MU Health Care records a fiscal-year surplus of nearly $100 million

By RUDI KELLER

University of Missouri Health Care tallied records for revenue, surpluses and increase in assets during the year that ended June 30, allowing it to make a substantial new guarantee to the School of Medicine.

MU Health controller Jennifer Doll gave the good news to the Board of Curators’ Health Affairs Committee during a Thursday meeting at Women and Children’s Hospital. The hospital took in $944.7 million during the fiscal year, $103.3 million more than budgeted, and recorded an operating surplus of $98.5 million, nearly $63 million more than anticipated in the budget.

As a result, hospital operations now are providing a guaranteed $10 million annually for the School of Medicine. If profits remain strong, the school will get an extra share that could be as much as $6 million to $7 million, MU Health CEO Jonathan Curtwright said. In the past, the hospital gave the school a share of profits up to $10 million.

“It is now about two-thirds of what we typically give in support from the hospital to support research is now guaranteed,” Curtwright said. “That means our hospital really has to perform.”

The arrangement marks a new level of collaboration between the hospital and the school, curator Phillip Snowden and Dean Patrick Delafontaine said.

“This is a shift from what we’ve done in the past, a real shift, and it is really a welcome shift,” Snowden said.

The money will support faculty recruiting and research, Delafontaine said.

“It is a very positive change in collaboration and having the predictable amount of resources for the school is really necessary for it to attract high-level physician-scientists, to develop clinical programs and to develop research,” he said.

In the past year, the hospital increased its service levels over fiscal 2016 in all but one of eight major areas reported regularly to the curators and beat budget estimates in all but two areas. Some of the biggest increases were 12.5 percent more outpatient surgeries, 13.6 percent more births and 6.2 percent more patient days.
The only area that didn’t exceed fiscal 2016 was the neonatal intensive care unit. The two areas that didn’t meet budget projections were inpatient surgeries and clinic visits.

“It is a very strong performance when you look at it from a volume perspective and you will see that translate into results,” Doll said.

During fiscal 2017, as state withholding in January forced the campus to dip into reserves, the hospital provided $16 million to the medical school and $4.5 million to support the Sinclair School of Nursing, the School of Health Professions and general campus operations, Doll said.

Even with those added expenses, the hospital’s net assets increased by $69.4 million, almost triple the budget estimate of $25 million.

Within a few years, hospital revenues could expand dramatically if MU Health succeeds in negotiations to operate Boone Hospital Center. That also would increase funding for the medical school if surpluses increase correspondingly.

“I am hopeful it can be a lot more,” Curtwright said.

The $10 million will be paid in monthly allocations. The important part is the guarantee, Delafontaine said.

“The hospital has always provided support to the School of Medicine,” he said. “It is now less dependent on the margin of the hospital at the end of the year.”

MU School of Medicine to receive $10 million in guaranteed funding from MU Health Care

By: Alyssa Toomey


COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri School of Medicine will receive $10 million in guaranteed funding from MU Health Care in fiscal year 2018.
The initiative was announced Thursday at the UM Board of Curators' Health Affairs Committee meeting.

The funding is not new, but now the money will be guaranteed. It will come in as a monthly transfer for a yearly total of $10 million.

"The hospital has always provided support to the school of medicine, but the way the support has been calculated has changed," Dr. Patrick Delafontaine, Dean of the MU School of Medicine, said. "It's less dependent on the margin of the hospital at the end of the year and more of it now is basically a fixed amount to the school over the year on a monthly basis."

The initiative came to fruition over the past three to four months under the leadership of Curator Phillips.

"It's going to be guaranteed so that means we have to perform," Jonathan Curtwright, CEO of MU Health Care, said.

In addition to the $10 million, the school of medicine could receive an additional six to seven million dollars from MU Health Care. That money would come later as a function of financial performance.

MU health committee shares reports with Board of Curators

By: Jalyn Henderson


COLUMBIA - MU's Board of Curators met with the Health Affairs Committee Thursday to review the years' financial performance.

A committee report in June showed year-to-date net revenue of $944,690, which is $100,000 more than the predicted budget.
MU's hospitals came under budget in most areas, including operating expenses, operating income, non-operating revenues and change in net assets.

They also exceeded hospital expectations in terms of discharges, outpatient surgery, NICU days and patient days.

"We're still getting in patients and having high volumes overall. The patients are just staying in our facilities a little bit longer than we had budgeted for and projected," said Jennifer Doll, MU Health Care's executive director of finance.

In addition to logistics, curators and health professionals discussed issues surrounding individual schools and "burnout" in the medical profession.

The dean of the Sinclair School of Nursing, Judith Fitzgerald Miller, shared her concerns about the state of the nursing school.

Miller said there is a large number of undergraduate students applying for a clinical major during their junior year. She said two-thirds of the qualified applicants are turned away because of lack of space in the school.

The graduate program, however, is facing the opposite, with not enough applicants.

"We're having to compete with other schools and some profit organizations, so we're really looking at that to revitalize what we're doing here and how we're enticing students to our environment."

To remedy the lack of physical enrollment, the school is pushing its online graduate program. Graduate students would come to campus a few times during the year for hands-on training, but a majority of the curriculum would be completed online.

"We are finding ourselves in the middle of a rural state here for graduate education, so we have developed that program as an online program to bring students in," Miller said.

**Gift to Mizzou Journalism school announced**

By: Jordana Marie
COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri-Columbia is making a major gift announcement Friday for the school's Journalism school.

The gift is expected to be a multimillion-dollar donation from David Novak, a Mizzou alumnus and former CEO of Yum! Brands.

Last week, the curators voted unanimously to name the leadership institute after Novak. A big part of the curriculum will be based on a book Novak wrote about leadership.

At the curator meeting, system President Mun Choi said the donation will be able to support one of the top journalism programs in the country.

"It will enable our faculty members to pursue research and translate that research that benefits the communities," Choi said.

The announcement will begin at 9 a.m. ABC 17 News will have a livestream of the announcement.

GEORGE KENNEDY: MU's climate is challenged, but changing

GEORGE KENNEDY 17 hrs ago (1)

You’ve read, I hope, the Missourian’s excellent coverage this week of the “climate survey” that was conducted a year ago to assess attitudes and behaviors of students, faculty and staff throughout the University system.

If you have, you know that the findings revealed fairly high levels of discomfort among students and discontent among faculty and staff at MU.

Only two-thirds of the nearly 5,000 MU students who responded to the survey said they felt comfortable on campus. Forty percent of freshmen and 44 percent of sophomores were seriously considering leaving. Sixty percent of faculty respondents and about half the staff said they were serious about seeking other jobs. Minority, female and gay respondents were especially unhappy.

In a couple of “town hall” events Tuesday and Wednesday in Jesse Auditorium, senior administrators made clear that they found those numbers worrisome and that they’re already working to change them.
I think I can hear the critics saying, as they have already repeated ad nauseam, “Those radicals who stirred up all that trouble in November 2015 are still damaging the institution.” That sentiment is likely to show up in some responses to this essay. It echoes through the halls of the state Capitol.

To make my own evaluation clear, I’ll say that I thought at the time and still think the uprising by black students and their allies was both overdue and healthy. I should add that, for me, the support demonstrated by the football team and the head coach was their finest hour in a season that didn’t go all that well on the field.

Certainly, the survey results do reflect carryover attitudes from the year before. As the researchers who did the survey pointed out, however, these results also reflect some painful realities and some issues, such as racism and sexism, that are not unique to MU.

In her comments at both town halls I attended, Provost Garnett Stokes hit on several of the important realities. For one thing, she noted that she is the only one of the four senior administrators who spoke about the survey this week to have been on the job when it was conducted. She added wryly that she has “had the pleasure” of serving with four chancellors since her arrival in the spring of 2015. (On an interim basis, she was one of the four.)

She conceded that salaries are shamefully low and stagnant. She and her bosses did insist, though, that they are committed to finding the dollars for raises.

After Wednesday’s session, I hung around to ask Kevin McDonald a couple of questions that seemed important. He’s one of the new arrivals, our vice chancellor with the job description of “chief inclusion, diversity and equity officer.” He appears undaunted and offers no apologies for his bow tie.

In response to one question, he agreed that the fall of 2016 was probably the low point of recent University history. Comfort levels and morale were at their nadir, as reflected in everything from enrollment decline to the football team’s record.

The researchers recommend that the survey be replicated in three to five years, he told me. That would be a time frame long enough to show any impact of the changes in policy and practice being insisted on by our new leaders.

A couple of facts from a year after the survey suggest that the climate is already changing for the better. Half the staff and 60 percent of the faculty did not, in fact, leave.

And the retention rate of undergraduate students from last year to this was close to a record high.

Chancellor Alexander Cartwright, newest of the newcomers, summarized, “We haven’t stood still since 2016.”

But Provost Stokes added, “We have a lot more to do.”
The last question from Wednesday’s audience asked whether the university isn’t trying to solve what are really broader societal problems. Kevin McDonald took that one on. A land grant institution has to address and try to help solve the society’s problems, he said. Otherwise, “we aren’t worth our salt.”

Agreed.

ACT: More students prefer Missouri State than University of Missouri

By RUDI KELLER

The University of Missouri advertises itself as the No. 1 choice of Missouri high school seniors in billboards sprinkled alongside interstate highways.

Those billboards will not be changed — and university spokesman Christian Basi argues they are not wrong — now that ACT Inc. is reporting that more students named Missouri State University than MU as their first choice for college when they took the test last year.

“You are looking at different data,” Basi said. “Those billboards are based on actual enrollment numbers and those billboards are based on current enrollment.”

The number of juniors taking the ACT has increased since spring 2015. When students take the test, they list the colleges that are their first through sixth choices. Missouri State University’s top goal is to overtake MU as the first choice for the state’s high schoolers.

“We want to be the undergraduate choice for Missouri. That’s our focus,” Missouri State President Clif Smart told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch last month.

In the testing done in spring of 2016, the first round of ACT tests after campus protests in November 2015 that put a harsh spotlight on MU, 4,535 students listed Missouri State as their first choice for college, compared to 4,115 for MU. Another 8,144 students named Missouri State among their second through sixth choices, compared to 7,760 for MU.

A total of 68,480 students took the test.

It is the first time in at least five years that Missouri State has led MU as the top choice. ACT Inc. has data online back to 2013, when 4,250 students out of 49,640 who took the test said they wanted to attend MU as their first choice, compared to 2,772 for Missouri State.
The preferences are having an impact on enrollment as well. Missouri State reported a 1.2 percent increase in first-day enrollment in August as MU reported a decline of more than 7 percent. MU’s incoming freshman class was about 4,000 students on the first day, a decline of more than 15 percent, while Missouri State’s incoming class grew 1.8 percent.

MU remains the largest campus in the state in total enrollment.

The final enrollment figures, available after Sept. 20, will continue to show MU has the largest number of freshmen who graduated from Missouri high schools, Basi said.

“We have never, in all of the communications related to undergraduate enrollment, we have never based it on data from ACT,” Basi said.

How Mizzou’s struggles could be an opportunity for UMKC

By The Kansas City editorial board

SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 6:26 PM

Truly great cities have one key asset in common: first-class universities that attract top-tier students and faculty.

In this realm, though, Kansas City is still a work in progress.

Fairly or not, the University of Missouri-Kansas City has long been labeled a commuter campus, a not-so-desirable distinction that has bogged the school down and put it in a different echelon than the University of Missouri at Columbia, the flagship of the four-campus system.

But times are changing in higher education. And Mizzou’s standing took another hit this week.

For the first time in recent years, MU was not the first choice of the state’s college-bound seniors.

Missouri State University, tucked into the southern portion of the state in Springfield, nabbed that distinction by a significant margin. This isn’t a rounding error.

More than 4,500 seniors, or 8.5 percent of those reporting, ranked Missouri State as their top choice. Only 7.7 percent of the 53,000 students reporting their college choices picked MU, which placed second among seniors taking the ACT exam.
UMKC should see an opportunity in these rankings. Smaller, less expensive campuses that historically have been overshadowed by Mizzou now are successfully competing for the same students. And while MU is struggling to rebuild its reputation, UMKC should be racing to bolster its own.

There’s plenty of room for improvement.

Among students who took the ACT exam and revealed their top college choice, UMKC ranked fourth, lagging behind Missouri State, Mizzou and Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg. Only 1,328 students listed UMKC as their top choice.

UMKC should set goals now to grow that number and move up in the rankings. Now is the time for UMKC to embrace what it could become, with an assist from Kansas City’s civic and business leaders.

Moving the needle will require money, energy, vision and collective commitment from local and university leaders to strengthen Kansas City’s public university.

This is about the future of Kansas City. And a stronger university within our city’s core would have a wide-ranging impact. Amazon’s stated desire to build its second headquarters in a city with a strong university system is a relevant reminder of just what’s at stake.

The time is ripe for UMKC to raise its profile and establish itself as a destination campus. But both the Kansas City civic community and the university must join forces to achieve that goal.

City Council wants parking permit program for MU adjacent communities

By: Nick Allen


COLUMBIA - The City of Columbia will decide soon whether to raise downtown parking fees for the 2018 fiscal year, which starts in just three weeks. A vote will come Tuesday on a proposal
to either increase per hour parking rates by ten cents or raise parking garage permits by $10 per month.

Fourth Ward Councilman Ian Thomas made the proposal as a way to establish a parking permit program for communities that neighbor the MU/downtown area, such as East Campus and Benton Stephens.

Second Ward Councilman Michael Trapp said he agrees the program is necessary, but the means to establish it is not.

"People that are parking downtown aren't the same people that live in neighborhoods right next to it. So the program is being paid for by people that aren't going to be benefiting from it," he said.

Trapp said a permit program has become increasingly necessary for the communities as on-campus parking opportunities have dwindled in recent years.

MU reduced the number of permits it offers for the 2017-2018 school year, dropping down to 2,625 available spots, which serve a population of more than 30,000 students.

East Campus resident Julia Peistrup said many students without passes are parking in her neighborhood daily.

"Some days I pull up to my house and I thank God I have a driveway," she said. "There are a lot of people on this street that don't, and it's just a nightmare for them to find parking in front of their own house."

The parking program would most likely entail a distribution of permits to all community residents, and a daily patrol of enforcers to ticket those without a sticker. The City Council also proposed parking meters as an alternative solution.
Mizzou students travel south to aid in Hurricane Harvey efforts

By: Adam Duxter


COLUMBIA- When Anthony Ruffner first saw the damage Hurricane Harvey had done to Houston, he knew there had to be something he could do to help.

**Ruffner is planning to lead a group of 35 MU students to Houston, where they will help in the rebuilding process. They leave Thursday.**

Serving others is not a new concept for Ruffner. The MU junior is the founder of a campus non-profit group called The Hope Project, which aims to help college age students find ways to effectively serve in the mid-Missouri community.

“We started The Hope Project as an idea. I’ve always really been passionate about service, but I never really knew how I wanted to go about necessarily committing to do that in the community. We want to creatively empower students to make a difference in the world based on their strengths,” Ruffner said.

So, when he saw the news from Houston, Ruffner and his friends immediately began thinking of ways to make an impact.

“The first time we considered going to Houston was about two weeks ago. I got a text from a friend that was like ‘hey, what do you think about going to Houston this weekend?’ So, we started talking about how we could organize this,” he said.
Ruffner and a group of friends began cold-calling local churches in the Houston area asking if they needed volunteers. After a few tries, the MU students found Grace Church Houston, which said it was in need of help.

The students will be working with a non-profit called Eight Days of Hope, which specializes in disaster clean up and has partnered with the church.

The students are excited to do whatever they can.

“Our service is predominantly going to be in the community. It’s going to be us working on people’s houses, but also working with people to spread hope to them,” Ruffner said. "Whether it’s tearing out carpets or putting up new walls, or even just sitting down and listening to someone’s story. We just want to see how we can best serve the community of Houston.”

What started as an idea among a group of friends quickly became an effort with more than 35 students pledging their time. Still, some participants were originally somewhat hesitant to join.

Isaac Stephens, an MU junior, said, “When I first heard of this original idea, I was very skeptical. To see the support from people in The Hope Project and everyone on campus is incredible.”

Many students said the trip is important because it presents an opportunity to help others.

“We live in a divided nation right now, and I think this is a great opportunity no matter your background or status to show each other that we can love each other through everything and help each other out,” Stephens said.

Ruffner said big projects like this sometimes come from the smallest of ideas.

“Movements don’t really need anything more than one step in the right direction," he said. "If I would have thought about all the logistics of this trip, I probably would have never done it. Taking a step in the right direction really sets off a chain of events to where you really can accomplish more than you ever expected. If you told me a week ago that we’d have forty kids going to Houston, I would have told you that you were crazy.”

**All in a day’s work: MU freshman Hindman balances class, training**
By NICK KELLY

Austin Hindman had to raise his new bed as high as the posts allowed. Otherwise, the bike would not fit underneath. This spot under his single bed serves as the bike’s home, but it’s more of a visitor than a permanent resident. Hindman often takes it outside the residence hall. Puzzled stares greet him whenever other students see him rolling his racing bike down the hallway.

When time does not allow him to go biking outside, he turns his dorm room into his bike trail. Hindman mounts his bike on rollers and peddles for at least an hour, sometimes more.

“It gets pretty loud at some points,” said Hindman, a freshman from Wildwood.

No complaints have come yet from his roommate, who sleeps about 2 feet away. Hindman would not provide motive for a noise complaint if it were not necessary to defend his title at the 2017 International Triathlon Union’s junior world championships in the Netherlands this weekend.

The event is set to start at 1 a.m. CDT Saturday in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

A runner on the Missouri cross country team, Hindman has to get creative if he’s to find time to train.

And in case that was not enough, Hindman also is navigating college coursework for the first time this fall.

“Has it been a piece of cake? No. He’s had to make some adjustments, and it has been tiring,” said his father, Jeff Hindman. “He has done a good job of it.”

Hindman has trained since the day he moved into his residence hall. He began unpacking at about noon on that mid-August day. Not long after dinner, Hindman was out running 5 miles, what he classifies as a shorter run.

“I was just trying to stay on top of things,” he said.

His schedule has not allowed for much free time since this initial run. A typical weekday starts at about 5:20 a.m. as he wakes up for cross country practice. He sometimes visits the trainer afterward for massage work. Then, he savors each bite of his breakfast before classes start at about 9:30 a.m.

“Breakfast is the most relaxing part of my day until bed,” Hindman said.

College algebra, nutrition, business administration, the Amish community and death and dying in the western world fill out his class schedule, which typically takes him until about 3 p.m. Up next, he often has lifting for cross country. He squeezes in course work before he bikes and
completes his night swim at the recreational center; he swims five days a week. Depending on amount of school work, he might not get to bed until after 1 a.m.

And he does it all again when his alarm blares at 5:20 a.m.

An intimidating schedule? Sure. But intimidation has never stopped Hindman.

He is, after all, the same person who swam from Alcatraz prison to shore, which he followed up with an 18-mile bike ride through the hills of San Francisco and an 8-mile run to round out the triathlon.

Hindman was 9.

Why subject himself to a workout that sounds like the trip an Alcatraz escapee might have taken before 1963? The same reason he sometimes fails to get five hours of sleep.

“When it comes down to it, I love what I do,” Hindman said. “Swimming, biking, running ... it is really my passion.”

He made this clear to the Missouri coaching staff during the recruiting process. If they wanted Hindman, the Missouri Gatorade runner of the year his senior year, the Tigers needed to be flexible with his schedule. He wanted to still train for triathlons while competing in cross country.

The coaches agreed, and they have kept their word.

“He has had amazing support from Mizzou,” Jeff Hindman said. “They have been wonderful to him.”

Whether he wins the junior world triathlon again this weekend, it will be his last as he moves out of the junior age range. It’s time, though. He has a bigger stage on his mind: Tokyo.

He thinks of the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo each time he hears the alarm that sits close by the bike under his bed.

“The days that are really tough and you are really, really hurting and not wanting to get up, sometimes that snooze button looks really good in the morning,” Hindman said. “You know that if you make that decision to get up in the morning and go to work hard, you know it is going to be worth it in the end.
Expert Wants Institutions to Track Racial Data in Title IX Proceedings

By CATHERINE MORRIS

The debate around Title IX enforcement on college campuses has intensified recently, in the wake of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos’ recent announcement that she plans to rescind existing guidance and replace it with regulation at an unspecified date.

According to Ben Trachtenberg, associate professor at the University of Missouri School of Law, current conversations around Title IX enforcement often skip over one key element: the impact of racial bias on disciplinary outcomes at colleges and universities.

In a paper published in the 2018 Nevada Law Journal, Trachtenberg argues that accused students, more commonly referred to as “respondents,” may be impacted by biases around race and ethnicity during the disciplinary process, weighting the system against minority students. The trouble is, there is no way to know whether this is the case since colleges and universities are not required to collect or make public demographic data relating to disciplinary proceedings.

“The Office for Civil Rights would be wise to require higher education institutions to collect demographic data about discipline as K-12 schools are already required to do,” Trachtenberg said.

Through the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC), the Education Department already gathers demographic information about students in K-12 schools across the country, including demographic data on students who are given in-school suspension, out of school suspension, and expulsion. The data has helped shape policy initiatives, and provided clear evidence that at some schools children of color are disproportionately likely to be suspended or otherwise penalized. So why not do the same at colleges and universities, Trachtenberg asks?

While greater transparency would shed light on all campus disciplinary proceedings, Trachtenberg argues that it would have a particular impact on cases involving complaints of sexual harassment and assault. Broad definitions of what constitutes sexual harassment and assault leaves room for subjectivity on the part of the administrators overseeing the cases, according to Trachtenberg, opening the door for possible bias, implicit or otherwise.
Title IX was first created in the 1970s in an effort to create parity in high school and college sports for women. Its scope has since expanded to include the potential removal of federal funding from schools if they discriminate on the basis of gender, and to require them to prevent and address sexual harassment and assault on campus.

Under the Obama administration, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issued new guidance intended to push schools to investigate complaints of sexual assault and harassment more strenuously. Few would deny that the guidance helped move the needle on combating campus sexual assault and harassment, bringing greater national attention to a very real problem.

Yet Trachtenberg argues that good intentions can still sometimes have unintended consequences, particularly if there is no means to comprehensively study the results of new policies. Little is known about the guidance’s impact on students of color, because the data is simply not available.

“It has been true before in this country that the rush to attack a real problem has led to the mistreatment of minorities in particular, like say the War on Drugs,” Trachtenberg says. “Universities of all places should be willing to go the extra mile for fairness.”

Sexual assault survivor advocates, however, caution against focusing solely on the impact that race has on outcomes for respondents, without also looking at its impact on complainants, since biases are likely to be at play for both.

“We have called similarly for aggregate data about disciplinary outcomes – the demographics of survivors and the demographics of respondents — to make sure that there are not disparate impacts in terms of who is disciplined,” said Alyssa Peterson, policy and advocacy coordinator at Know Your IX, a survivor- and youth-led advocacy organization dedicated to ending sexual and dating violence in K-12 schools and college.

While there are substantial gaps in our understanding of how race impacts outcomes in disciplinary processes, existing evidence shows that survivors of sexual assault who are also minorities “are particularly harshly treated” in the current system, Peterson said.

“We don’t necessarily know if there’s implicit bias for respondents — I assume [there would be] because there’s implicit bias in everything — but what we do know is that survivors of color are less likely to be taken seriously when they file reports, and often may experience damaging stereotyping during investigations,” Peterson said.

To gain a better understanding of how disciplinary proceedings are playing out on campus, Know Your IX is advocating for education departments across all 50 states to develop standardized campus climate surveys for schools to administer every two years. Schools would then be required to publicly release that information.

OCR already has the capacity to gather demographic information through resolution agreements with schools and publish the data through its CRDC system, Peterson said, but raised concerns about whether the Trump administration would be a “reliable partner” in that work. “[The administration] is not concerned about this issue on either side, so I don’t know if it’s feasible for them to implement this well,” Peterson said.
A few schools have already taken steps to be more transparent about their campus climate. Yale University, for instance, began publishing semi-annual reports on the prevalence of complaints of sexual misconduct in 2012. The reports do not include demographic data. Peterson points out that many such efforts at transparency were prompted by years of student activism.

Schools already have the data they need to understand whether race plays a part in disciplinary outcomes at their fingertips in Title IX offices. They already compile data on the racial and ethnic composition of their students, their graduating classes, and the like. So what is preventing them from being more transparent about disciplinary processes? asks Dr. Melissa Kagle, senior research associate at the Knowles Science Teaching Foundation.

Prior to joining KSTF, Kagle was an assistant professor of educational studies at Colgate University, where she became increasingly troubled by what appeared to be racial bias against students of color in the way that the school dealt with sexual misconduct cases.

“If [schools] are worried about what they might learn, then that’s an even bigger reason to be forthcoming about these numbers, to give some examination of how these things are playing out on their campus and why,” Kagle said.

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K-State students condemn white nationalist posters on campus and plan to rally tonight

BY LISA GUTIERREZ
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 9:25 AM

Fliers with racist and white nationalist themes were posted around the K-State campus on Wednesday in Manhattan.

Images of the posters showed up on Twitter before university officials released a statement saying the messages on the fliers were “unwelcome.”

One flier, referencing Muslim immigrants, reportedly read, “How many is too many?

Another showed a picture of a white family with this message: “Why are we told Asia for the Asians, Africa for the Africans, white countries for everyone. Diversity means less white people. We have a right to exist.”
“Why are you attacking someone that’s a different color than you or a different background than you?” senior Jonathan Cole told KSNT in Topeka.

In a statement to The Collegian, the school’s student newspaper, university officials said the “messages posted on Wednesday, Sept. 13, do not reflect the values of Kansas State University and are unwelcome.”

School officials told KSNT the fliers were removed because they were posted where posters are not allowed and because whoever placed them did not go through proper channels.

The school would have allowed the fliers if the school’s bulletin board rules had been followed, Jeff Morris, K-State’s vice president of communications, told KSNT.

Some of the posters were placed on light poles around campus.

“These do not represent our values,” Morris said. “At the same time we respect the right of free speech. We are a public university and people have a right to express their opinions.”

A joint statement from student body president Jack Ayres and vice president Olivia Baalman addressed the “individual/individuals” who hung the posters, saying “these words and actions you have imposed on our community are not the Wildcat Way.

“These are acts of discrimination and they are not tolerable on our campus. This could be your opinion, and yes, you are entitled to your opinion. But, we want to clearly state, that we disagree with it. We disagree with you.”

The posters prompted statements of condemnation from other campus groups as well, including the K-State Sexuality and Gender Alliance, College Republicans and a joint statement from The Asian American Student Union, Black Student Union and Hispanic American Leadership Organization, according to The Collegian.

A rally to support diversity has been scheduled for Thursday night on campus.

Last month officials at the University of Missouri warned students on the Columbia campus about recruitment efforts of white supremacist groups at colleges across the country.

The memo was sent after MU officials saw fliers around campus that read, “Looking for Young Midwestern Patriots.”
Law professor examines Chappelle-Nadal's Facebook comment, legal procedure

By: Mark Slavit

COLUMBIA — Missouri Senators censured Chappelle-Nadal by a 28-2 vote Wednesday for her Facebook comment in which she hoped for the president's assassination.

University of Missouri law professor Christina Wells said her post was not a threat because of the word “hope”.

“The speaker has to intend to communicate a serious expression or desire or intent to commit unlawful violence,” Wells said. "The expression, 'I hope the President is assassinated', does not rise at any level to a threat.”

The possibility of an expulsion from the Missouri Senate still faces Democrat Senator Maria Chappelle-Nadal of University City. Lawmakers said Chappelle-Nadal could be out of office as soon as January after getting a formal reprimand during a recent Veto Session at the State Capitol.

The Missouri Senate removed Chappelle-Nadal from all of her committee assignments; she has apologized three times for the comment, but has refused to resign from her position. Senators could still expel Chappelle-Nadal during a special session or the upcoming regular session.

“We think you should resign because of your actions," Republican Columbia State Senator Caleb Rowden said. "If you don’t, there is always a chance that we are going to come back in January and kick you out.”

Rowden said it did not matter whether or not Chappelle-Nadal’s Facebook post was a legal threat against the President. Rowden said it was all about holding elected officials to a higher standard.
Chappelle-Nadal refused to resign from the Missouri Senate because she said her constituents asked her to stay on the job.

Another public college offers full tuition coverage for low-income students

Ashley Jost

ST. LOUIS • Northwest Missouri State University announced a new program Thursday from which students have already started to reap rewards.

The program, called the American Dream Grant, covers 100 percent of tuition and fees for students who are eligible for federal need-based financial aid.

The actual American Dream Grant has been around on the Maryville, Mo., campus since 2004, but its mission has seen multiple iterations with the changing tide of student need and state funding. But thanks to a restructuring during the last 18 months, the campus is able to offer students who are eligible to receive any amount of the federal Pell Grant, which maxes out at $5,920 per year.

Tuition and fees at Northwest Missouri State are about $9,570, according to the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

Most Pell grant funding goes to students from households earning less than $30,000 a year, but many families qualify at levels up to twice that or more depending on individual circumstances.
It’s a program that’s similar to one announced by the University of Missouri-Columbia a few weeks ago. That one has an honors college aspect where Pell eligible students who are accepted into the honors college also receive room and board for free. Room and board aren’t part of the package at Northwest.

About one-third of Northwest Missouri State’s students, or 1,931 this year, are Pell eligible, according to Charles Mayfield, Northwest’s director of financial assistance.

Mayfield said the public university is phasing this program in. Starting this fall, Pell Grant-eligible freshman are receiving the grant. Next year, those incoming sophomores and incoming freshmen will receive it — and so forth.

Unlike Mizzou’s program, there’s a component of Northwest Missouri State’s option that includes out-of-state students who meet certain requirements. Mayfield said it made sense since the school draws a lot of students from Nebraska and Iowa.

In addition to being Pell Grant eligible, students must score at least an 18 on their ACT and earn at least a 2.5 high school grade point average.

“Sometimes the smallest thing that gets in the way can prevent students from applying to go to college or continuing through the enrollment process all the way to graduation,” Mayfield said in a statement. “We want to remove as many of those things that might get in the way as possible.”

MU Museum of Anthropology to reopen Saturday after three-year hiatus

BY ZIPEI LIN

Generated from News Bureau direct pitch.
After putting the finishing touches on new installations, the MU Museum of Anthropology will reopen to the public Saturday.

The museum focuses on the ethnography of North America, with specific exhibits on Missouri archaeology and human behavior around the world. The aim is to broaden the cultural understanding of people, said Amanda Harrison, assistant curator of the exhibition.

The museum has been closed for three years after being moved out of Swallow Hall on Francis Quadrangle. Harrison said she’s excited for the museum to be more visible to not only the university, but also the Columbia community.

“We’re more of a science museum, as opposed to the Museum of Art and Archaeology, which is an art museum,” she said.

The two sister institutions are located next to each other in the second floor of a building at Mizzou North off Business Loop 70 West.

The representatives of the Osage Nation were invited to bless the space last week. According to Native American tradition, blessing is necessary for any space where there are sacred and important materials, Harrison said.

In the middle of the exhibition room is an art piece, “Spring Maiden,” that was gifted by the MU Department of Anthropology to celebrate the museum’s opening.

“She was a storyteller,” Harrison said. “We’re coming here. We’re telling the stories of cultures and people. She was a beautiful way to represent what our museum is all about.”

One part of the opening exhibition is the Kachinas collection. Kachinas were originally made as sacred dolls to teach children, especially girls, about the spirit world and nature gods. They still hold a great deal of significance to the Hopi people, Harrison said.

“It’s not only looking into the importance of the art form, but looking into the importance of the cultural expression that they’re sharing with us,” she said.

The Kachinas are grouped based on styles such as clowns, women, plants and animals. As westward expansion occurred in the U.S., Kachinas became more than a spiritual art form. Some are contemporary, such as one blowing a bubble with gum, one choking a chicken and one in an “I love New York” T-shirt.

The collection is a donation from a man who spent his entire life collecting them, Harrison said.

“This is the first time any of this has been on exhibit because they were in his home,” she said.

The jaguar gorget, a piece of armor for the throat, is one of the museum’s more unique pieces. To have a jaguar on a Missouri artifact is unusual because the animal is not native here, Harrison said, and the exhibited gorget is the only one with a jaguar that has been found in Missouri.
The new display also includes parts of the Grayson Archery Collection, the most complete collection of its kind anywhere in the world. It documents the historical cultures of six continents through archery.

The museum’s permanent collection covers a very long time period of Missouri archaeology. There are items from the Paleoindian era that show the earliest evidence of humans in Missouri.

The North American Ethnographic collection is divided into five different regions. The majority of items are from around 1800 to the 20th century, with the exception of a case of prehistoric southwest pottery.

“What’s significant about this is looking at an ethnographic across sections of North American cultures,” which allows a cultural comparison, Harrison said.

The museum also has the second oldest shoes in the world in the collection, which were found here in Missouri.

“In our museum collection down there, we have over 35,000 objects,” she said. “What’s on exhibit here is only 1 percent of what we actually have. It’s a very, very small sampling.”

Some of the museum’s items have been in its collection for 100 years, Harrison said.

“It’s important to me that the community has access to these collections,” Harrison said. “It’s very satisfying to know that the public is once again being able to come and see these.”

**Intersection - Back to School With Fossils in the Columns, Toxicology and Textiles**

By SARA SHAHRIARI & ABBY IVORY-GANJA

Intersection is marking the new school year with conversations with three MU professors whose work and teaching styles make then stand out. We learn that parts of Missouri were once on the coast of a huge inland sea, how a veterinarian and toxicologist gets to the bottom of mysterious ailments and how students are learning to understand the global market for fabrics.

Our guests include:
John Huntley is an assistant professor of Geological Sciences. He tells us what Missouri was like millions of years ago, and how events in the distant past shaped the landscapes we know today - including MU's iconic columns.

Tim Evans is an associate professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine who specializes in toxicology. He's created a unique project that helps students learn about household products that can harm pets.

Jung Ha-Brookshire, an associate professor in the Textile and Management Department, tells us about leading trips that help students understand the global reach of the textile industry.

*Assistant producers for this show are Elena Rivera and Hannah Haynes.*

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**Mumps case confirmed at UMSL; two others suspected**

By Jeremy Kohler St. Louis Post-Dispatch 21 hrs ago (2)

The University of Missouri-St. Louis says a case of mumps has been confirmed on campus, and two others are suspected.

University officials have sent a letter to students, faculty and staff saying they may have been exposed to mumps. Anyone with mumps symptoms was asked to call their doctor or the university’s health services department at 314-516-5671.

Common symptoms of mumps include swollen glands, fever, fatigue and headache, among other things. The viral infection is spread through saliva or mucus.

**While many people are vaccinated against mumps as children, the disease has hit college campuses hard in recent years. Last year, more than 200 cases were reported at the University of Missouri.**
One day before they plan to file cursory paperwork to unionize, graduate students and workers on Washington University’s campus rallied on campus.

The graduate and international students and workers are working with the Service Employees International Union Local 1, a union that’s made waves in Missouri working with everyone from graduate students to tenured faculty at multiple University of Missouri campuses and St. Louis University.

Around 600 graduate workers plan to file for a union election Friday, according to a statement from SEIU.

“Graduate workers are looking to join together for a voice on the job and a seat at the table with the university in order to focus on the important matters facing themselves and the undergraduate students on campus,” according to a statement from SEIU. “Currently, the university can make all decisions relative to the employment conditions of graduate workers.”

A statement from Washington University says leaders recognize and respect students’ right to gather on campus and share their opinions.

"We believe that graduate students are first and foremost students," leaders said in a statement. "We have a long history of strong collaboration with our graduate students on issues that are important to them and have made many significant enhancements as a result of their feedback."
We are committed to continuing that tradition and engaging in a thoughtful discussion with our community.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

When Do a Dean’s Messages About a Graduate Union Go Too Far?

By: Vimal Patel

No MU Mention

For administrators, talking about graduate-student unionization can be fraught. Take Cornell University, where graduate activists and their faculty allies are clashing with the administration over a pair of messages by a dean.

The dispute raises questions about the proper role of administrators, who almost uniformly oppose collective bargaining by their graduate students, in communications about union elections. When, for example, does an honest opinion about a union’s effects cross into improper coercion? Can an announcement about new benefits appear like it’s trying to influence an election?

While disagreements have played out on other campuses about the proper role of administrators and faculty members when discussing graduate unionization, the debate at Cornell is especially sensitive because a vote in March was so close: 919 voted against unionization and 856 supported it. Eighty-one ballots have been challenged because of voter-eligibility questions, which could swing the election.

According to more than 20 faculty members in the university’s Industrial and Labor Relations School, communications from Barbara A. Knuth, dean of the Graduate School, ran afoul of federal labor law. They penned a letter to President Martha E. Pollack last week about the "coercive" messages that "interfered with Cornell graduate employees’ right to vote in a fair election."

Their concerns center on two messages. On March 26, the day before voting began, Ms. Knuth in an "Ask a Dean" memo to graduate students, suggested that a union could lead to fewer graduate students at Cornell. The next day, the first day of voting, Ms. Knuth informed graduate students that their cost for out-of-network health care would be going down.

The messages, the faculty members and graduate activists say, were two sides of the same coercion coin: the first, a threat, the second, the promise of a new benefit. "Announcing new
benefits close to the time of an election to influence employees to vote against union representation interferes with voters’ free choice," the letter states.

Cornell declined to discuss the messages from Ms. Knuth. But in a statement, the university called allegations that they violated the law "baseless." The statement from a spokesman, Joel M. Malina, also suggested that if the union were to file a formal complaint with an arbitrator, Cornell could file its own.

"If needed, the university will vigorously defend itself against accusations of interference," Mr. Malina said. "Further, while Cornell has chosen not to escalate an adversarial relationship in this case, if allegations are brought claiming violations by Cornell, we will document the union’s improper activities which included subjecting students to direct harassment, voter suppression, and illegal electioneering."

The union could file a complaint with the American Arbitration Association, the third party that both sides agreed would moderate such disputes. The union has decided to hold off on that route and instead reach an agreement with Cornell. Neither side would disclose details of the negotiations, but holding a new union election is a possibility.

While it appears that the messages may have violated a May 2016 agreement between the university and the union that put limitations on how administrators could communicate about the union drive, the arbitrator would consider many factors in making a ruling, says William A. Herbert, executive director of the National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions.

Timing is a big part of determining intent, Mr. Herbert says. Making the health-care announcement on the first day of the election is "a significant factor," he says.

Another labor-law expert, William B. Gould IV, a former chairman of the NLRB and an emeritus professor at Stanford Law School, agrees. He says the burden would be on the university to demonstrate that the timing of Ms. Knuth’s health-coverage announcement was not connected to the election, perhaps by showing that a similar message went out at the same time the year before. "But in the absence of that kind of defense," Mr. Gould says, "this would be regarded as the promise of a benefit, which would interfere with the election."

The message suggesting a reduction in graduate students is trickier, Ms. Gould says. If Ms. Knuth was voicing a speculation, that would violate labor law. If, on the other hand, the projection was based on any data, perhaps a study of the effects of a graduate union on another university, or Cornell’s own economic analysis, the message might be lawful. "Economic prophecies are OK," Mr. Gould says. "The question is, what is the basis for the economic prophecy?"

The message about the reduction of graduate students "goes to the question of what are the disadvantages of union representation," Mr. Herbert says. "That would seem to be inconsistent with the written agreement, which said those kinds of letters and emails were not going to be sent out. They could also be viewed as a threat."
Risa Lieberwitz, a professor of labor and employment law and one of the signers of the letter, says it’s in Cornell’s interest to avoid the perception that it’s trying to interfere with its graduate students’ free choices.

"There is a power relationship between the Cornell administration and its graduate employees, and one has to be extremely sensitive to power relationships," Ms. Lieberwitz says. "Even if an arbitrator says Cornell’s behavior doesn’t quite cross the line, it doesn’t make Cornell look good to be playing around that line."

A Look in the Mirror

Racism hurts students throughout the college admissions process, leading scholar tells meeting of admissions counselors.

NO MU MENTION

By RICK SELTZER

BOSTON -- College admissions officers and high school guidance counselors regularly engage in racism, keynote speaker Shaun R. Harper told thousands of attendees at the National Association for College Admission Counseling's national conference Thursday, imploring them to change their ways.

"Your profession is 80 percent white," said Harper, a professor at the University of Southern California's school of education and executive director for the university's Race and Equity Center. "It's even whiter when we get to those who are at the top levels. It sure would be nice if a mostly white professional association and its members more powerfully, more responsibly and more loudly advocated for racial justice on behalf of those who don't have the resources that they deserve in high schools across our nation."

Harper's keynote comes weeks after white nationalists shocked the country by marching through Charlottesville, Va., the home of the University of Virginia. Days after the Virginia events, Harper addressed that university's faculty and staff members, arguing that the university is complicit in maintaining white supremacy in society and asking them to change. He wrote about the experience in an essay on Inside Higher Ed.

His NACAC speech in Boston made some similar points. Harper asked conference attendees to raise their hands if they were disgusted by the racism displayed in Virginia. Then he argued against being
“selectively horrified and disgusted” by racism and its manifestations. Those manifestations include those in the college admissions process, he said.

“Racism isn't just tiki torch-carrying white nationalists,” he said. “It's not just the things Donald Trump says. It's also the things that happen in high schools and in college admissions offices.”

Harper listed numerous areas where he sees structural racism in the admissions process, drawing upon his own research visiting colleges and universities across the country to determine how young black men navigated higher education.

His list started with valuing “black lives differently” in counseling -- guidance counselors not investing as much time or energy for black students who are applying to college as they do for white students. It continued with “undermatching,” or telling students that they should not try to enroll in top colleges or universities because “kids from here don't get into schools like those,” even if those students were top performers and in all likelihood would be admitted to the country's top institutions.

Harper also spoke against telling students that historically black colleges and universities are of poor quality and against recruiting black students from only a select handful of cities and high schools. He argued that “curricular racelessness” in programs producing professionals who work in higher education is racist because it allows graduates to enter the field with implicit biases that were never challenged.

He added that racial stratification in college admissions offices is racism as well, saying top administrators are usually white while those at the bottom of the organizational chart are more likely to be people of color.

Some of his most withering criticism was targeted at the idea that colleges can't find enough college-ready, highly qualified black applicants.

“You can find them when you want them to play on the football team and the men's basketball team,” he said. “You can find them easily when you want them to earn millions of dollars for your universities. You will go to the ends of the earth to find them.”

Harper drew his presentation to a close by showing a picture of the torch-bearing marchers in Charlottesville.

The events in Charlottesville led to a loss of life, he said, referencing the death of Heather Heyer, who was killed when an Ohio man drove his car into demonstrators protesting white nationalists in Charlottesville.

But lives are also ruined when guidance counselors and admissions officers misdirect students, Harper said. Students are locked out of opportunities. They are negatively affected by counselors who say they are not smart enough.

An association as large as NACAC should be able to do something about issues like the low number of counselors serving primarily minority students in low-income communities, Harper said.
“This isn't just a one-time occurrence on a bad night in Charlottesville,” he said. “This is something that happens every day in high schools and on college campuses around the country.

“Please, do better.”

The View From Inside

The keynote came after NACAC President Nancy T. Beane laid out a host of issues in her opening remarks. The admissions profession faces challenges related to degree completion, economic disparity, student debt, mental health and systemic inequalities in the college admission process, she said.

Meanwhile, NACAC has had to weigh in after President Trump's administration took new positions on highly charged issues, such as when it moved to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and introduced an immigration ban targeting nationals of six Muslim-majority countries. NACAC is attempting to draw a line between addressing those issues and taking political stances.

“We have taken strong positions and issued statements,” said Beane, associate director of college counseling at the Westminster Schools in Georgia. “I hope you understand this: they are honestly not political but are rather aimed at protecting students, just as we always have done since NACAC was established.”

This is not the first time the issue of race has been prominent at a NACAC conference. Last year, the outgoing president, Phillip Trout, faced sharp criticism after saying “all lives matter” during the conference’s opening general session.

His statement upset many who felt saying “all lives matter” amounted to minimizing the Black Lives Matter movement and its message against police killings of black men and women. Trout apologized.