



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

September 13, 2017

University of Missouri climate survey reveals dissatisfaction

By RUDI KELLER

When the University of Missouri conducted a [climate survey in the fall of 2016](#), three out of every five faculty members responding and two out of every five students said they had seriously considered leaving MU within the past year.

For faculty, the reasons were low pay, lack of institutional support and the possibility of another job. For the students, a “lack of a sense of belonging” and a “climate not welcoming” were the top reasons they thought about leaving.

Those figures are among the most striking data to come out of the university climate survey conducted by Rankin & Associates Consulting, which examined the attitudes and experiences of students, faculty and staff on all four UM campuses and at for the system.

The data will be used to create a campus where every individual is valued, appreciated and encouraged, MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said Tuesday during a town hall meeting to release the results.

“You know that arguably the last two years have been some of the most challenging in Mizzou’s 178-year history,” Cartwright said. “Going into this survey, university leaders knew that some of the feedback would be difficult to hear.”

The Columbia campus survey received 9,952 responses, or about 22 percent of the everyone working or learning on campus. The [UM System survey](#) had 142 responses, or about 27 percent of the system workforce. Each person responding was asked to answer 120 questions about the university and their experiences.

Cartwright, President Mun Choi and Provost Garnett Stokes were joined by Sue Rankin and Emil Cunningham of Rankin & Associates for a 90-minute town hall at Jesse Auditorium. A second town hall will be held today at 12:30 p.m., also in Jesse Auditorium.

The University of Missouri-Kansas City survey was released Monday, with town halls Thursday at Missouri University of Science and Technology will be held in Rolla and Friday at University of Missouri-St. Louis completing the release. The full data set, hundreds of pages for each campus, will be released Monday, Choi said.

Other major findings include:

- Nearly one-third of all respondents witnessed conduct or communications that were exclusionary, intimidating, offensive or hostile and almost one in five said they personally were victims of such behavior. The most common behaviors were derogatory remarks, intimidation or bullying and racial or ethnic profiling, with almost half of the behavior due to race or ethnicity. The most common response was to tell a friend or family member or do nothing.

Of those who did report an incident, nearly two-thirds felt it wasn't dealt with appropriately.

"Nobody is saying you're a racist institution or a sexist institution," Cunningham said. "It is just we are saying when things happen here you have to call it what it is."

- A large portion of the system staff that responded don't feel valued, with only 24 percent feeling valued by students; only 30 percent by faculty and 39 percent as though they are valued by UM administrators.
- International students feel some of the highest levels of stress and isolation are the most likely to consider suicide.

At the system level, some of the most dissatisfied staff are hourly workers, who feel that they have no way of influencing things going on that are important to them because of retaliation, Rankin said during a presentation of the results at the Old Alumni Center.

Many staff feel angry or embarrassed when their ideas are met with hostility or they are ignored when important decisions are made, Rankin said. The survey showed that 57 percent of those who responded to the survey "seriously considered leaving," while only 19 percent took their issues to the human resources department.

“I am going to encourage you to start calling it what it is — we found there is racism, and sexism, and genderism, all those things we found in the report,” Rankin said. “If we know those things are happening, call them what they are. If we don’t call them racism, sexism and heterosexism, then we devalue the experiences of those folks who are experiencing them.”

The isolation of international students and dealing with their stress needs more attention, said Alice Yu, president of the Asian American Association.

“It is definitely something I want to address,” she said.

The surveys are a mirror for the university to look at itself and the findings show the University of Missouri has problems common to many higher education institutions, Choi said.

“We want to create an environment where every member, regardless of their background, experience and perspective, is valued by this university,” Choi said.

The reports do not make any recommendations. Instead, the university will hold focus groups and discussions to set goals, Choi said.

“This is a time for deep reflection, I believe, as a university,” he said.

MISSOURIAN



Campus climate survey shows MU community isn't as comfortable as national average

BY EDWARD MCKINLEY AND YUTONG YUAN

Only two-thirds of the MU community feel comfortable on campus.

Those are the results of a fall 2016 campus climate survey conducted by Rankin & Associates Consulting, which presented the findings during a town hall forum Tuesday afternoon in Jesse Auditorium.

About 10,000 students, faculty and staff were surveyed to measure the climate at the four UM System schools, and 66 percent at MU said they were comfortable or very comfortable.

“That’s much lower than what we find across the country,” said Emil Cunningham of Rankin & Associates. The national average, he said, is 70 to 80 percent.

Rankin & Associates defined campus climate as “the current attitudes, behaviors and standards of faculty, staff, administrators and students concerning the level of respect for individual needs, abilities and potential,” according to [information on MU’s website](#).

“Racism happens across the country,” Cunningham said. “And it’s happening here.”

All things considered, he said, the survey did show the overall campus climate at MU isn’t much worse than society’s in general or those of other universities in the United States.

UM System President Mun Choi said it’s MU’s place to be a leader, not just in society but for other peer institutions across the country.

Sue Rankin, CEO of Rankin & Associates, cautioned against expectations for rapid change.

“You can measure change in higher education with a sundial,” Rankin said. “We don’t change quickly.”

Cunningham said the first step to tackle problems of racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination is recognizing there’s a problem. He said there’s no hiding from these issues, and it’s very important to call them what they are, even if it’s uncomfortable.

MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright agreed.

“Honest, open and direct feedback is the only way we can work together to build a better Mizzou,” Cartwright said. “We want to be a place where everyone who is here — faculty, staff, students, guests — feel safe and experience a welcoming environment to work, live and learn.”

When students feel unwelcome or discriminated against, they have a behavioral response, Cunningham said. This means when students don't feel comfortable at MU, they constantly consider leaving — they're not thriving, just surviving.

By doing this, students are missing out on their full academic potential. Every student, faculty and staff member on campus wants the same thing, Cunningham said, and that's to be talked with, made to feel valued and encouraged that their voice is heard.

Of students in their first or second years at MU, 40 and 44 percent seriously considered leaving. Their two biggest reasons for doing so were “lack of a sense of belonging” and “climate was not welcoming.”

Exacerbating the problem, Cunningham said, is ignorance of the resources on campus — such as the five social justice centers — dedicated to helping them.

“People here aren't speaking up, aren't reaching out to find that level of support,” Cunningham said.

Cartwright said discrimination on campus is particularly damaging because “Mizzou is primarily a human institution made up of people from different backgrounds.”

The way forward, multiple MU and UM System leaders said, is a sense of accountability.

“Policies alone aren't going to move the needle,” Choi said.

For the most part, discrimination, bullying or intimidation are occurring within peer groups at MU, according to the presentation; students are discriminating against students, and faculty are discriminating against faculty.

Because of this, Choi said, the way forward is for everyone to be educated on the problems and empowered to personally ask themselves how they can do better.

Members of campus leadership aren't the ones discriminating against students, Choi said, so while they'll do their job by initiating policies to make everyone feel welcome, ultimately it's going to be a team effort.

The entire campus community was asked to take the 120-question survey in fall 2016. MU has conducted several campus climate surveys since 2001, and the 2016 survey expanded to include all four UM System campuses and system administration offices.

The campus climate results for University of Missouri-Kansas City was announced Monday, with 4,650 surveys returning an overall response rate of 25 percent.

According to the report on the results, 79 percent of the survey respondents were "very comfortable" or "comfortable" with the climate at UMKC. However, slightly more than half of faculty respondents and staff respondents, 53 percent and 54 percent respectively, had seriously considered leaving UMKC in the past year due to a low salary/pay rate or limited opportunities for advancement.

MU's results were similar, with 52 percent of staff and 60 percent of faculty seriously considering leaving MU. Among those respondents, the most popular responses were:

Feeling they weren't earning an adequate salary

Feeling there wasn't enough potential for advancement

Feeling a hierarchy is in place where some are valued more than others.

Choi, Cartwright, MU Provost Garnett Stokes and others spoke repeatedly of the need for faculty pay increases. They said it is a priority and merit-based salary increases are coming in the near future. Stokes, Cartwright and Choi each said the issue is of such vital importance they will find the resources to make it happen however they can.

The second town hall of the campus climate survey will be held from 12:30 to 2 p.m. on Wednesday in Jesse Auditorium. Missouri University of Science and Technology will announce

final findings and recommendations at a campus town hall meeting on Thursday and University of Missouri-St. Louis will announce its findings on Friday.

The full report on the results of the 2016 MU campus climate survey, which is hundreds of pages long, will be posted Monday. Rankin & Associates employees repeatedly emphasized the need for as many people as possible to read the entire report. Only by doing so, they said, will a meaningful understanding be obtained.



MU survey: 19 percent suffer from 'exclusionary conduct' on campus

By: Chris Joseph

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-survey-19-percent-suffer-from-exclusionary-conduct-on-campus>

COLUMBIA – The University of Missouri released the results of the fall 2016 campus climate survey Tuesday afternoon. It found 19 percent of all respondents had experienced some form of “exclusionary conduct.”

The conduct included racial discrimination, harassment or exclusion among others. The group most affected was women of color.

MU provost Garnett Stokes said the results “were not what we wanted them to be.”

Stokes said she and other administrators are currently in talks with every dean at MU to correct the issues.

MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said he is "energized" to address the issues presented.

"I want to make sure that you have a culture where faculty, students, staff and alumni can all thrive," he said.

Sixty-eight percent of the respondents who reported the exclusionary conduct said their cases were not handled in a way they would have liked.

Undergraduate and graduate respondents said a lack of belonging was a major issue for them.

Twenty percent of junior-year respondents said they had "seriously considered" leaving MU.

Staff members also took the survey and issues they raised included low pay and a lack of a clear path for career advancement.

There were positive indications from the survey as well.

Sixty-six percent of respondents said they felt comfortable or very comfortable on campus.

MU students, faculty and staff filled out nearly 10,000 surveys over the course of the fall 2016 term. Pennsylvania-based Rankin and Associates Consulting statistically analyzed the data for the university.

The UM system will have town halls on all four campuses to continue to combat the issues presented in the MU survey.

The full 700-page report will be released on Sept. 18.

The second and final town hall forum in Columbia will take place Wednesday at 12:30 at Jesse Auditorium.



Survey: 60 percent of MU faculty at one point considered leaving University of Missouri

University releases morale survey results

By: Deborah Kendrick

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/university-of-missouri-releases-morale-survey-results/619791414>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri released results of the campus climate survey that was completed in November 2016.

Nearly 10,000 students, faculty and staff completed the survey last year. The survey results are intended to be a catalyst to develop and implement action plans for a better Mizzou. The surveys assessed the learning, living and working environments at the UM Systems.

Dr. Cartwright, Mizzou chancellor, opened the forum by telling the audience, "The past two years have been the most difficult years the University has ever had," he said. "We can't solve everything right away but this is a start."

Overall, 66 percent of the MU campus said they feel comfortable on campus, which, according to the consulting firm that conducted the survey, is a very low percentage compared to other universities across the country. According to Rankin & Associates, the national average of those who considered their campus climate to be "comfortable" was approximately 70 to 80 percent.

Positive results

Here are some of the positive findings of the survey:

- 84 percent of classroom experiences have been positive
- 73 percent of students felt valued by MU faculty, 71 percent by staff
- 68 percent of graduate students felt they had adequate opportunities at the university
- 83 percent of graduate students felt they had support from their advisers

Areas of improvement

Here are some of the areas in which the university needs improvement:

- 19 percent of respondents indicated they had experienced exclusionary or hostile conduct.
- Less than 5 percent reached out to MU when that exclusionary or hostile conduct happened.
- 68 percent of people said "things at MU aren't handled appropriately."
- 60 percent of faculty seriously considered leaving at one point.
- 59 percent of staff seriously considered leaving at one point.
- 38 percent of students seriously considered leaving at one point.
- 31 percent of students felt faculty prejudged them based on their perception and identity/ or background.

Sixty percent of faculty research staff wanted to leave due to low pay and lack of institutional support. Fifty-nine percent of staff thought about leaving due to low pay and limited opportunity

to move up. Thirty-eight percent of students thought about leaving, citing lack of belonging, climate was not welcoming or lack of support.

The full 700-page will be released to the public on Monday Sept. 18.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

University of Missouri ranked in top half of national universities

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

The University of Missouri's Columbia campus was tied for 120th in the rankings of 311 national universities issued Tuesday by U.S. News and World Report.

The annual rankings of 1,400 colleges and universities are broken down by national and regional schools and consider data including graduation rates, class sizes and high school counselor evaluations. The three other schools tied with MU in the rankings are Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., DePaul University in Chicago, and Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

Two other UM System campuses are ranked — Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla is listed 165th and the University of Missouri-Kansas City is ranked 216th. The University of Missouri-St. Louis was not ranked.

Washington University in St. Louis, at 18th, was the highest-ranked national university in Missouri.

William Woods University in Fulton was ranked 75th among regional schools in the Midwest. The Fulton school was 91st last year.

MISSOURIAN

MU ranked middle of the pack in annual U.S. News and World Report rankings

BY JESSICA DUFFIELD

MU was ranked No. 120 out of 311 national universities by the U.S. News and World Report on Tuesday.

A total of 1,400 schools were given a ranking. Rankings were based on class sizes, graduation rates and high school counselor evaluations.

The rankings are also divided by national and regional schools.

MU tied with DePaul University in Chicago, Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

The report also ranked MU as 75th for best college for veterans and as 77th for best value school.

The University of Missouri System had two other universities ranked in the annual list. The Missouri University of Science and Technology was ranked No. 165 and the University of Missouri-Kansas City was ranked No. 216. The University of Missouri-St.Louis was not ranked.

The highest national rank for a school in Missouri went to Washington University in St. Louis, which was ranked No. 18.

College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout ranked No. 5 among regional colleges in the Midwest, and Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri, ranked No. 7 on the same list.



The Thompson Center hosts grand opening for new research facility

By LAUREN BISHOP

Generated from News Bureau Media Advisory

The Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders hosted a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Thompson Center Research and Training Facility on Friday.

In 2016, former Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon proposed an allocation of \$5 million of the 2017 state budget to expand the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. Once approved, that money was used by the organization to purchase a second building next door to the original facility and to renovate the majority of its bottom floor, said Dr. Stephen Kanne, executive director of the Thompson Center.

The Thompson Center's mission is to "improve the lives of individuals and families affected by autism spectrum disorder and neurodevelopmental disorders through world class programs that integrate research, clinical service delivery, education and public policy," according to its website. The new facility includes research offices, diagnostics, treatment options and support systems for those affected by autism spectrum disorder.

Garnett Stokes, MU provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs, spoke prior to the ribbon cutting. Stokes said the center is effective because of the interdisciplinary work being done on all fronts of autism treatment and awareness.

"The Thompson Center houses internationally recognized investigators who study treatment effectiveness, biological markers for diagnosis, social skills, severe behavior intervention and a whole lot more than that," Stokes said.

Though it owns the entire two-story building, the Thompson Center only occupies about three-fourths of the lower floor so far. Kanne said this allows for further expansions in the future. He also said the new space will be effective in increasing professional development and training output.

“The other rooms have greatly increased our ability to train multiple professionals across the states, as well as students,” Kanne said. “We train all across Missouri, all across the nation and all across the world. We host hundreds of parents and teachers and medical professionals every year. We're outfitted with all the new technology that helps support the new training that we do.”

Booths were set up to demonstrate the different research being done on campus for the different areas of autism spectrum disorder, and presentations were given by a variety of professionals from the Thompson Center. Ambassadors for the Columbia Chamber of Commerce also helped with the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright spoke prior to the ceremony. He said he believes the facility has tremendous potential and upholds MU's core values.

“The Thompson Center works hard to fulfill MU's mission of sharing knowledge with citizens and organizations across the state,” Cartwright said. “Opening the research and training facility represents another step forward in developing quality care for individuals with developmental challenges. This new facility provides new research space and capabilities.”

Cartwright said the opening of this addition demonstrates how an effective relationship between a university and the state government can lead to improvements for the community.

“Further expanding the horizons of the Thompson Center will be of immense importance to the families of Missouri's children,” Cartwright said. “This endeavor is a heartening illustration of how the state and the university can work in tandem for the greater good of all.”

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Museum of Anthropology to open in new location

Generated from News Bureau direct pitch.

The University of Missouri's Museum of Anthropology will re-open at noon Saturday for public visits after more than three years of waiting for renovations to its new location at Mizzou North on Business Loop 70 W.

The museum was housed in Swallow Hall until May 2014, when a \$16.9 million renovation project for the building originally constructed in 1893. The public is invited to see the new renovations during a Friends and Family gathering at 5:30 p.m. Friday. A grand re-opening event is planned for Oct. 19.

The museum will feature redesigned Native American and archaeological exhibitions and interpretive offerings. Representatives of the Osage Nation smoked and blessed the displays last week, assistant curator Amanda Harrison wrote in a news release. The new exhibits will include part of the Grayson Archery Collection, more than 5,000 pieces from cultures around the world.

Regular museum hours will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. on weekends.

MU alum and SAE fraternity leader caught stealing is facing 30 years

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

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SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 5:43 PM

Burt Beard, Kirksville business owner and former volunteer treasurer of the University of Missouri Sigma Alpha Epsilon, could go to prison for 30 years for stealing \$380,000 from his fraternity.

Beard, after pleading guilty to one count of bank fraud, also could be slapped with a \$1 million fine and five years of supervised release.

The case involves “the misuse of money in his volunteer capacity for the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity at MU,” said his attorney, J.R. Hobbs.

According to court records, Beard, 62, embezzled more than \$380,000 from March 2008 to August 2014. He admitted he wrote more than 150 checks to himself, which he claimed were reimbursement of personal loans to the fraternity for payments to vendors.

“When asked for copies of his personal checks,” a court document noted, “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.”

SAE elected a new slate of officers for the fraternity in the fall of 2014. “During the transition of financial responsibilities from Beard to the new treasurer, numerous red flags began to appear,” according to documents from the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the the Western District of Missouri.

“I very much regret my conduct and accept responsibility for my conduct,” Beard said in a statement from his lawyer. “This was a personal mistake that in no way involved our family business, Beard’s Decorating Center, or Kirksville or Adair County.”

A fraternity brother, Scott Ward, who had been president of the MU SAE house from 1984 to 1988 and knew Beard, said when he learned about what happened, “It made me sad. And angry.”

The money Beard took, Ward said, “was for food and shelter for college students. Some of them had to penny pinch to get that money.”

Ward said such incidents contribute to “giving fraternities a bad name.” He has asked the federal court for permission to speak at Beard’s sentencing hearing. No date for that hearing has been set.

Over the years SAE fraternities across the country have taken a lot of heat for misconduct. At the University of Kansas in 2009, a 19-year-old SAE member died of alcohol poisoning in the off-campus fraternity house. SAE no longer permits alcohol in that house.

Two years ago after the 50th anniversary of civil rights demonstrations in Selma, Ala., a nine-second viral video emerged of SAE members at the University of Oklahoma singing a racist song. The fraternity chapter was suspended, and the university president expelled two students.



Better East Texas: Coddling college students comes with a price

Watch the story: <http://www.kltv.com/story/36314343/better-east-texas-coddling-college-students-comes-with-a-price>

(KLTV) -

In this age of seemingly endless daily protests for and against causes, we quickly lose sight that a culture of protests has a price, and it is showing up on several college campuses with reduced enrollment causing financial troubles.

One such university is the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri. Mizzou has a great broadcasting school and was growing in popularity and enrollment until 2015 when a series of protests – centered around a charge of racial bigotry - led to the resignation of the university system president and the campus chancellor. That may have been a needed outcome to help address the problem. But that is where the backlash truly began.

Since the incidents in 2015 which, by the way, inspired numerous other protests across the nation, the enrollment at Missouri has dropped significantly with students of every racial make-up deciding to attend college elsewhere. The new administration blew it and did not reset the culture of learning. Several prominent liberal colleges are experiencing similar blowback from alumni, and now parents of students with contracting support of colleges that allow a culture of protests.

Now injustice needs to be addressed, but some colleges have gone so far to accommodate splinter needs like students requiring safe spaces and groups that forbid free speech through violent acts, that there is no surprise when alumni start pulling back. It is the continuation of coddling the current college student generation to the point that learning becomes secondary and that, in itself, is a crime.

Slate

Measuring the Mizzou Effect

Does a school's enrollment really go down when students protest en masse?

By DANIEL ENGBER

Washington's Evergreen State College, where raucous student protests and disturbing threats of violence made national headlines this spring, has fallen several million dollars in the hole, according to a recent memo from its public administrators. The memo blames the shortfall on both changes in state funding and a 5 percent decline in the school's enrollment since fall 2016. Right-wing media outlets have another, simpler explanation: **They've linked the woes at Evergreen to those at the University of Missouri, where a similar bout of campus turmoil in 2015 preceded an enrollment drop. Like Missouri, these sources argue, Evergreen is being punished for giving in to leftist thugs. "SHOCKER: Evergreen State Faces \$2.1 MILLION Budget Crisis After Radical Students Go Berserk," announced the Daily Caller. "Evergreen State College Wakes Up to the Cost of Wokeness," wrote the website Ricochet. The alleged backlash to modern-day student protests even has a name: They're calling it the "Mizzou Effect."**

If that formulation sounds familiar, that's because commentators on the right have postulated a constellation of "effects" that purport to show how progressive politics—and race-conscious protests, in particular—are self-defeating and destructive. It began with the "Ferguson Effect," the theory that protests sparked by the 2014 police shooting of an unarmed black man in Ferguson, Missouri (a few hours' drive from the University of Missouri campus in Columbia) inspired the nation's cops to stop policing crime as aggressively, which led murder rates to spike. Then came the "Kaepernick Effect," which asserts that former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick's choice to take a knee during the national anthem to protest police brutality against black Americans led to last year's sag in television ratings for the NFL. Now we have the Mizzou Effect, which says that when schools fail to crack down on student demonstrators, future freshmen feel so unwanted and unsafe that enrollments bottom out and academic budgets fall apart.

There's some evidence in support of each of these effects, but lots of evidence against them, too. Certainly none is quite as straightforward or expansive as it's been claimed to be—and the Mizzou Effect, in particular, suffers from a lack of clear, compelling data.

It's true enrollment plummeted at the University of Missouri in the fall of 2016, the year after campus protests peaked (and/or reached their nadir), and the school's president and chancellor were forced to resign. The size of that year's freshman class declined by 23 percent, and black students seemed especially likely to stay away, with their numbers falling by 42 percent, more than those of any other group. In 2017, the size of Mizzou's freshman class dwindled again, this time by 16 percent. When combined with unforgiving state budget cuts, this slimming of the student body put the school tens of millions of dollars in the red. The administration has since been forced to cut 400 jobs, increase tuition, and shut down seven dormitories.

Still, fallout from the campus protests is not the only explanation for the university's plight. College enrollment has been dropping nationwide, and Missouri has seen a shrinking cohort of high school graduates. It doesn't help that the Missouri men's basketball and football teams—selling points in years gone by—have been pretty lousy for a while. (That could change soon: The nation's top basketball prospect, Michael Porter Jr., is about to take the court for Mizzou.) Yet scholars at the university who study the economics of education have little doubt about the central cause of the decline. "It's clear that the events of Fall 2015 had a huge effect on our reputation and enrollment," economist Michael Podgursky told me via email.

Still, Podgursky noted that few, if any, empirical studies have been done on the relationship between campus protests and subsequent changes in applications and enrollment, at Missouri or at other schools. It would be interesting to see if there really is a correlation between the two, he said: “Maybe your article will stimulate some research.”

So we can say with at least some confidence that the Mizzou Effect is real ... at Mizzou. What about everywhere else? It would be surprising if this effect were present to the same degree at a school like Evergreen, which has a pre-existing lefty reputation. (In 2014, Evergreen was voted “America’s most liberal campus.”) Indeed, the school’s administration claims that news about its budget fix has been off the mark. “Our enrollment numbers are more or less what we had expected,” said the school’s beleaguered spokesman, Zach Powers, who started his job just a few weeks before the spring disturbances. Though the total number of students at the school has been slipping since 2009, he added, this year’s in-state enrollment remained fairly steady. “We feel really good about that as a state institution,” Powers said.

The names of all these effects are more tendentious than descriptive.

The problem is, Evergreen’s allotment of out-of-state students—the ones who sustain its budget by paying the highest tuition fees—appears to have diminished. The memo released two weeks ago says the school has enrolled 212 fewer students for its fall semester than it did a year ago; 210 of those slots had been filled by those from out of state. That makes sense if you assume out-of-towners are the ones who would be most sensitive to Evergreen’s shaky reputation, since they must travel the furthest, and pay the most, to get to campus. On the other hand, out-of-state applications had fallen off before any of the bad PR from student protests, said Evergreen’s director of admissions, Eric Pedersen. He guessed that may be due to changing rules at California’s public universities, where more spots have been reserved for in-state residents. In any case, Pedersen’s numbers from mid-May—a couple of weeks ahead of the campus strife—indicate Evergreen was already looking at a 31 percent drop in out-of-state freshman enrollees.

Still, the numbers for incoming freshmen may be misleading, since, as Pedersen explained, about 95 percent of those first-year students had committed to the school before the protests started. More relevant is the fact that transfers into Evergreen did tail off throughout the summer. In June, the school projected a 3 percent decrease in this transfer pool, compared with the same point in 2016, but the projected shortfall had grown to 14.5 percent by August. Those numbers are indeed suggestive of a Mizzou Effect, though its scope is limited, and the data are somewhat tricky to interpret.

Meanwhile, other schools that suffered through bitter and well-covered student demonstrations have shown at most tiny indications of a Mizzou Effect, and no consistent pattern overall. When Ithaca College experienced massive protests in November 2015, for example, and the subsequent resignation of its president, the media wondered whether it would be “the next Missouri.” Applications for its 2016 freshman class did go down by 13 percent from the year before while freshman enrollees declined by 10 percent. Yet those numbers had been even worse in 2014, the year before the tumult.

Similar data emerge from California's Claremont McKenna College, where an activist campaign in November 2015 forced the dean of students to resign. The incoming class in 2016 was 7 percent smaller than it had been the year before but almost exactly the same size as the one from 2014.

A few schools even seem to provide evidence of a Reverse Mizzou Effect. In early May, Middlebury College announced its incoming class would be one of its largest ever, and the most diverse it's ever had. That was just a few months after its students drew widespread coverage and scorn for violently disrupting a talk by the author of *The Bell Curve*, Charles Murray. A closer look at the numbers complicates the story, though: The school's expected yield—i.e., the proportion of accepted students who would choose to enroll at the college—had actually dropped by 1.2 percent from 2016. But then again, the yield at Middlebury was lower still in 2015.

Data on the Mizzou Effect appear to be equivocal, but there's nothing new about the theory. During the college protests of the 1960s and early 1970s, administrators were warned that angry parents might pull their children out of schools with rampant protest movements, according to Chris Broadhurst, a historian of student activism who's based out of the University of New Orleans. Whether those parents really acted on their threats en masse is another question.

Clearly there were repercussions from the savage violence at Kent State University in May 1970, when members of the Ohio National Guard shot and killed four students protesting the Vietnam War and injured nine more. While enrollment at the school had just hit a record high of 21,000 students, those numbers quickly dropped. A *New York Times* article from 1971 noted that the school had just endured a 47.7 percent decrease in applications, a loss it attributed to "the state of the economy and campus unrest—in that order." The effect had gone away by 1975, but Kent State would see another drop-off in enrollment a few years later, when plans to build a gymnasium near the site of the shootings led to further protests.

Yet there was little sign of a Mizzou Effect, or something like it, in the broader sense, even as unrest spread across the nation's campuses. For a 1971 report from the Carnegie Commission, researchers asked 2,500 college presidents how the Vietnam protests and fallout from Kent State had affected their schools. Just a small percentage cited "loss of alumni and public support" as the most significant outcome. And Broadhurst points out that college enrollment more than doubled in the 1960s, despite the vibrant protest culture.

It's hard enough to get a handle on these sorts of statistical effects in enrollment ex post facto, said Barmak Nassirian, director of federal relations and policy analysis for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Doing so in real time is pretty much impossible. "I don't think we can dismiss the potential causality [of the Mizzou Effect]," he told me. "There's no question that campus turmoil of any kind is not a selling point for parents." But if the effect exists, he's inclined to think that its amplitude would vary greatly from one institution to another and that its duration would be short, as a rule. It's likely to be little more than a "hiccup," he said.

Something similar could be said of the other racial backlash "effects" favored by the right-wing media: They're more like hiccups than convulsions. While national murder rates are still very low in historical terms, recent trends in many major cities have indeed been alarming, and it's not totally absurd to theorize

that this could be, in part, a function of worsening relations between police departments and civilians. But the Ferguson Effect, if that's what you want to call it, seems to show up in some places but not others, and for reasons that remain unclear.

Similarly, one could argue that the Kaepernick Effect is real and that football players' protests did contribute in some minor way to last year's 8 percent decline in the NFL's television audience. The chairman of CBS Sports said as much a few weeks ago, citing proprietary evidence from his network's own research on viewers. But how important was this factor in the ratings? "I don't really know," he said. Earlier that week, an executive at Fox Sports had said he didn't believe there was any correlation.

Of course, these effects—which are supposed to demonstrate a backlash from a silent, white majority—have always been more rhetorical than data-driven. Even the names of the effects are more tendentious than descriptive. It may be true that the degradation of relations between police departments and civilians leads to higher homicide rates. But when you refer to this as the "Ferguson Effect," you imply that the protesters (and they alone) are where this causal chain begins. Wouldn't it make as much sense—or more—to describe this as the "Darren Wilson Effect," or the "Killing Unarmed Black Men Effect"? Same goes for the "Kaepernick Effect," which puts the onus for a ratings drop on one unfairly unemployed quarterback when the same correlation in the data could fairly be rebranded as the "Racist Football Fan Effect."

When right-wing outlets say that the "Mizzou Effect" has come to Evergreen State College, they're imposing a politically motivated conceit on a bed of flimsy data. If we summarized the facts a different way—if we put the focus on the crackdown at Kent State, for example, instead of the lack of one at Mizzou—then the same association, fearful-freshman-flee-from-fuss, would be understood to have a different meaning. It's not "the cost of wokeness" that's the problem. It's the cost of never giving in.



[McCaskill leads roundtable on role of drug manufacturers in the opioid crisis](#)

By LAURA SANTHANAM

Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri will lead a roundtable Tuesday to explore the role of opioid manufacturers in the national opioid crisis.

McCaskill, a ranking Democrat on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, will join a woman whose daughter died after she overdosed on fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, and a U.S. veteran whose doctor prescribed to him unconventional doses of fentanyl designed for cancer patients enduring intense pain.

David Fleming, professor emeritus at the University of Missouri School of Medicine, and Adriane Fugh-Berman, an associate professor at Georgetown University Medical Center, will also join the conversation.

A preliminary report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention earlier this month showed that more than 64,000 people may have died from drug overdoses in 2016, a more than 20-percent increase over the previous year. A final report from won't be released by the government until the end of the year.

In March, McCaskill launched an investigation into how opioids were pedaled by drug companies to the public. On Sept. 6, McCaskill released a report that detailed the investigation's findings so far, raising questions about whether pharmaceutical manufacturers were unethical in how they helped people obtain the opioids, sometimes with lethal results.

This investigation is ongoing.

Slate

Abortion Access in Missouri Is Getting Easier, Thanks to Planned Parenthood and Satanists

By CHRISTINA CAUTERUCCI

Here's a sentence I never thought I'd write: Abortion access in Missouri is booming. Until this month, the state had only one abortion provider: a Planned Parenthood health center in St. Louis. On Monday, the organization announced that its clinic in Kansas City is now offering medication abortion. Its Columbia outpost will soon offer surgical abortions, too, and two others will likely follow.

For the past several years, Planned Parenthood and other women's health clinics in Missouri have been targeted by restrictions that forced abortion providers to get admitting privileges at nearby hospitals and retrofit their facilities to meet surgical center standards. Those laws eventually became common goals of anti-abortion legislators around the country, but Missouri was ahead of the curve: In 1986, it was the first state to enact mandatory hospital admitting privileges. After the Supreme Court's historic ruling that overturned similar restrictions in Texas, Planned Parenthood and two other reproductive rights groups took Missouri to federal court, arguing that it had four clinics in the state that could provide abortions—in addition to existing contraceptive care and health services—if the regulations were lifted.

A federal judge sided with Planned Parenthood in April and blocked officials from continuing to enforce the two anti-abortion provisions in Missouri. Now four clinics are working to get licensed for abortion care in the state: **In addition to the Kansas City location, which stopped offering abortions five years ago, and the Columbia one, which stopped in the fall of 2015 when University of Missouri**

administrators voted to revoke its hospital admitting privileges, Planned Parenthood intends to offer abortion care at its Joplin and Springfield centers after their state inspections.

This rapid turnaround makes the state an illustration of the best-case scenario when courts reverse abortion restrictions. Other states aren't so lucky. Often, such restrictions cause abortion providers to close completely, especially if the clinics aren't affiliated with larger national organizations such as Planned Parenthood, which can provide some measure of stability as regulations shift. And when a clinic shuts down, there's no guarantee that it'll reopen once the restrictions that caused its closure fall away. A year after the Supreme Court's *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* decision, only two of the nearly two-dozen abortion providers that had shuttered due to the two provisions axed by the court had resumed abortion services.

Missouri's recent stroke of good fortune in the reproductive rights realm may have to do with intervention from the fiery underworld. On Monday, the Satanic Temple argued in a Missouri court that the state's abortion restrictions violate worshippers' rights to free religious practice. The organization is challenging two Missouri laws: one that requires patients to look at unscientific anti-abortion propaganda and another that forces them to wait 72 hours between their initial consultations and a second appointments for their abortions. Satanic Temple members argue that their religion prizes rational, independent thought and that forcing Satanists to read anti-abortion pamphlets and "consider a religious proposition with which they do not agree" during the 72-hour waiting period constitutes a violation of their beliefs.

The Satanic challenge to the laws began in 2015, when a pregnant Satanist from rural Missouri identified as "Mary" tried to use a religious waiver to exempt herself from the state's many requirements designed to prevent women from going forward with abortions. Mary said she had the \$800 she needed to get the abortion, but to get to the clinic in St. Louis for two separate appointments, she needed to save up for gas money, a hotel, and child care. As a Satanist, Mary said, she believes her body is "inviolable"—thus, a mandatory waiting period with no medical justification that hampers her bodily autonomy inflicts a "substantial burden" on her "sincerely held religious beliefs," as does the law that requires she be informed that "abortion will terminate the life of a separate, unique, living human being." The temple filed both state and federal lawsuits challenging the restrictions; a judge tossed out the federal case in 2016 because Mary was no longer pregnant.

Missouri argues that just because the laws align with the tenets of certain religions doesn't mean the state is advocating on behalf of those religions. But don't tell that to the Missouri state legislator who slaughtered a chicken on camera in June to make some kind of statement against legal abortion. "God gave us man dominion over life. He allows us to raise animals properly and care for them and then process them for food so we can sustain life. And that's what I'm doing here with this chicken," Rep. Mike Moon said before ripping out the animal's heart. Three cheers for Missouri, the upside-down land where Christians perform the gruesome animal sacrifices and Satanists bring the religious freedom lawsuits.



Black Lives Matter protesters cover Thomas Jefferson statue at the University of Virginia

By: John Gonzalez

No MU Mention

Charlottesville, Va. (ABC7) — Exactly one month after white supremacist and counter demonstrators clashed in the streets of Charlottesville, resulting in the death of a young woman, a different group is now targeting a Thomas Jefferson statue.

This is happened on campus at the University of Virginia and it all started at about 8:00 p.m. Tuesday night.

Dozens of Black Lives Matter protesters defaced and covered the statue of one of the country's Founding Fathers, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence and third President. He also founded the University of Virginia.

However, Jefferson is also known for being a slave owner.

The demonstrators posted a sign that read "TJ is a racist and rapist." They marched and chanted "no Trump, no KKK, no racist UVA." Back on August 15, [President Trump referring to all the Confederate statues](#) coming down, posed the question to reporters if statues of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson would be next.

The statue has since been uncovered, though officials are not sure who is responsible.

This group also read demands calling on the school and the town to condemn future KKK and white supremacist rallies. There has been no comment from the school yet this morning.