MU News Bureau

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Saving his job: Mizzou playing to win the last six games

By HJW III (HANK’S VIEW)

On Homecoming morning before the Missouri football team played host to Idaho, MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright answered a question about the future of Tigers head football coach Barry Odom: “I’m looking forward to the next six games.”

Some observers concluded the coach was on thin ice, but with benefit of results from the first two of those games, I believe Odom’s footing is more secure because Cartwright and Odom’s immediate superior, Athletic Director Jim Sterk, seems eager to believe.

On Homecoming Saturday, skeptics had a good case. The team had won only one game and by late September had lost three by a combined score of 117-30. The long knives were out, but then Odom’s underdog charges played well against Kentucky and No. 3 Georgia, and when Cartwright said he really wanted to see the next six games I think he did so more with anticipation than fear. He wanted Odom’s team to play as underdogs to give the coach a chance to look better.

If that was Cartwright’s plan it is working out so far. The Tigers dispatched Idaho and most recently Connecticut with lopsided scores. On Saturday against UConn, Tiger quarterback Drew Lock had an outstanding day causing him to literally skip off the field late in the game. Barry Odom’s team has a chance to win all its remaining games against SEC teams, turning skeptical Tiger fans into cheerleaders.

By now we know Missouri has one of the better offensive teams in the nation and one of the weaker defenses. Odom is a former top 10 defensive coach. He should be able to make amends where it is needed most.

Cartwright and Sterk want to “win the right way.” They seem to think Odom is on that track. The “right way” also is likely to be a measured way requiring patience but promising surer results. Not the “one and done” approach but more akin to the way former head Coach Gary Pinkel built his teams.

It may take a year or two but if all works out as Cartwright, Sterk & Co. intend, our enthusiasm will return. As the Tigers work their way through these “last six games” and beyond we will
suffer occasional disappointment, but let’s look at progress being made. I realize it may sound old fashioned, but a good Tiger is a loyal fan who sees a turnaround under way and doesn’t expect too darn much overnight.

We got a nice boost in Connecticut. Go, Tigers!

Marching without Pain

Generated from MU Health press release: Orthopaedic surgeons at mu health care offer biologic joint repair


MU using technology to assist with battle against opioid “public health emergency”

(Missourinet) – The opioid crisis is now a nationwide public health emergency. President Trump made that declaration last week, although he didn’t pledge any federal money to battle the problem.
The move does allow the government to redirect resources and expand medical services in rural areas. The University of Missouri school of medicine is now using telemedicine to connect doctors in under-served areas with opioid specialists.

Dr. Karen Edison says the technology allows the best possible treatment to reach people who normally wouldn't have access to it.

“The promise of the program is really to take evidence based, expert care out through underserved Missouri, and into inner city Missouri, anywhere where there is a need for expertise.”

Even if the federal government can subsidize various programs to help fight the epidemic, Edison said treatment needs to be delivered at the frontline.

“Really, health care is best if it’s delivered regionally, if not locally, because local health care providers know the culture,” said Edison. “They know the resources. They know the infrastructure. They know the town where that patient lives, and how to get things done for that patient.”

The Centers for Disease Control says opioid overdose deaths in Missouri went up 63-percent from 2014 to 2015. The agency says about 91 Americans a day die from opioid overdoses.

Capitol metal detectors reflect rift - between lawmakers, administration

ANNIKA MERRILEES

The metal detectors at the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City have drawn scrutiny from visitors and lawmakers alike.

Kurt Bahr, R-St. Charles, points to the long lines he says he sees from the vantage point of his office, adding that the Capitol police force that operates the detectors is already understaffed.
"They don’t have enough resources for what we had asked them to do before we asked them to man metal detectors," Bahr said.

But the metal detectors have become more than an inconvenience. The question of whether or not to pay for the security measure has become a symbol for the tug of war between the executive and legislative branch.

Bahr, the chair of the appropriations committee for General Administration, has had a front seat to it all.

Bahr said that former Gov. Jay Nixon’s administration purchased the metal detectors. The equipment (including the machines themselves, hand-held metal detector-wands and electronic badge scanners for locked doors) was purchased with $415,000 of a $40 million bond that the General Assembly had appropriated for repairs and renovations of the Capitol building, according to the Associated Press.

Then, Bahr said, the Office of Administration found funds to pay for a contractor to man the metal detectors.

While the governor can recommend funding and remove funds through a veto, the legislature is solely responsible for appropriations and budgeting. Bahr said that this issue has raised a question of legality.

When Gov. Eric Greitens swept into office last year, he kept the equipment, requesting $750,000 to contract security personnel to man the metal detectors. The line item was not approved, and it was removed from the budget. Bahr said that the General Assembly did, however, grant $250,000 to pay for the salaries and equipment of five additional Capitol Police officers.

Bahr said the General Assembly was clear that the intent of the money was to increase the Capitol’s saturation control, which increases the number and frequency of patrols by police officers. The executive branch decided, though, to use those five officers (at least in part) to
monitor the metal detectors, he said, and extended their contract with the metal detector security contractor.

Mike O’Connell, communications director for the Missouri Department of Public Safety, said Capitol police are currently manning the metal detectors, and they are in the process of hiring the five new officers.

Bahr said that there is no place in the budget to provide for maintenance, recalibration of the metal detectors, or additional training for metal detector personnel.

"If these things break, do they even have the authority to repair them?" Bahr asked.

Ryan Burns, spokeswoman for the Office of Administration, told the Missourian in an email: "Should maintenance be required on the metal detectors, a determination will be made at that time as to whether payments would come from OA or DPS. But it is not anticipated this expense would be needed on any sort of regular basis, if ever."

Bahr said sometimes separations of power are ambiguous.

Bahr said the General Assembly is normally reluctant to be prescriptive about how money is spent and that legislators did not dictate that the five new Capitol police officers could not be used to man the metal detectors. He said that the legislature does not usually get that precise in appropriating, but "that’s not to say that the General Assembly can’t be more prescriptive next year."

"The process of checks and balances is a slow dance," Bahr said.

Bahr said the lack of communication between the legislative branch and the executive branch — mostly during the previous administration, but also during the current one — is troubling.

Peverill Squire, political science professor at MU, said such budget allocation decisions exist within something of a gray area, but are not unheard of. They happen, he said, with
other governors and other legislatures, but raise a question of whether the governor is going beyond his prerogative.

Squire said that because the governor and the legislature are both Republican, the reaction has been somewhat muted.

Former Rep. Chris Kelly served on the budget committee for many years and was chairman for two terms. Kelly said that as a representative he "had a reputation for being willing to stand up to governors of both parties."

When asked if he thought the metal detectors are a limitation on the public, Kelly said, "I don’t think it, that’s a matter of fact. You can say it’s a good limitation or a bad limitation but there’s no question it’s a limitation."

Reps. Caleb Rowden, Chuck Basye, Sara Walsh, Kip Kendrick, Martha Stevens and Greitens’ spokesman Parker Briden could not be reached for comment.

MU Professor Explains Cultural Appropriation

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=6c6a2cfb-5529-4a44-9613-61fcc42690c6
Planned Parenthood sues over rules limiting abortion services in Columbia

By RUDI KELLER

Planned Parenthood sued Monday to overturn the latest state abortion regulations, claiming the rules have already forced it to cancel appointments for some women in Columbia and will prevent new clinics in Springfield and Joplin from opening.

In the federal lawsuit filed in the Western District of Missouri, the two Missouri-based Planned Parenthood affiliates are seeking a temporary restraining order blocking enforcement of rules requiring a complication plan for women who have trouble after taking medication to induce an abortion.

The regulations are unconstitutional, the lawsuit argues, because they require a doctor handling complications to have hospital admitting privileges that have been rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court when applied to doctors performing abortions.

“This ‘complication plan’ flies in the face of our patients’ constitutional rights to safe, legal abortion services without undue burden,” Planned Parenthood Great Plains interim President and CEO Aaron Samulcek said in a news release. “Yet, we find ourselves in court for the third time in one year, challenging clearly unconstitutional laws written by ideological extremists with one agenda — to end abortion access in Missouri.”

The emergency regulations, which take effect Friday, were written to implement a new law passed during a legislative special session in July. The lawsuit is the second one challenging enforcement of the new law.

Related content

Planned Parenthood federal lawsuit

“The Missouri complications plan requirement for medication abortions is a common-sense regulation that ensures women have access to adequate care in medical emergencies,” Attorney General Josh Hawley said in a prepared statement emailed to the Tribune. “My office will continue to vigorously defend these regulations.”
The Columbia clinic received a license Oct. 3 to provide medication and surgical abortions and began seeing patients for pre-abortion visits on Oct. 16. Medication-induced abortions are provided to women who have been pregnant for 10 weeks or less, and involve two doses of medication, one usually taken at home.

Because Missouri law requires women to give consent for an abortion at least 72 hours in advance of a surgical or medication abortion, the regulation unnecessarily burdens women seeking the safest form of abortion, said Bonyen Lee-Gilmore, spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood Great Plains.

The consultation before consent must be provided by the same doctor performing the abortion, under the new law that took effect Oct. 24. That means women who want a medication abortion must now travel to St. Louis or Kansas City, Lee-Gilmore said.

“We already know that the hospital admitting is unconstitutional,” Lee-Gilmore said. “This is dangerously close, and the lawyers would argue it is the same.”

Planned Parenthood Great Plains has received licenses for two abortion clinics, in Kansas City and Columbia, since U.S. District Judge Howard Sachs ruled in April that the state could not enforce laws and regulations requiring specific physical facility requirements and abortion doctor admitting privileges at a hospital near the abortion clinic. The April ruling was based on a 2016 U.S. Supreme Court decision declaring similar laws from Texas to be unconstitutional.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services issued a license Aug. 11 for the Kansas City clinic to provide surgical and medication-induced abortions.

The department issued the complication plan regulations the day the law, passed in July, took effect. The regulations require that either the doctor providing the abortion services or another obstetrician-gynecologist in the area be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to personally treat any woman experiencing complications.

“The regulation singles out medication abortion and its providers for different and more burdensome treatment than all other patients or health care providers regulated by the state, including countless medical procedures that are much riskier and for which complications are much more prevalent than medication abortion,” the lawsuit states.

The department did not signal ahead of issuing the regulations that the doctor providing treatment for complications have local hospital admitting privileges, the lawsuit states. **The issue of hospital admitting privileges shut down the Columbia clinic in November 2015 when the University of Missouri canceled the type of privileges held by the clinic’s abortion doctor.**

The complication plan requirement applies only to medication-induced abortions. The department approved the complication plan for the St. Louis clinic operated by Planned
Parenthood of St. Louis and Southwest Missouri’s St. Louis clinic and, after several attempts, accepted the plan submitted for Planned Parenthood Great Plains’ Kansas City clinic.

But the complication plan for the Columbia clinic has not been approved. The department would not accept that the clinic has “an existing written transfer agreement between its Columbia health center and a local hospital, which provides that the hospital will accept and treat any ... patients who require follow-up care in a hospital setting.”

Patients prefer a medication abortion because they can take the second dose at home and not interrupt their routines. In addition, Lee-Gilmore said, a medication abortion is extremely safe.

“Getting your wisdom tooth out has higher complication rates,” she said.

**INSIDE HIGHER ED**

**Boom in Indian Enrollments, Followed by Bust**

At the University of Central Missouri, the number of students from India went from 152 five years ago to 2,429 in 2015 -- and 631 today.

**NO MU MENTION**

By ELIZABETH REDDEN

At the height of the boom, in 2015, the University of Central Missouri enrolled 2,429 students from India, accounting for about 87 percent of the university’s total 2,786 international students. The number of students from India had risen rapidly -- climbing from just 152 in 2012 -- and it dropped this fall with similar precipitousness.

Central Missouri is enrolling just 631 students from India this year, out of a total international population of 944 students. Almost all of the university’s Indian students -- save 19 -- are graduate students enrolled in master's programs (the university does not offer Ph.D. degrees).

"Our graduate international student population is where we took all of the hit, so our graduate international student population is down 71.2 percent,” said Mike Godard, Central Missouri's vice provost for enrollment management. The drop in international graduate students accounts
for an approximately 40 percent drop in Central Missouri’s total graduate enrollment, when went from 4,202 students last fall to 2,532 this fall.

It's true that enrollment is up at Central Missouri at the undergraduate level: the university reports a 5.1 percent growth in new freshmen, a 3.4 percent increase in new transfer students and a 1.1 percent increase in retention. The number of international undergraduates is also up, albeit from a small base, from 239 to 248 international students. The university also reports a 5.8 percent increase in domestic in-state and out-of-state graduate students.

International enrollment at the University of Central Missouri. Line graph shows steep increase, starting in 2012, in numbers of both international students and students specifically from India, peaking in 2015, then dropping quickly.

But there’s no question that the big drop in graduate students from India has made a “tight budget even tighter,” as Jeff Murphy, a university spokesman, put it.

“This has been a very difficult year financially for all of Missouri’s public colleges and universities,” said Murphy. “We’ve had some significant reductions in appropriations at the state level that have impacted all of us.” Murphy said that in fiscal year 2017, the Legislature approved a $59.7 million appropriation for the university but withheld some of that money, so the university received $53.7 million. In fiscal year 2018, Murphy said the university expects a $52.7 million appropriation. To save money the university initiated a voluntary retirement incentive program, which Murphy said 110 employees opted for, including 35 faculty members and 75 staff.

Public universities have increasingly turned to tuition revenue from international students to make up for state funding shortfalls, but the drop in Indian students at Central Missouri shows the risk of relying too much on students from any one country. In a recent survey of admissions directors conducted by Inside Higher Ed and Gallup, 53 percent of respondents from private universities and 39 percent from public universities said that American colleges have become too dependent "on international students from a few countries, such as China and India," the top two countries of origin for international students in the U.S.

Central Missouri officials say that while the university recruits in India, the surge in students from there was unexpected. “It wasn’t necessarily by design,” said Godard, the vice provost for enrollment management. “India is -- I don’t want to call it a unique country -- but very relationally connected, and very reliant on social media. We had two academic programs in particular that I think individuals found of interest to them: they were a graduate computer science program and a graduate program in computer information systems. Both of those two programs are offered at our Lee’s Summit center, which is about 40 miles or so from our main campus in Warrensburg, closer to the Kansas City metro area.”
Godard said the tuition structure at the Lee’s Summit location “is such there that no matter who you are from, you pay the same tuition rate; you could be in state, out of state.” This year, in response to the drop in international students, the university dropped the tuition for the master's of computer science and computer information science programs, from $424.05 per credit hour to $390.25 per credit hour. At that rate, a student, whether from elsewhere in Missouri or from Mumbai, can complete the minimum 30 credits required for the programs for a little less than $12,000 in tuition.

“I think some international students found that attractive for the price point, as compared to other options,” Godard said. “It’s kind of like one year we had a handful and then all of the sudden the next year we were just inundated.”

The chairs of the computer science and computer information systems departments did not respond to Inside Higher Ed’s requests for interviews about the effects of the enrollment changes on their programs. “As enrollment went up, we increased the number of faculty who could cover classes and they were hired on year-to-year contracts, so as the enrollment went down we reduced the number of faculty,” said Murphy, the university spokesman. He said about seven to eight year-to-year positions have been cut, but that no permanent, tenured or tenure-track positions were eliminated.

"It’s hard to pinpoint all the exact reasons why we had that drop," Murphy said. "Certainly we’re doing things to build up our international student population. Our president and a delegation of nine or 10 other faculty and staff members in September visited India and Nepal and Saudi Arabia and met with alumni from UCM. They also attended college fairs and visited with industries and tried to establish some strong connections to build our enrollment in the future.”

Many universities across the country are reporting declines in international student enrollments this fall. However, the trend is far from uniform, and some institutions are reporting increases. International recruitment professionals have reported hearing concerns from prospective international students about the climate in the U.S. -- about whether they will feel safe and welcome on American campuses -- as well as about the employment opportunities available to them here. Many prospective students have raised concerns about whether the Trump administration will make changes to existing programs that allow international students to stay in the U.S. and work after graduation, including the optional practical training (OPT) program, which allows students with STEM degrees to work in the U.S. for up to three years after graduation while staying on their F-1 student visas (students with degrees in non-STEM fields can work for up to one year). There have been no changes to date to the OPT program, but some speculate they could be coming.

*Story continues.*