MU Student Health Center with a form of payment.

"The folks at Student Health are optimistic that this is going to expand access to care for students because now they can conduct procedures if they're necessary, whereas before they could only provide consultations and provide medication,” McCune said.

Before the change, many students would wait until they went home to get procedures taken care of after consultations, McCune said.

"Say a student comes in and has a wart that they would like to have removed,” McCune said. "If they had to use liquid nitrogen to get rid of it, that would be considered a medical procedure. Then at that point that would no longer be covered through student health. They would either have to pay for the procedure or it would need to be billed to their insurance.”

By July, the MU Student Health Center will be a part of most major insurance networks, according to the email.

Students without insurance will still be able to use the health center after this change.
“Students who don’t have insurance will receive a deep discount for services provided, and the health center will work with them on payment,” McCune said. "Their (The MU Student Health Center) priority is making sure students receive the medical care that they need.”

The MU Student Health Center has been looking into these changes for several months, McCune said.

"We’re hopeful that this will be helpful to students because now they can have their health needs addressed at one time instead of having to break it up into pieces," she said.

Additional information about changes can be found on the MU Student Health Center website.

**MU may charge student fee to tackle mental health issues**


By Emily McCarter

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri is looking to combat mental health issues through the Student Services Enhancement Fee, which is designed to improve student access to mental health services.

According to the university, the fee, also known as Enhance Mizzou, would provide other benefits to MU’s student body, including expanded wireless access, longer library hours and more technology in learning spaces.
MU junior Jessica Soehlke has struggled with anxiety and depression most of her life. She said her mental illness was extremely hard to manage her sophomore year of college.

"I would be having panic attacks four nights a week, and that really affects how I do with school and how I am socially," Soehlke said. "The depression got a little bit worse with the anxiety."

Soehlke said people at MU’s Counseling Center helped her better understand her anxiety and depression.

"It really kind of was the pick-me-up that I needed," she said. "It's something that I really appreciate I was able to do."

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, about 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. experience mental illness each year. That's 43.8 million people. Only 41 percent of those with a mental health condition received mental health services last year.

If Enhance Mizzou is passed, the school said, it would add three full-time counselors to MU's Counseling Center. This would mean 15 extra hours of counseling services a day.

Soehlke said she supports the fee, since it took about four weeks for MU’s Counseling Center to set up an appointment for her.

"It had to be a month," she said. "I made a call and they were like 'All right, the next available date we have is this.'"

Enhance Mizzou Coordinator Hannah Feagan said she is confidant people struggling with mental health issues will benefit from Enhance Mizzou.

"I think it's really important that our counseling center stays completely up-to-date, and making sure that we have the absolute best ways that we can help students," she said.

Feagan said she realized some students might be opposed to the fee, because it means more money out of their pocket.

"I would argue that the fee is incredibly budget conscious from beginning to end," Feagan said. "It's been all about the student voice. I mean this was thrown together because of a satisfaction survey."

The fee would cost students $2.91 per credit hour with a maximum of $35 a semester. Tuition for undergraduate students is currently $276.20 per credit hour.

"At the end of the day, you're going to be losing services if you don't vote for Enhance Mizzou," Feagan said. "I hate that that's the reality of the situation, but it is."

Soehlke said there's a lot of denial that comes with mental illnesses. She encouraged those who are dealing with a it to not be ashamed and seek the appropriate help.
"It's something that we want everyone in Columbia and the community itself to be aware of as well, as far as how much mental health is important and needs to be addressed," Soehlke said.

Voting for the fee is open March 6-8 to MU students enrolled in courses on campus. Feagan said the Division of Student Affairs should know the results after voting ends March 8 at 6 p.m.

**Colleges do a good job training Missouri's future teachers, new state ratings say**

By Kristen Taketa St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 8 hrs ago

**MU mention in infographic linked at the end of the story.**

Most of Missouri’s educator preparation programs are adequately preparing teachers for the classroom, according to a new ratings system released by the state’s education department Tuesday.

The first-ever ratings are designed to place added scrutiny on the education of future teachers, using an approach similar to the one used to grade the effectiveness of public elementary and high schools.

“Everyone’s being held accountable,” said David Hough, dean of the Missouri State University College of Education. “We just live in an age of accountability.”

In grading various certification programs offered by Missouri colleges and universities, the state ranked each program it scored into four tiers. The first tier is the best, and the fourth is the worst.

No teaching college in the state had a program that ranked in the worst tier. Only five institutions — Southeast Missouri State University, Northwest Missouri State University, William Woods University, College of the Ozarks and Missouri Western State University — had one certification program that was ranked in the second to last tier. Even so, most of those institutions had many other high-ranking programs.
Generally, the universities that produce the most teachers had the bulk of their programs ranking in the top tier.

The Missouri Board of Education will discuss the scores at its monthly meeting next Tuesday.

**The criteria**

Missouri’s educator prep annual performance reports are based on two things: the program participants’ academic performance and how well graduates did in their first year of teaching.

The score for the former is based on program participants’ average grade-point average and what percentage of students passed certification exams within two attempts.

Scores for the latter are based on surveys of first-year educators and their principals or supervisors. The surveys ask whether educators were adequately prepared to work in schools and whether educators were satisfied with their preparation programs. More weight is given to the academic performance of program participants than the surveys.

As it is, the grading system leaves out any measure of the academic performance of teachers’ students.

It also only focuses on first-year teachers and doesn’t consider whether teachers leave the profession soon after becoming a teacher, a problem that is especially apparent in struggling schools.

About 46 percent of teachers who started teaching in 2011 left the classroom before finishing five years on the job, [according to a 2016 state report on teacher recruitment and retention](https://example.com).

There are no consequences this year for programs that score in a low tier, said Gale Hairston, director of educator preparation with the state education department. The department will decide what those consequences would be for next year’s annual performance reports.

This new annual performance report system for Missouri has been in the works for five years. An updated grading system is expected to roll out in 2019.
The effort is a rare moment of collaboration between higher education institutions and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The department said it worked with a group of about 10 educator program providers to build this grading system.

“They have been bold enough to think really hard and engage the universities along the way,” said Mary-Dean Barringer, strategic initiative director for education workforce at the national Council of Chief State School Officers, of Missouri. The council is leading the new accountability push for teaching programs.

“They have really been one of the few states to get out early with an accountability system, not because it was required by the federal government,” she said. “They did it because it’s the right thing to do for teachers.”

**More accountability**

Higher education institutions generally enjoy more independence and less public scrutiny than elementary and secondary public schools. When schools and their teachers are blamed for poor performance, the preparation programs that produced those teachers typically are not.

“There wasn’t a whole lot of accountability other than the requirements by the federal government, because public institutions get federal dollars,” Barringer said.

But now, states are increasingly scrutinizing how teachers are being prepared because the needs of public education have changed dramatically, Barringer said.

Not only have states adopted more rigorous academic standards — whether they are Common Core or variations — but the kinds of students that fill most public schools have changed. More public students are minorities, live in poverty and speak English as a second language. Many have special needs.

“Not only has the content changed. The diversity of students that teachers need to be expected to work with fundamentally changed,” Barringer said.

Missouri created performance standards for educator preparation programs in 2012. This annual performance report system is the accountability tool that will allow the state to enforce those standards.
Missouri is one of the first states to publicly release a grading system like this one. In the past few years, it has started requiring teaching candidates to pass a performance test, not just content tests, for certification, unlike other states.

Officials at some Missouri teaching programs are also working to increase their rigor by making sure students know how to teach, not just what to teach.

For example, at Missouri State University, a relatively new teacher internship program has students complete a yearlong clinical experience of teaching in schools, not just the state-required minimum of 12 weeks. The program also has competitive admissions standards to attract highly motivated teaching candidates.

“The No. 1 criticism of higher education programs is it takes teachers a year or two to be competent on the job,” said Hough, who is a member of the Missouri Advisory Board on Educator Preparation. “And people want them competent on Day 1.”


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**Bright Flight scholars receive less money than originally awarded by state**

By Zia Kelly

*When freshman Reed Wilson’s father opened up her tuition bill from MU late last semester, he was surprised to find that it was $400 higher than he was expecting.*

Wilson, a Bright Flight scholar, said she was not aware that a state funding issue left her short almost 27 percent of her guaranteed $1,500 semesterly scholarship until it was reflected in her tuition.
Wilson is one of the 6,685 students in the state of Missouri and one of the 1,964 MU students who receives the Bright Flight scholarship — a $3,000 annual scholarship for in-state students who scored a 30 or greater on their ACT.

Because of a larger-than-anticipated increase of students who qualified for the scholarship for the 2016-2017 academic year, the original appropriation from the state for the program did not cover the cost of providing each student with the maximum scholarship award of $1,500 per semester.

Bright Flight scholars received $1,500 last semester and $1,100 for this semester so far. Liz Coleman, Missouri Department of Higher Education spokeswoman, said the department has requested an additional $1.5 million to cover the rest of the semesterly amount that the students were originally promised.

However, neither the department — nor the students — will find out if they will receive that money until April or May. Coleman said in an email that they will not know until the state legislature votes on the 2018 fiscal year budget toward the end of their session.

Kate Daino, another Bright Flight scholar, said that while one semester will not significantly affect her ability to pay tuition, further cuts would.

“If they just cut it back this semester and bring it back I’ll be fine, but if it’s over all four years I am going to have to come up with some extra money to cover that,” she said.

For the students who qualify for the scholarship, Bright Flight can be a central part of why they choose to attend MU.

Daino said that though she looked at schools out of state, she ultimately decided to go somewhere closer to home because the scholarship made it the most feasible option.

“I did decide to go to school in Missouri because of Bright Flight, and that was really my only deciding factor,” she said.

Wilson also said that receiving the scholarship contributed to her choice to choose MU over an out-of-state school.

“I think I kind of got cheated out of the money that I thought I had gotten myself,” she said. “I was really proud of the fact that I had gotten the scholarship in the first place, and then being defunded was a little upsetting.”

As the number of students who qualify for Bright Flight increases, it is unclear whether each recipient will continue to receive the full $3,000 per year.

Since 2014, there has been a nearly 10 percent increase in the number of Missouri high school students who receive the scholarship, and the Department of Higher Education projects that 350 more students will qualify for the scholarship next year.
Though Gov. Eric Greitens proposed a $4 million increase to the state’s scholarship allocation — which would provide nearly the full amount for all 7,035 projected recipients — it isn’t certain whether this will be passed in the state’s budget until it is voted on by the legislature.
EDITORIAL

THE TRIBUNE'S VIEW

Coach Anderson sets record for class

As this year's University of Missouri Tigers basketball season neared the end of its schedule, the inevitable became apparent: Head Coach Kim Anderson would not survive into the next season.

His teams had a terrible record, but the same can't be said for the coach. Anderson might have set a new mark for losses on the court combined with victory on the job. As the program disintegrated week after week, fans never stormed the barricades asking for the coach's head. By every measure except game wins, his tenure was a success.

Of course, winning games is the overwhelming measure of success in today's big-time college athletics. That Anderson went through record-breaking losing seasons while still retaining such high esteem among peers and fans is remarkable.

In recent weeks we kept hearing about Anderson from other coaches in the SEC, not just sympathy but genuine appreciation for his accomplishment. Saddled with the heaviest baggage one can imagine, Anderson kept coaching and recruiting and insisting on high standards for his players, who occasionally rose up to beat a better team. In most games the Tigers were competitive.

Anderson's outmatched minions played with heart and energy and never gave up. How could they and their coach keep daubers up?

Tribune Sports Editor Joe Walljasper reminded us that tough times are more likely to reveal than create the character of a person. The most precious asset Kim Anderson brought to his job as head coach at MU was his character. He entered a field littered with unexpected adversity and kept going as each new hurdle appeared, enough to make almost anyone angry and bitter. Not Anderson.

Until the end, he proved he loves Missouri. He would have gladly remained here and kept slogging, sooner or later bound for success.

He was only a few good recruits away from turning the tide. Shall we condemn him for failing that test? Even at Missouri, where almost everybody wanted his success, he could not survive the outgoing tide. That he was given three years to fight the fight indicates where everyone wanted this to end up.

HJW III

"Any man more right than his neighbors constitutes a majority of one."

Henry David Thoreau
Here’s a Roundup of the Latest Campus-Climate Incidents Early in the Trump Presidency

By Chris Quintana  March 7, 2017

Anti-Semitic vandalism and white-nationalist propaganda are on the rise at colleges nationally, according to a recent report by the Anti-Defamation League. And in recent weeks, Jewish community centers across the country have received bomb threats and Jewish cemeteries in Missouri and Pennsylvania have been vandalized. Following is a collection of the latest reports detailing such incidents on college campuses.

This roundup continues coverage begun in November, after the presidential election. Organizations that track hate crimes have seen a rise in reports of such crimes since then. The Southern Poverty Law Center, for one, reported hundreds of hate-motivated incidents, many on college campuses, in the days and weeks following the election of Donald J. Trump as president. The center also reported that in a survey of 10,000 educators, largely at elementary and secondary schools, 90 percent said that their institution’s climate had been negatively affected by the election.

Some of the episodes, on campuses and off, involved references to Mr. Trump, who in a speech last week to the U.S. Congress denounced such incidents. “While we may be a nation divided on policies,” he said, “we are a country that stands united in condemning hate and evil in all of its very ugly forms.”

Here’s the latest report:

March 7, 2017

The San Diego Union-Tribune reported on Monday that University of San Diego personnel in the past month had discovered swastikas posted in a campus bathroom. And a Jewish professor
at the university recently told the newspaper that someone had left human feces on his front lawn following the election of President Trump.

Officials at Texas State University on Friday found and removed a collection of white-nationalist posters found on the San Marcos campus, according to the Austin American-Statesman. After the election, a series of pro-Trump signs popped up around the university that threatened the “arrest and torture” of “deviant university leaders.”

Also on Friday, Middlebury College saw a protest over a controversial speaker — Charles A. Murray, whose 1994 book suggested that genetics could at least in part explain the achievement gap between black and white students — turn violent. That scuffle left one professor injured and created a slew of headlines for the Vermont college.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported on March 2 that the police had arrested a University of California at Berkeley student in connection with the vandalism of a Republican student group’s sign. The same group posted video on March 1 of someone destroying their promotional material on the campus.

In the City of Berkeley, a pro-Trump rally on Saturday turned violent following conflict between protesters and supporters of the president, according to The Washington Post. At least 10 people were arrested, and seven were injured, according to the police. The month before, a protest of the controversial speaker Milo Yiannopoulos was canceled following riotous protests on the campus.

On February 27, the police at the University of Missouri at Columbia arrested two students in connection with harassing anti-Semitic comments made toward another student, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
Author, investor to speak at
Reynolds Journalism Institute

Investor Jeff Gramm, author of "Dear Chairman: Boardroom Battles and the Rise of Shareholder Activism," will discuss shareholder activism during a question-and-answer talk at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in the Fred Smith Forum at the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute at the University of Missouri.

Gramm will be joined by local investor Brent Beshore, and they will discuss some of the battles that have shaped corporate America, the institute said in a news release. Coffee, cookies and a book-signing will start at 3 p.m. before the talk.

The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required at https://www.rjonline.org/events/jeffgramm.
Professors Should Not be Paid to Proselytize

NO MU MENTION

By Walter Williams

While college administrators and professors accept disgraceful behavior, we as taxpayers, donors and parents should not foot the bill. Let's look at some of that behavior.

A University of Washington Tacoma Writing Center press release told students that expecting Americans to use proper grammar perpetuates racism. The University of Nebraska Omaha will host a workshop for "anti-racist allies" to develop "action plans" that confront America's "foundation of systemic oppression" in the context of "the current political climate." The workshop was inspired by professor Tammie Kennedy's recent book, titled "Rhetorics of Whiteness." She will lead a discussion on "taking action against white supremacy."

Black students at the University of Michigan demand campus officials provide them with "a permanent designated space on central campus for Black students and students of color to organize and do social justice work."

Bob Lange is an associate professor emeritus of physics and an adjunct associate professor at Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management. He says, "It is not terrorism to kill representatives of a government that you are opposed to." His remarks were reported by Canary Mission, a group of students who document people and groups who are promoting hatred of the USA, Israel and the Jewish people, particularly on American college campuses. It reports that Lange maintained that the 2012 terrorist attacks on the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya — which killed four people and injured 10 others — were "not terrorism."

Orange Coast College suspended Caleb O'Neil for violating an obscure school policy against recording classroom lectures. It's what he recorded that was disturbing to the college administration. He recorded a human sexuality professor, Olga Perez Stable Cox, spending class time telling her students that Donald Trump's election was an "act of terrorism" because he is a "white supremacist" and Vice President Mike Pence "is one of the most anti-gay humans in this country." Additionally, the professor asked all of the Trump supporters in the classroom to stand up and be accounted for. In a relatively rare incidence of the education establishment's doing the right thing, the Coast Community College District's board of trustees overrode the college president and rescinded O'Neil's suspension and other sanctions. What the board did not do was to sanction Cox for being a thug and bullying her students.
Commentator Dennis Prager recently wrote a column titled "Why Professors Object to Being Recorded." Prager says: "Our colleges and universities (and an increasing number of high schools and elementary schools) have been transformed from educational institutions into indoctrination institutions. With the left-wing takeover of universities, their primary aim has become graduating as many leftists as possible." He adds: "Most professors objecting to being recorded know on some level that they are persuasive only when their audience is composed largely of very young people just out of high school. They know that if their ideas are exposed to adults, they may be revealed as intellectual lightweights." These professors know that they are persuasive only when their audience is composed of very young people with minds full of mush. If their ideas are exposed to more mature adults, they will be seen as quacks, hustlers and charlatans.

By the way, I've taught graduate and undergraduate economic theory for 36 years at George Mason University. At the beginning of each semester, I invite students to record my lectures. I have no idea who has listened to the lectures or where the recordings wind up. But I challenge anyone to find a lecture in which I proselytized students to my political or personal values. While professorial proselytization is accepted at most universities, I believe that to use one's classroom to push one's personal beliefs, particularly on immature students, is both immoral and academic dishonesty.

What's going on at the nation's colleges represents a threat to both liberty and academic excellence. It is a gross dereliction of duty for legislators, donors and decent Americans to allow it to continue.

Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University. To find out more about Walter E. Williams and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.