



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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Choi promotes free speech on University of Missouri campuses

He does not want speech on campus that is hurtful or spiteful.

But University of Missouri System President Mun Choi says on The Tiger Radio Network it's important to allow a wide range of opinions.

“Free speech is, really, the hallmark of democracy,” said Choi, [who took over as UM system president last year](#). “And, at the University of Missouri, we want to train students who are going to be proponents of democracy.”

[Mizzou's new free speech regulations took effect in June](#). That was in response to [racial demonstrations on campus in 2015](#).

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

WashU, SLU move up in U.S. News rankings while state schools drop down

By ASHLEY JOST

ST. LOUIS • Swap out the self-congratulatory banners and advertisements — the new U.S. News and World Report rankings are in.

You won't find Faber College on the list of top national schools, but you might find that two St. Louis institutions have climbed their way up a spot or two.

Washington University moved up to No. 18 in the "2018 Best National Universities" list, tied with Notre Dame University in Indiana. That's a one-spot jump from No. 19 on the 2017 list.

Meanwhile, St. Louis University climbed two spots, from No. 96 to No. 94, tied with two other schools.

Otherwise, many of the Missouri schools on the list took a hit this year.

The University of Missouri-Columbia dropped nine spots to No. 120 from No. 111 on that same National Universities list. Actually, the University of Missouri campuses in Rolla and Kansas City took hits on that list, too, dropping six spots in Kansas City and one in Rolla.

Maryville University dropped a spot to 165, tying with the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, as well as four other schools.

But a few days before the rankings dropped into the inbox of education reporters around the globe, a report from Politico called the methodology into question.

The Politico article argues that several of the weighted factors that the U.S. News and World Report uses forces schools to favor wealthier students.

Among the factors, which carry varying weight in the ranking system, include student performance on standardized admissions tests, which are tied to family income. Another pointed out by Politico is alumni giving, which incentivizes schools to accept the children of alumni who donate in order to keep them happy.

But the list went on. [Check out the story](#) for yourself and keep it in mind as you weigh out the value of rankings in picking a college with your student.



89.3

YOUR SOURCE FOR NPR NEWS

UM System President Mun Choi Responds To Campus Climate Survey: 'We Can Do Better'

By ELLE MOXLEY

University of Missouri-Kansas City leaders on Monday acknowledged the mixed results of a survey about the atmosphere on campus.

The majority of UMKC students, faculty and staff rated their campus “comfortable” or “very comfortable” in the most recent climate study.

But 17 percent of those who took the survey last October said they personally had experienced “exclusionary, intimidating, offensive and/or hostile conduct” because of their ethnicity, age, gender or gender identity.

And 34 percent of respondents said they had seriously considered leaving UMKC.

“While we can take comfort in the fact that our survey results mirror those at other universities and those in society, we have to ask ourselves if that is good enough,” University of Missouri System President Mun Choi said at a town hall-style meeting on campus. “I think the answer is a resounding no. We can do better.”

Susan Rankin, one of the consultants who conducted the study, noted that an unusually high number of people participated in the survey: UMKC had a response rate of 25 percent, she said, while most commuter colleges (UMKC remains such a campus, despite efforts to rebrand itself as an urban campus) have single-digit response rates.

Interim Chancellor and Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer said diverse and inclusive educational institutions attract top students, faculty and staff.

“Diversity is the recognition that every human being is a unique individual who is different and has something to offer,” Bichelmeyer said. “Inclusion is creating an organization that values people and allows them to grow and flourish into the unique individuals they are.”

Students who seriously considered leaving UMKC reported doing so because they lacked a social life or sense of belonging. Employees considered leaving because of low pay, increased workloads and limited opportunities for advancement – bad news as UMKC faces a perilous budget situation due to declining state aid.

Last month, Bichelmeyer announced a hard hiring freeze; that news followed system-wide layoffs in May. Yet her tone at the town hall was optimistic.

“You’re here because you value what UMKC is to this city,” Bichelmeyer said. “I can’t ask you with any good conscience as interim chancellor and provost to work harder. I have to help you work smarter.”

Town halls for the other campuses in the UM System are scheduled throughout the week.

MISSOURIAN

Plan to review MU academic programs includes measuring success

BY SAMANTHA KOESTER

In its initial report, released Monday, a task force created to evaluate MU academic programs set forth what standards and process it will use to determine each program’s success.

The MU Task Force on Academic Program Analysis, Enhancement, and Opportunities was assembled by Provost Garnett Stokes to review academic programs and recommend whether to invest in the programs, combine them with other programs or cut them entirely.

The reviews are taking place amid deep budget cuts and pressure to uphold excellence within the university. Although MU already eliminated several hundred jobs and some programs, the reviews could lead to more cuts.

To begin with, data will be drawn in the following areas:

Number of graduates in a program and student credit hours generated by it;

Application and acceptances rates for graduate programs;

Program rankings and accreditation status;

Academic analytics data for programs and departments;

External funding data at the departmental and school or college level, including yearly expenditures, overall award and proposal amounts;

Future occupational projections for the state and beyond;

An audit of degree programs by the state Department of Higher Education.

In addition, by studying commitment to research and the grants received for it, the task force can compare the productivity of MU programs against those of competing universities.

The task force also intends to gather information on diversity efforts, the cost of resources required by departments and data that indicates potential demand and interest from future students.

The 17-member task force is chaired by Cooper Drury, associate dean in the College of Arts and Science and a political science professor, and Matthew Martens, faculty fellow for academic programs in the Office of the Provost and professor of educational, school and counseling psychology.

The deadline for a final report is Jan. 15, 2018.

MISSOURIAN



Engineering professor fired for conduct, not scholarship, MU emphasizes

BY RACHEL MCKEE TAYLOR 21 hrs ago ([0](#))

MU leaders sent an email to the campus community Monday morning reiterating the conditions and citing the evidence supporting the firing of former chemical engineering professor Galen Suppes.

In the email, Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said Suppes was “not terminated due to his academic scholarship” but because of his conduct toward students, faculty and staff, which violated the rules of the University of Missouri System.

Suppes was sent a notice on Sept. 2, 2016, of the charges that set in motion what the university calls the “dismissal for cause” proceeding, according to a release from the MU News Bureau. He fought it, and the MU Campus Faculty Committee on Tenure held nine hearings totaling over 50 hours in the case. In May of this year, the committee unanimously voted to recommend Suppes’ termination.

Seeking to stop his dismissal, Suppes sued the university in state court; that suit was dismissed in November. He then filed an appeal with the Missouri Court of Appeals, but that court upheld his dismissal in June 2017.

In a separate case, last week a Boone County jury found him liable for \$600,000 in damages to the UM System in a lawsuit over intellectual property that Suppes developed while working at MU.

The news release from Cartwright Monday morning also tried to dispel the notion that Suppes' dismissal was somehow linked to the intellectual property dispute with the university.



University of Missouri makes public statement about professor's firing

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

The University of Missouri on Monday released a statement explaining the rationale behind firing former tenured engineering professor Galen Suppes.

The statement was released several days after MU won a \$600,000 judgement against Suppes in a Boone County civil case. MU had sued Suppes on breach of contract and other counts, alleging his actions spoiled a deal to market a process for making propylene glycol. Suppes was fired in May, and he lost appeals of his firing in a different court and before the Board of Curators.

“Dr. Suppes’ misconduct has impacted many of our students, staff and faculty over a very long period of time,” College of Engineering Dean Elizabeth Lobo said in the statement. “As educators and employers, we want to promote an environment where individuals can thrive. We could not allow his behavior to continue impacting our community. After numerous attempts to counsel Dr. Suppes over the last several years, I became convinced that this action had to be taken.”

MU also released reports about Suppes’ firing, including a report from the faculty committee charged with reviewing his tenure and another from the Board of Curators. Provost Garnett Stokes in the statement said MU’s policy is not to release information about why employees leave the university, but officials made an exception in this case “because we believe it is in the interest of the public and our campus community to know the details of the dismissal, and because Dr. Suppes himself has made public statements about the matter.”

Suppes had criticized the university for filing a lawsuit over the propylene glycol deal, saying the move was meant to prevent a hearing on a grievance he filed in 2008.



MU announces firing of engineering professor

College cites misconduct by tenured faculty member

By: Joe McLean

COLUMBIA, Mo. - **After a lengthy court battle with chemical engineering professor Dr. Galen Suppes, MU officially announced his firing from the college Monday morning.**

"Dr. Suppes' misconduct has impacted many of our students, staff and faculty over a very long period of time," Elizabeth Loba, dean of the College of Engineering, said. "As educators and employers, we want to promote an environment where individuals can thrive. We could not allow his behavior to continue impacting our community. After numerous attempts to counsel Dr. Suppes over the last several years, I became convinced that this action had to be taken."

The termination, which was finalized on Aug. 18, comes after [a jury ruled in favor of the university](#) in its intellectual property case against Suppes.

"It has been our policy for many years not to release information about why individuals leave the university," Provost Garnett S. Stokes said. "We have decided to make an exception in this case because we believe it is in the interest of the public and our campus community to know the details of the dismissal, and because Dr. Suppes himself has made public statements about the matter. We value tenure very highly at Mizzou, and it is only in unusual cases that we believe this type of action is warranted. By his own conduct, Dr. Suppes was interfering with the ability of our students to learn, our staff to work, and our faculty to teach, conduct their research, and engage in service activities. As a result, we believed it was our duty to take this action to improve Mizzou's working and learning climate."



MU fires professor it won lawsuit against

By: Annie Hammock

COLUMBIA - **The University of Missouri has fired a chemical engineering professor it won a lawsuit against last week.**

A jury found Galen Suppes violated the university's intellectual property rights by interfering with the marketing of an innovative antifreeze product. The jury awarded MU \$600,000.

In a statement Monday, the university's chancellor said Suppes was "terminated for cause" because he "engaged in conduct toward students, faculty, and staff that violated University rules aimed at protecting our work and learning environment."

Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said the dismissal for cause process outlined in the university's Collected Rules and Regulations lasted 11 months and included nine hearings. A panel of 12 tenured professors voted unanimously to dismiss Suppes.

"Dr. Suppes was not terminated due to his academic scholarship. He has never been a victim of censorship, nor has anyone at our University ever taken any action against him based on the content of his scholarship," Cartwright said.

A lawsuit by Dr. Suppes seeking to stop the dismissal for cause process was dismissed by a state trial court and the Missouri Court of Appeals, Cartwright noted.

The engineering dean received "numerous complaints and concerns from colleagues" about Suppes' behavior, Cartwright said.

"After years of counseling Dr. Suppes about his behavior, it was our duty to take this action to improve Mizzou's working and learning climate," Cartwright said.

Suppes was a chemical engineering professor of 16 years.

The university was signed on to an exclusive deal with Senergy Chemical to produce a type of propylene glycol made from soy diesel byproducts, a project that Suppes and his company, Renewable Alternatives, were involved in.

The lawsuit said Suppes:

- Delayed the business relationship between UM, Missouri Soybeans and Senergy Chemical
- Refused to recognize the University's rights to the product
- Attempted to profit from the invention himself
- Suppes' defense team countered by saying it was negligence and incompetence on the part of the university and its business partners that eventually tanked the deal.

The university's lawyer, Russell Jones, said Suppes ignored his employment contract to sell the product on his own.



Why some UMKC students, staff and faculty feel dissatisfied on campus

BY KATY BERGEN AND MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

The Kansas City Star

SEPTEMBER 11, 2017 7:17 PM

More than half of the UMKC employees who responded to a campus climate survey said that low salaries, limited career opportunities and too much work prompted them to consider leaving the university last year.

Students who responded to the survey and reported relationship violence more frequently said they experienced an incident during their first few weeks of freshman year.

And at least 700 people — 17 percent of faculty, staff and students — reported hostile and offensive behavior from others that made them feel excluded among the school community, often because of their ethnicity.

While data collected by a consulting group for UMKC indicates that 80 percent of students, faculty and staff feel comfortable on campus, results of the survey, released on Monday, highlighted shortcomings in how the university promotes inclusion and equity.

The 120-question campus-wide survey was available to faculty, students and staff online and on paper. It was conducted from Oct. 4 to Nov. 4, 2016.

The survey received 4,650 responses, a roughly 25 percent response rate. Among the respondents were 25 percent of the white, students, faculty and staff on the UMKC campus, 23 percent of the black population and 17 percent of the Hispanic population, 33 percent of the Asian population.

Education officials from the University of Missouri System and UMKC said the survey will help officials improve the school environment in the wake of cuts to higher education, protests at the University of Missouri, and calls for university administrators to be more transparent.

UMKC interim Chancellor and Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer said “equity and inclusion should frame all of what we do.” She said the university will use focus groups, review policies and continue to enforce new initiatives such as a recently developed faculty code of conduct to improve weaknesses in campus culture.

“It’s you who has to help us answer these questions in totality,” Bichelmeyer told the members of the UMKC campus community who participated Monday in the university’s town hall style release of the survey results.

The last time UMKC assessed the social climate on the Kansas City campus was in 2006 when a consultant from The Pennsylvania State University held small groups with students, faculty, staff

and administrators and concluded then that the classroom was the most racist place on the campus.

The most recent assessment looks much deeper at problems with campus climate.

Consultants who've given similar surveys at colleges and universities said the results at UMKC are in line with what they have seen elsewhere.

Surveys were also done at the three other campuses in the UM System. Those results will be released later this week.

System President Mun Choi, who attended the UMKC results announcement, said that "some of the findings will be positive, some indicate we have work to do."

A report on the social climate of the overall system is set to be released on Monday.

"This wasn't a diversity study — that's not to say diversity is not important," said Emil Cunningham, a consultant with Rankin & Associates, which analyzed the survey results.

"This is really about equity and inclusion."

University of Missouri surveys to be discussed at forums this week

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

University of Missouri leaders this week will discuss the results of a campus climate survey conducted in 2016.

The university said in a news release that the University of Missouri System and all four of its campuses — MU, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Missouri University of Science and Technology and the University of Missouri-St. Louis — will hold town halls to discuss the results of surveys conducted by Rankin & Associates in November 2016. The surveys were prompted by students protests over race issues in November 2015.

The UM System town hall will be held from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Tuesday, at the Old Alumni Center. MU will hold meetings in Jesse Auditorium from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Tuesday and 12:30 to 2 p.m. Wednesday.

The surveys assessed learning, living and working environments at the UM System and on each of the campuses, the release said. Findings will be used to help develop an inclusive environment which values each individual, the release said.

the **maneater**

MU associate professor Catherine Rymph's new book about the history of American foster care to come out in October

By MORGAN SMITH

Associate history professor Catherine Rymph's new book, "Raising Government Children: A History of Foster Care and the American Welfare State," details the history of the 20th century foster care system in America and will be released this October.

Introduced to the subject through having family members connected to the system, Rymph's second book is the first to document one of the country's more hidden fractions of the welfare state.

"I wanted to know something about what it was like in the past because I knew a little about what it was like in the present," Rymph said. "I tried to find a history of the system, but there was no history."

A nine-year project, Rymph's research follows foster care's evolution beginning with its formation in the 1930s through the end of the 1970s.

Two archival collections make up most of the primary sources that shaped the book, one of which includes the standard practices of foster families documented by the Child Welfare League of America.

The second collection is from the records of the Children's Bureau and includes letters sent by mainly women involved with the system. Written by both mothers and foster mothers, the letters often asked for help in various situations.

"I got a lot of really gripping, really personal firsthand accounts of this subject, which I didn't expect to find," Rymph said. "Case files are all closed to the public."

Rymph said these letters made it possible for her to tell a more "human" story.

"I think currently there are a lot of negative feelings about foster children and foster parents," Rymph said. "One of the things I tried to do in this book is help people try to understand what this system is like for them."

Her work explores the functional problems of having a social welfare provision subsidized through private families and how lack of funds along with overworked caseworkers have always added to inherent flaws.

"There was never some period in the past when people thought [foster care] was working well," Rymph said. "It's always been a system that no one thought really served the children it was supposed to serve."

Graduate student Sean Rost assisted Rymph in some of her research by searching through newspaper advertisements and classifieds that mentioned foster care from various cities over the course of two semesters.

"She gave me the guide points for the research, but she thought I would be looking for a needle in a haystack," Rost said.

After uncovering various pieces of information, the two continued to email and meet to share sources from new cities as they continued their search.

Rymph's colleague, postdoctoral teaching fellow in history Cassandra Yacovazzi, assisted in the completion of the book's index and appreciates how the book illustrates the "complexity" of the foster care system.

The work includes research examining how gender roles and unfulfilled expectations of how the welfare state would be today have each played their part in where the program now stands.

"Dr. Rymph's work has really changed my perspective on the origins and development of foster care and the very hopeful and optimistic approach that those who developed [the foster care system] had," Yacovazzi said.

Yacovazzi said the book touches many people's lives, even those with no connection to the system directly.

"Her book raises the question of what our responsibility is to the community and the children in the community in which we live," Yacovazzi said.

Rymph's own personal attachment to the topic has made the research and creation of the now-finished product even more illuminating.

"It's helped me to think a lot about how things have changed, what's at stake really," Rymph said.

The book is being published by the University of North Carolina Press and is available for pre-order on its website as well as on Amazon.

Rymph will speak Oct. 20 at Jesse Hall 410 at 3:30 p.m. as a Kinder Institute Faculty Advisory Council member about her new book. The event will serve as both a part of Kinder Institute's colloquium series and a launch party.

"I certainly hope that people who read it will think more about what foster care means and what foster parenting means," Rymph said. "I think it's a lot of people trying to do their best in an imperfect system."

KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS

Beard says he regrets conduct, accepts responsibility

By JASON HUNSICKER

A Kirksville business owner says he is accepting responsibility for his actions after pleading guilty to defrauding a University of Missouri fraternity of nearly \$400,000.

Burt L. Beard, of Kirksville and one of the owners of Beard's Decorating Center, pleaded guilty Thursday to one count of bank fraud in U.S. District Court in Jefferson City.

According to the plea agreement, Beard agreed to plead guilty to bank fraud and "admits he knowingly committed this offense, and is, in fact, guilty of this offense."

He faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison, a fine up to \$1 million, an order of restitution and supervised release for the class B felony.

His sentencing hearing has not yet been scheduled.

Beard provided the following statement to the Daily Express when reached Monday:

"I very much regret my conduct and accept responsibility for my conduct. This was a personal mistake that in no way involved our family business, Beard's Decorating Center, or Kirksville or Adair County. I hope and pray that this unfortunate action will not undermine the century-long service that the Beard family has provided northeast Missouri. As a family, we have already received an unbelievable amount of love and support, and for that we are truly blessed and appreciative."

The plea agreement states that between March 2008 and Aug. 2014, Beard defrauded the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at the University of Missouri of more than \$380,000. Acting as volunteer treasurer, he wrote himself more than 150 checks, claiming they were "reimbursement of personal loans to SAE for direct payment to vendors by himself."

"When asked for copies of his personal checks, Beard supplied copies of checks to fictitious vendors or existing vendors that did not have an account receivable for that amount or during that period," the filing states.

As treasurer, Beard was responsible for all financial duties for the fraternity, including maintaining the house, paying vendors and collecting rent checks.

When a new slate of officers was elected in fall 2014 and the transition began from Beard to a new treasurer, evidence of the fraud began to emerge. The new treasurer attempted to verify banking activity and found several inconsistencies.

The fraternity then hired a forensic accounting company and an investigation followed. Beard was unable to substantiate the loans he claimed he made to the fraternity. The company attempted to track down vendors Beard claimed he had worked with, but was unable to find most of them. Others were out of state or did not sell the products or services that were claimed.

In all, the company found nearly \$415,000 in checks Beard issued to himself. Beard could prove he actually paid out less than \$35,000 on behalf of the fraternity.

Beard had initially told investigators that vendors did not trust that the fraternity had funds to pay them, which is why he wrote checks to them from himself and then issued himself reimbursements.

The case was turned over to the FBI and Beard was interviewed last December. When confronted with the findings, documents state he said, "I haven't done anything illegal to my knowledge."

Rumors of the case had run rampant in Kirksville for weeks, but the case was kept from all U.S. court records until the weekend. Beard pleaded guilty Thursday in U.S. District Court in Jefferson City, according to court records now appearing online. However, neither his case nor the associated charges had appeared prior to the date. His appearance was also kept off the official court docket for U.S. federal courts in Missouri.

Don Ledford, public affairs officer with the Office of the U.S. Attorney - Western District of Missouri, said because Beard waived the right for a grand jury proceeding and had informed prosecutors he planned to plead guilty, he wasn't officially charged until his appearance in court Thursday. As a result, the case did not exist until that day.

Ledford said the Office of Probation will conduct a pre-sentence investigation and prepare a report for the judge. Once that report is delivered, a sentencing hearing will be scheduled.

Ledford said that process could take a few months to complete.

That document will contain information including specific findings on how the stolen funds were spent and how much restitution is owed.

Kirksville man pleads guilty to defrauding University of Missouri fraternity

By CAITLIN CAMPBELL

A Kirksville man faces up to 30 years in prison and a \$1 million fine after he pleaded guilty in federal court to defrauding a University of Missouri fraternity.

Burt Beard, 62, a former MU student and business owner in Kirksville, waived his right to a grand jury and pleaded guilty to charges of bank fraud last week before U.S. Magistrate Judge Willie J. Epps. Between March 2008 and August 2014, Beard defrauded fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon of at least \$380,502, according to documents from the U.S. Western District Court of Missouri.

The fraud is unrelated to an MU investigation into potential misappropriation of Greek Life funds. Beard's bank fraud affected SAE, for which he was the volunteer treasurer between 2000 and 2014, according to a court news release.

Fraternities and sororities generally keep their money separate from university funds, MU spokesman Christian Basi said. Any money involved in the scheme would not have been public dollars, he said.

The embezzlement scheme occurred while the local SAE chapter was suspended from MU's campus. University officials booted the frat off campus in April 2008 because of a string of conduct violations. The organization resumed regular activities in fall 2014, which is when the fraud was discovered.

It is unclear where the money Beard stole came from, but court documents said he was in charge of financial duties related to maintaining the house, paying various vendors and collecting rent checks. There were no active SAE members to pay dues or otherwise spend money during the fraternity's hiatus, but he would have still accepted checks for those purposes on behalf of the organization.

While SAE was absent from campus, the chapter's home on Stewart Road was rented out to other fraternities. In spring 2013, men reestablishing the fraternity chapter at MU raised money to give their historic home, the former Welch Military Academy, a \$3 million renovation.

The fraternity's new members assigned oversight of their finances to someone other than Beard in fall 2014, which is when red flags appeared, according to a court news release. When Beard was hesitant to share his financial records, the group hired a forensic accounting company to investigate.

SAE members and Greek Life representatives did not respond to requests for comment.

Beard wrote himself more than 150 checks that he claimed were to reimburse himself for direct payments to vendors he made during the six year scheme, court documents state. Financial records showed otherwise.

The forensic accounting company calculated that Beard wrote \$414,979 worth of checks while the chapter was inactive. Beard paid \$34,477 to or on behalf of SAE during that time, according to the documents.

The court will hold a sentencing hearing to determine a penalty, which may include more than prison time or the fine.

"The court may order restitution to the victims of the offense to which" Beard "is pleading guilty," the plea agreement reads.

MISSOURIAN

Former MU fraternity treasurer pleads guilty to bank fraud

BY EMILY HANNEMANN

The former volunteer treasurer for an MU fraternity embezzled more than \$380,000 between March 2008 to August 2014, according to a plea agreement he entered into on Thursday.

Burt Beard, 62, a Kirksville business owner, faces up to 30 years in prison, a \$1 million fine and five years of supervised release. Beard was released Thursday and his sentencing hearing was not yet set as of Monday.

“I very much regret my conduct and accept responsibility for my conduct,” Beard said in a statement provided by his attorney. “This was a personal mistake that in no way involved our family business, Beard’s Decorating Center, or Kirksville or Adair County. I hope and pray that this unfortunate action will not undermine the century long service that the Beard family has provided to northeast Missouri.”

Beard wrote himself more than 150 checks during his tenure, maintaining the checks reimbursed him for payments he made on behalf of the fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon. It was later discovered that none of the checks he provided as proof of payment were cashed.

When asked about the amount of checks issued payable to himself, Beard maintained vendors did not trust the fraternity. He attempted to explain the discrepancies as a result of sloppy bookkeeping, according to the plea deal.

The personal checks he referenced were supplied to false vendors or did not have accounts receivable for that amount or that time, according to court documents.

The organizations he said he reimbursed did not sell products or offer services, were located out of state or did not include services the fraternity would have used.

With the election of new fraternity officers in fall 2014, holes began to appear in Beard’s story.

He refused to grant the new treasurer access to the fraternity’s checking account, and when continually asked to do so, he opened a different account and transferred \$50,000 into it, according to the plea agreement.

An attempt to reach members of the fraternity was unsuccessful.

Beard’s case isn’t the first time the MU chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon has dealt with poor money management.

In April, fraternity members sold tickets for a rap concert by Lil Yachty to be held at Club Impulse, according to a fraternity statement on Twitter. The booking agency the fraternity used

proved fraudulent, the event was cancelled, and the fraternity issued an apology. It refunded those who purchased tickets.



Kirksville man pleads guilty to stealing thousands from MU fraternity

More than \$380,000 embezzled through bad checks

By: Joe McLean

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - **A 62-year-old Kirksville man pleaded guilty Thursday to embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars from an MU fraternity chapter.**

Burt Louis Beard waived his right to a grand jury and pleaded guilty to stealing a total of \$380,502 from the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

It happened during the last half of Beard's time serving as volunteer treasurer between March 2008 and August 2014. In his role with SAE, Beard was responsible for financial duties related to maintaining the house, paying various vendors and collecting rent checks.

According to the judgment, Beard wrote himself more than 150 checks claiming they were for reimbursement of personal loans to SAE for direct payments he made to vendors.

Beard's attorney, J.R. Hobbs, told ABC 17 News that Beard regretted his actions and accepted full responsibility for what happened.

A new treasurer took over the SAE chapter in 2014, according to the plea agreement in the case, and flagged the activity after reviewing Beard's records. Beard had written several checks to himself, the agreement said, and the new treasurer handed the records off to a forensic accounting team to review years' worth of payments Beard had made to himself and others.

Beard claimed that on several occasions, he used his own money to pay companies for work at SAE, then use the fraternity's funds to reimburse himself. The accounting firm's work showed that many companies either never did work at SAE or had different rec

The time period of Beard's actions came while SAE was no longer affiliated with the University of Missouri. The school withdrew its recognition of SAE as a student organization for four years that year due to three separate conduct and IFC violations. Those included having alcohol in the

chapter house and violating "IFC Scholarship Policy," all while on a school-issued probation for previous violations.

The plea agreement said Beard credited this withdrawal of recognition to justify his actions. Some companies didn't believe SAE had the money, causing him to pay for some things out of his pocket.

"Beard claimed he was a sloppy bookkeeper, and did not keep track of the amounts he paid on behalf of SAE," the plea agreement said.

Beard could be sentenced to serve up to 30 years without parole in federal prison.



[Kirksville man pleads guilty to stealing from fraternity](#)

By: Jordan Smith

JEFFERSON CITY - **A Kirksville man pleaded guilty to embezzling more than \$380,000 from the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity in Columbia.**

Burt Louis Beard, 62, wrote over 150 checks to himself while holding the office of volunteer treasurer from 2000 to 2014. During that time, Beard was in charge of maintaining the house, collecting rent, and paying vendors.

Beard claimed the checks were reimbursement for personal loans he made to the fraternity. Beard supplied copies of checks to fictitious vendors, or invoices that vendors later said weren't theirs, to explain his reimbursements.

In 2014, Sigma Alpha Epsilon elected new officers, including Beard's role. During the transition, a number of inconsistencies led the fraternity to conduct an independent investigation, which found that the fraternity lost \$380,502 from March 2008 to September 2014.

Beard has not been sentenced. The maximum sentence is 30 years in federal prison without parole.



Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic set to receive abortion license in matter of days

By: Danielle Katz

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/columbia-planned-parenthood-clinic-set-to-receive-abortion-license-in-matter-of-days>

COLUMBIA - Planned Parenthood Great Plains will get its license to provide abortion services again in Columbia within the next couple of days.

Planned Parenthood Great Plains Communications Director Bonyen Lee-Gilmore said the state told her the Columbia clinic should get its license back to perform surgical and medication abortions by Wednesday. Planned Parenthood Great Plains announced Monday that the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services gave its Kansas City clinic its abortion license.

Previously, the only abortion services provider in Missouri was the Planned Parenthood clinic in St. Louis. Columbia's clinic completely lost its ability to provide abortion services in December 2015, after MU decided to end Dr. Colleen McNicholas' "refer and follow" privileges. McNicholas was the one doctor allowed to provide these privileges in Columbia.

Howard Sachs, a federal judge in Missouri's western district, [issued a preliminary injunction in April](#) blocking abortion-restricting rules in Missouri following a [U.S. Supreme Court ruling](#) striking down similar guidelines in Texas. Sachs ruled that the Department of Health and Seniors Services had to issue new abortion clinic licenses or be held in contempt of court.

"PPGP is proud to have the final say – that access to safe, legal abortion is more accessible today than it was yesterday, and we look forward to restoring abortion access in mid-Missouri in the coming days," interim president Aaron Samulcek said.

Missouri Right to Life released a statement against the clinics receiving their abortion licenses.

"Planned Parenthood will soon begin killing more babies in their Kansas City abortion facility and vows to open another baby-killer clinic in Columbia," Missouri Right to Life president Steve Rupp said.



The Next Yik Yak?

Islands app gains traction as it expands base of colleges. Its founder says he learned from the controversial (and defunct) Yik Yak, but the new app gives users ability to post anonymously -- a trait many believe was at the root of why Yik Yak caused so many problems on campuses.

NO MU MENTION

By LINDSAY MCKENZIE

As thousands of students armed with smartphones start the new school year, they'll have plenty of social media options to choose from to find friends and connect with their peers. But at a select group of college campuses, a new player has entered the scene -- a student-centered networking app called [Islands](#).

Billed as "Slack for college students," [Islands](#) is a location-based app designed specifically with college students, rather than business colleagues, in mind. In an interview, Greg Isenberg, CEO of Islands, said that he wanted to create an experience that will "delight people" and help "connect the disconnected."

Of course, students already have a lot of ways to connect with each other on campus, but Isenberg believes that a lot of students use apps like [GroupMe](#) out of necessity rather than by choice. "Ask any college kid what they think of GroupMe, and at least 75 percent will have had a negative experience with it," said Isenberg. "It's crazy, because if you ask them what are the

three biggest apps they use on campus, they'll tell you Instagram, Snapchat and GroupMe. You have millions of daily active users using a product, and they're not even loving the experience."

The premise of the Islands app is simple. If you're within range of a college campus with access to the app, you'll be able to log in with your Facebook account or email. Inside the app you'll find a number of different group chats, or "islands." Some are public, meaning anyone can join. Some are private, and you must request to join the group. Example public islands available when you log into the app include Buy & Sell, Pickup Basketball and Undergraduate Library. The aim of the app is to connect students to groups of people "they might never have found" otherwise -- whether that is a new best friend, a study partner or someone to play sports with.

The way that you choose to communicate when you start a private island is customizable, Isenberg explains. "We give people the Lego building blocks to create a space however they want. If they want to have a room that is anonymous, they could. If they want to have a room where all the messages disappear after an hour, great. If they want the room to just be for sharing photos, they can do that."

Looking Back on Yik Yak

The ability to post anonymously on Islands has sparked comparisons with another campus-based social media app -- Yik Yak. Though Yik Yak officially [shut down](#) operations earlier this year, at its peak the app was ubiquitous on college campuses, and at one point was valued at hundreds of millions of dollars. A spate of controversies, however, including numerous incidents of targeted racist, sexist and homophobic comments, in addition to several high-profile [threats of violence](#) via the app, forced Yik Yak to rethink its anonymity policy. Subsequently, students [abandoned the app](#), much to the relief of many college administrators [tasked with monitoring its content](#). Those with long memories will remember that before Yik Yak, there was JuicyCampus -- another anonymous college gossip app that quickly turned poisonous and was [shut down](#) after two years.

[*Story continues.*](#)