Mizzou's relationship with lawmakers 'terrible,' but new chancellor wants to move forward

JEFFERSON CITY • To put it mildly, University of Missouri officials and the state lawmakers who work 30 miles to the south are going through a rough patch.

Controversy has followed controversy. Legislators started targeting Mizzou’s ties with Planned Parenthood last summer. Graduate students abruptly lost their health insurance subsidy in August. Racial tension boiled over in October. That sparked one student’s hunger strike, protests and a strike by football players. They demanded that UM System President Timothy M. Wolfe resign.

On Nov. 9, he did. But the tumult continued with anonymous death threats against black students, worried parents, frustrated alumni and, yes, assistant communications professor Melissa Click’s now infamous confrontation with student journalists.

Behind the recent controversies, former lawmakers say that underlying ideological rifts, budget concerns and a change in legislative temperament have exacerbated tension between legislators and the state’s premier university campus.

Former state Sen. John Lamping, R-Ladue, said in an interview that the university system and lawmakers have moved further apart ideologically over the last several years.

“The people and the representatives of Missouri have gone to the right,” Lamping said. “At the same time ... you have the university system themselves going decidedly to the left. So it’s only logical that those two entities would at some point along the way have a flashpoint.”

Former state Sen. Wayne Goode, D-St. Louis, who was elected to the upper chamber in 1984 after serving in the House since 1963, said that current issues — particularly Mizzou’s relationship with Planned Parenthood — play into the national political fray, making it appealing for Republicans to voice hard opposition.

“I think what’s happened in this last six, eight months is that issues that are of interest far beyond the campus pop up and play into politics,” Goode said. “So it gives the legislators, if they want to take issue with the university, plenty of opportunity to do that.”
Former Democratic state Rep. Vicky Riback Wilson represented the MU campus and parts of Columbia from 1997 to 2005, when her tenure ended because of term limits. While Wilson was in office, control of the Legislature switched from Democratic to Republican.

But even at the tail end of her legislative stint, when the chambers were Republican-controlled, there was a level of collegiality unseen today, Wilson said. She cites term limits as a contributing factor.

“Because people have to get out at a particular time, they appear to be much more focused on building a résumé, making a name for themselves, or quickly getting whatever it is they set out to do done — instead of the work of being a legislator,” Wilson said.

LEGISLATIVE THREATS

At a press conference Thursday, Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, R-Joplin, used just one word to describe the university’s relations with legislators.

“Terrible,” Richard said. “Every time they show up (to the Capitol), it gets worse. I suggest they don’t show up.”

Senators at the press conference spoke often about Click, the assistant communications professor charged last week with assault on a student videographer where Concerned Student 1950 protesters had camped for a week.

After Click was charged, Mizzou Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said last week that she was working from home and that her future at the university would depend on whether she was awarded tenure. But the UM System Board of Curators later announced that Click had been suspended pending an investigation. Some lawmakers expressed frustration that Click would be paid during the suspension.

Others received criticism in the protest aftermath, too. Student allies of the Concerned Student group formed a human chain around the encampment to keep reporters out. Journalists also complained that they were cursed at and blocked from taking pictures that day.

The actions brought MU national ridicule, including to the school’s prestigious journalism school, to which Click had a courtesy appointment.

Cue a bill that would require all two-year and four-year college students to pass a class on the freedom of speech. The measure, sponsored by Rep. Dean Dohrman, R-La Monte, received a hearing last week in a House committee. A bill ensuring student reporters can work without being censored received a hearing Monday.
Another bill, sponsored by Sen. Eric Schmitt, R-Glendale, would require an annual state audit of the University of Missouri System, which includes its campuses in Rolla, St. Louis, Kansas City and Columbia.

“The taxpayers of this state deserve an independent audit from the auditor,” said Schmitt, who is running for state treasurer. “Part of the problem is people are losing faith with the leadership of the UM system. We talk about a lot of issues here, but when I go back home this is the issue everyone is talking about.”

House Speaker Todd Richardson, R-Poplar Bluff, said last week that cuts to the system’s budget are on the table. “I think the budget committees are going to have a lot of opportunities to ask a lot of tough questions,” Richardson said.

Richardson’s remarks were echoed Thursday by Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Schaefer is running for state Attorney General.

MENDING TIES

Meanwhile, new university administrators are seeking to mend ties with the capital. Mizzou’s new Interim Chancellor Hank Foley gave a State of the University address Wednesday to a packed ballroom on the MU campus. He pledged the university would recover and that MU doesn’t take state support for granted.

“If at times like this our legislators become exasperated with us, as they are these days, let’s not be too surprised,” he said. “Let’s do better. Let’s regain their trust and respect. In fact, let’s repair this breach not just with the General Assembly but with the people of Missouri, who pay our salaries and our wages.”

But Lamping said the problems are deeper than just convincing the state the university is worth the expense. He said that Missouri supports a disproportionate amount of colleges compared to other states, meaning that money is already spread thin. In lean years, the problem is exacerbated.

“The university system has been left to fester, and there’s been no desire to reform, and you went about as far as you could, and now this is the situation you find yourself in,” Lamping said.

Still, Mizzou is a major research hub, as Foley pointed out in his speech. Part of proving its worth is letting people know the value it brings, he said.

Foley said MU is a $2.1 billion global enterprise accounting for 70 percent of the research funds that go toward Missouri public universities.
“That means jobs for Missourians,” Foley said. “For every $1 million of research funds we bring in, 30 jobs in the community are supported. We bring your federal tax dollars back to Missouri.”

Foley said that in the last five years, MU has filed more than 450 patents and signed more than 200 options and licenses for new technologies.

“We are one of the largest expenditures the state has to make,” he said. “We believe we’re worth it. We believe that we can prove that. We believe that it is an excellent investment, but it’s still a big one.”

Sinquefields give Mizzou New Music Initiative $2 million gift

17 hours ago  •  By Sarah Bryan Miller

**The University of Missouri will get a $2 million gift to support the Mizzou New Music Initiative over the next three years.**

The donors are Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield, long-time supporters of the arts. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefield, in particular, is an active musician (she plays double bass in a pair of Mid-MO orchestras, the Columbia Civic Symphony Orchestra and the Folk String Orchestra) with a passion for new music.

The Sinquefields may be better known for their giving to chess education and political causes, but they’ve been supporting music composition at Mizzou for more than a decade, through several different programs. Their latest gift brings the total for MNMI to $4.5 million, and, including last year’s $10 million gift for a new School of Music building, over $15 million in total to Mizzou.

The gift will support seven different programs, with some based at MU and others operating around the state, including the Mizzou International Composers Festival, scholarships and assistantships for freshman and graduate students at MU, the Sinquefield Composition Prize, and the Creating Original Music Project, a statewide competition for students around the state from kindergarten to grade 12.

In a statement, Jeanne Sinquefield said, “We want Mizzou and Missouri to become an international mecca for music composition. There are so many talented young composers, but there is a lack of public funding for programs and scholarships to support them. We are thrilled with the success the MNMI has enjoyed in its first seven years, and we are excited to help support its growth into the future.”
Sinquefields give $2 million to continue funding of Mizzou New Music Initiative

By Roger McKinney

Monday, February 1, 2016 at 2:00 pm

Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield have given another $2 million to the University of Missouri to support the Mizzou New Music Initiative through 2019.

Jeanne Sinquefield is a longtime supporter of MU’s School of Music. Rex Sinquefield also is a large donor to conservative political causes and candidates. Jeanne Sinquefield received a standing ovation Monday morning when the donation was announced in the Reynolds Alumni Center at MU.

“Our goal is the find and grow musicians, have musicians write and play their music and have concerts and audiences,” Jeanne Sinquefield said.

She said she was proud of the advancements in the School of Music.

“We’re in the pros,” she said. “We’re the best.”

Hank Foley, MU’s interim chancellor, said Jeanne Sinquefield saw an area where she could help the university grow stronger.

“The gift I’m announcing today matches the donor’s passion for music and composition,” Foley said.

He said donations have helped the School of Music become a recognized leader in music composition nationally and throughout the world.

The latest gift brings the Sinquefields’ total donations to MU to more than $15 million, including last year’s donation of $10 million to support a new School of Music building. Their support of the New Music Initiative totals about $4.5 million.

Ben Colagiovanni, a senior music composition student, credited the Sinquefields with helping him earn a prestigious national award. The Mizzou New Music Ensemble performed Colagiovanni’s piece, “Forest Park Rhapsody,” at the end of the presentation.
The $10 million donation last April was the largest the university had received to support the fine arts. The new music building is a $74 million project planned for space at Hitt Street and University Avenue.

The Mizzou New Music Initiative supports several programs at MU and around the state. They include:

- The Mizzou International Composers Festival, an annual event that invites composers from throughout the world for a week of events including three public concerts, workshops and master classes.
- The Mizzou New Music Ensemble frequently performs newly composed music on and off campus. The ensemble is directed by Stefan Freund, MU associate professor of composition and music theory.
- The Sinquefield Composition Prize is an annual competition among MU students. The winner gets to compose an original work for one of the university’s large ensembles and have the music performed and recorded.
- The Creating Original Music Project is a statewide competition for Missouri K-12 students who compose original music.
- Composer Connection is a program that gives composers around the state a chance to connect with and receive instruction from MU composers through distance learning.

MU School of Music receives $2 million gift for composition

REBECCA SMITH, 14 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — After seeing a flier for the Creating Original Music Project in high school, Ben Colagiovanni entered the competition and won.

"Without that contest it never would have occurred to me to pursue music in college," said Colagiovanni, whose original plan had been to major in history.

Now a senior at MU, he was among those present at an announcement Monday that Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield are pledging to give $2 million over three years to the MU School of Music for the Mizzou New Music Initiative.
The initiative, which is funded by the Sinquefield Charitable Foundation, supports the Mizzou International Composers Festival, Mizzou New Music Ensemble, several competitions and scholarships for MU music composition students as well as opportunities to meet other composers. The Creating Original Music Project encourages Missouri K-12 students to compose new music.

After winning the competition, Colagiovanni said he realized, "Maybe I could have a future in music."

Colagiovanni said he’s thankful for the Sinquefields because they helped give him the opportunity to study music and composition at MU. He said he’s a Sinquefield scholar and has a full-tuition scholarship through the Mizzou New Music Initiative.

After the announcement at the Reynolds Alumni Center, an ensemble performed Colagiovanni's "Forest Park Rhapsody," for which he recently won the Young Artist award in the Music Teachers National Association composition competition.

In April, the Sinquefields pledged $10 million in seed money for a new building for the School of Music; fundraising is still underway. They gave an initial gift of $1 million in 2009 for music composition and another $1.4 million in 2013.

Jeanne Sinquefield said she chose to donate to the MU School of Music after encouragement from former MU chancellors Richard Wallace and Brady Deaton. All three of her children also attended MU.

A string bass player for more than 50 years, Sinquefield said she chose to support music composition at MU because writing new music fascinates her.

"I always just thought it was magical that someone could write a piece of music," she said.
University of Missouri announces major gift for New Music Initiative

COLUMBIA, Mo - The University of Missouri was celebrating Monday after getting a major gift for the Mizzou New Music Initiative.

Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield, residents of Westphalia, Mo., gave a gift of more than $2 million over three years to MU to support the Mizzou New Music Initiative (MNMI). The MNMI brings together a diverse array of programs which position the MU School of Music as a leading national and international center in the areas of composition and new music. This latest gift will support the MNMI through 2019.

The Sinquefields are long-time supporters of music and the arts, specifically music composition. The Sinquefields’ support for composition at Mizzou began more than 10 years ago with the Creating Original Music Project (COMP), a statewide K-12 competition and affiliated high school summer camp. In 2009, they gave MU $1 million to create the Mizzou New Music Initiative. With this most recent gift, the Sinquefields have given nearly $4.5 million to support the MNMI and more than $15 million in total giving to MU, including a recent $10 million gift in support of a new School of Music building.

“The Sinquefields’ most recent gift helps position the MU School of Music as a recognized leader in music composition nationally and throughout the world,” MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said. “By combining their love of the arts with their financial support to MU, the Sinquefields have found a meaningful way to showcase their passion for musical composition and their love of performance arts. We are grateful for their generosity and for their leadership in supporting the arts here in Missouri, nationally and internationally.”

The Mizzou New Music Initiative supports several programs at MU and around the state. These programs include:

- **Mizzou International Composers Festival** This annual festival brings together composers from around the world for a week of events including three public concerts as well as workshops, master classes and other events. The internationally acclaimed new music group “Alarm Will Sound” serves as the resident ensemble, each year premiering eight new works written specifically for them by the festival’s resident composers.

- **Mizzou New Music Ensemble (MNME)** Under the direction of Stefan Freund, an MU associate professor for composition and music theory, the Mizzou New Music Ensemble performs newly composed music frequently on and off campus. The MNME collaborates
with MU’s faculty and student composers as well as some of the world’s leading composers and interpreters of new music.

- **Scholarships and Assistantships** The MNMI supports two new, four-year, full-tuition scholarships for incoming MU composition freshmen each year. The MNMI also supports assistantships for graduate students who participate in the Mizzou New Music Ensemble, two teaching assistants and several summer positions for students within the School of Music.

- **Sinquefield Composition Prize** An annual competition for MU students. The winner is given an opportunity to compose an original work for one of Mizzou’s premiere large ensembles and have the music performed and recorded.

- **Creating Original Music Project (COMP)** This statewide competition recognizes Missouri students (K-12) who compose original works in a variety of musical styles. COMP also features a week-long summer institute that provides Missouri’s young composers an opportunity to come together to learn and interact with other creative musical minds.

- **Missouri Composers Orchestra Project** In collaboration with the Columbia Civic Orchestra, the MNMI presents an annual concert of new music for orchestra, selected via a competitive blind judging process with separate categories open to Missouri residents, Missouri high school students, and students of Southeastern Conference universities.

- **Composer Connection** This program is a distance-learning initiative that gives composers around the state a chance to connect with and receive instruction from MU composers. Participants can email works in progress and questions about composing, and receive feedback and suggestions from a MU graduate student composer.

“We want Mizzou and Missouri to become an international mecca for music composition,” Jeanne Sinquefield said. “There are so many talented young composers, but there is a lack of public funding for programs and scholarships to support them. We are thrilled with the success the MNMI has enjoyed in its first seven years, and we are excited to help support its growth into the future.”

Benedetto Colagiovanni, a senior music composition student at MU, won first place at the national level for student composition from the Music Teachers National Association in 2015. He says the Sinquefields’ generosity and vision has played a direct role in helping him earn such a prestigious national award and achieve a first-class education.

“The whole reason that I am a composer is because when in high school I entered the COMP competition, which is supported by the Sinquefields, and I won,” Colagiovanni said. “As a result, I was able to come to Mizzou my junior and senior years of high school and perform my winning compositions. This experience completely changed my outlook on my musical capabilities. The fact that I was then able to attend a great school like Mizzou on a full-tuition scholarship and further my education thanks to the Sinquefields’ support is amazing. I would not be the musician I am today and likely wouldn’t be pursuing music at all were it not for the support of the Sinquefields.”

“The Sinquefields have provided gifts to a variety of programs at MU, and this donation continues their commitment to the future of musical composition,” said Michael O’Brien, dean
of the MU College of Arts and Science. “This gift will further position the school as a resource for young composers and performers of new music. We cannot thank the Sinquefields enough for their continued leadership and support toward this goal.”

Jeanne Cairns Sinquefield has a long history of supporting organizations that enhance music, art and education. She believes strongly that exposure to the arts and quality learning opportunities have lifelong benefits for children. Her passion for music is personal. She plays string bass in two mid-Missouri symphonies, the Columbia Civic Symphony Orchestra and the Folk String Orchestra. The late past UM President Gordon Lamb named her one of the “Missouri 100” for promoting the University’s missions of excellence in teaching, world-class research, and service through scientific discovery. She is serving as a member of the Campaign Cabinet for MU’s current comprehensive fundraising campaign, Mizzou: Our Time to Lead, and also served as a member of MU’s For All We Call Mizzou campaign steering committee, which raised $1 billion for scholarships, professorships, programs and new buildings at MU.

Sinquefields donate more than $2 million to Mizzou New Music Initiative

COLUMBIA, Mo. — The University of Missouri's music program is getting a significant boost in funding, thanks to a large donation from Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield.

The Sinquefields gave the University more than $2 million over three years to support the Mizzou New Music Initiative (MNMI).

The MNMI brings together a diverse array of programs which position the MU School of Music as a leading national and international center in the areas of composition and new music.

This latest gift will support the MNMI through 2019.

The Sinquefields' support for composition at Mizzou began more than 10 years ago with the Creating Original Music Project (COMP), a statewide K-12 competition and affiliated high school summer camp.

In 2009, they gave MU $1 million to create the Mizzou New Music Initiative.
With this most recent gift, the Sinquefields have given nearly $4.5 million to support the MNMI and more than $15 million in total giving to MU, including a recent $10 million gift in support of a new School of Music building.

"The Sinquefields' most recent gift helps position the MU School of Music as a recognized leader in music composition nationally and throughout the world," MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said. "By combining their love of the arts with their financial support to MU, the Sinquefields have found a meaningful way to showcase their passion for musical composition and their love of performance arts. We are grateful for their generosity and for their leadership in supporting the arts here in Missouri, nationally and internationally."

Programs supported by MNMI funding include:

**Mizzou International Composers Festival:** This annual festival brings together composers from around the world for a week of events including three public concerts as well as workshops, master classes and other events. The internationally acclaimed new music group "Alarm Will Sound" serves as the resident ensemble, each year premiering eight new works written specifically for them by the festival's resident composers.

**Mizzou New Music Ensemble (MNME):** Under the direction of Stefan Freund, an MU associate professor for composition and music theory, the Mizzou New Music Ensemble performs newly composed music frequently on and off campus. The MNME collaborates with MU's faculty and student composers as well as some of the world's leading composers and interpreters of new music.

**Scholarships and Assistantships:** The MNMI supports two new, four-year, full-tuition scholarships for incoming MU composition freshmen each year. The MNMI also supports assistantships for graduate students who participate in the Mizzou New Music Ensemble, two teaching assistants and several summer positions for students within the School of Music.

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Participants can email works in progress and questions about composing, and receive feedback and suggestions from a MU graduate student composer.

"The Sinquefields have provided gifts to a variety of programs at MU, and this donation continues their commitment to the future of musical composition," said Michael O'Brien, dean of the MU College of Arts and Science. "This gift will further position the school as a resource for young composers and performers of new music. We cannot thank the Sinquefields enough for their continued leadership and support toward this goal."

"We want Mizzou and Missouri to become an international mecca for music composition," Jeanne Sinquefield said. "There are so many talented young composers, but there is a lack of public funding for programs and scholarships to support them. We are thrilled with the success the MNMI has enjoyed in its first seven years, and we are excited to help support its growth into the future."

Music supporters fund $2 million to Mizzou New Music Initiative

COLUMBIA - A $2 million gift was presented Monday to support Mizzou New Music Initiative.

Dr. Jeanne Sinquefield and Rex Sinquefield, residents of Westphalia, the donation will span a three-year period.

"We want Mizzou and Missouri to become an international mecca for music composition," Jeanne Sinquefield said. "There are so many talented young composers, but there is a lack of public funding for programs and scholarships to support them."

Michael O'Brien, dean of the MU College of Arts and Science said, "This gift will further position the school as a resource for young composers and performers of new music. We cannot thank the Sinquefields enough for their continued leadership and support toward this goal."
Foley announces $2 million donation to the School of Music
Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield have donated almost $15 million to support composition at MU.

**Interim Chancellor Hank Foley announced Monday that Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield’s $2 million donation to the Mizzou New Music Initiative, which provides a wide range of programming and aims to help the School of Music become a leader in composition and new music.**

College of Arts and Science Dean Michael O’Brien said the money will provide stipends for graduate teaching assistants with new music ensembles while subsidizing travel and recording expenses for the ensembles. It will also allow MU to continue funding two annual full tuition undergraduate composition scholarships and fund one additional annual runner-up scholarship.

The donation through the Sinquefield Charitable Foundation marks the Sinquefields’ third to the Mizzou New Music Initiative, which they partnered with in 2009.

After the $2 million donation, the Sinquefields will have donated almost $15 million to support composition at MU.

“This is totally unauthorized and probably illegal,” Rex Sinquefield joked, followed by audience applause. “I want to thank (my children). I think it’s wonderfully courageous and self-immolating for you to be here as you watch us give away your inheritance.”

Last spring, the Sinquefields also helped fund the construction of a new School of Music building with a $1 million donation, which is still underway.

“It’s an important time for philanthropy at our university,” Foley said. “Gift announcements are always very exciting because they offer inspiring possibilities as well as an affirmation of the work at the university, its faculty, and most of all, it’s students.”

The donation will also help provide increased funding for the 20-member student band “Alarm Will Sound” and will provide funding for the Missouri International Composers Festival, which will be held at the Missouri Theatre in July.

Additionally, the donation will provide financial support for a full-time, non-tenured track faculty member, a full-time staff member, adjunct faculty and a postdoctoral fellow for the School of Music.

“The donation reasserts the Sinquefields’ belief and pride in MU during what are obviously challenging times,” Foley said. “The Sinquefields’ most recent gift helped position the music school as a recognized leader in composition nationally and throughout the world.”
Foley said that with their financial support, the Sinquefields have found a meaningful way to showcase their passion for musical composition and a love for the performing arts.

“Jeanne is passionate about music,” Foley said. “She plays in two orchestras herself, but she found an area where she could make Mizzou become stronger. Jeanne and I agree, it’s really all about the bass. She plays that instrument. You can see that on YouTube.”

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Confronting Racial Divide, Missouri’s Interim President Finds Anger, Finger-Pointing

The University of Missouri remains deeply divided over racial issues that came to the fore three months ago, and the system’s new leader says that his efforts to move forward are complicated by anger and distrust that persist across the state.

Michael A. Middleton, a veteran civil-rights lawyer and retired deputy chancellor at Missouri’s Columbia campus, the flagship, was tapped in November to serve as the system’s interim president after Missouri’s two top officials resigned amid student protests.

The protest movement, fueled by a graduate student’s hunger strike and boycott drew national attention and fed into concerns about racial intolerance in Missouri. The net effect, Mr. Middleton said on Monday in an interview at The Chronicle’s office, was to cast Missourians as racist, leaving many people embarrassed, hurt, and upset.

"My plan is to try to restore some trust and order and confidence in the university," he said.
Timothy M. Wolfe, Mr. Middleton’s predecessor, and R. Bowen Loftin, former chancellor of the flagship campus, both stepped down in November as crises mounted at the university. Concerns about race relations dominated national news coverage, but those issues were coupled with controversies over the slashing of health-care benefits for Columbia graduate students — a decision that was later reversed — and the apparent forcing out of a relatively new dean at the School of Medicine.

Moving on from controversy has proved a challenge, and not just because the thorny issue of race has roots dating back hundreds of years. There is still a fervent debate in Missouri and beyond, for example, about whether the student protests exposed an institutional disregard for the welfare of minorities or merely channeled political correctness to scapegoat university leaders.

As interim president, Mr. Middleton has heard plenty of concerns that the university unwisely caved in to a misguided mob.

"The students are not in charge," he assured. "But the students’ not being in charge does not mean that they don’t matter."

Tension With Predecessor

As a black man who had worked on diversity issues at Missouri, Mr. Middleton seemed to be an obvious choice as the university’s healer in chief. But he has come under attack, too. In a letter to his supporters that was made public last week, Mr. Wolfe questioned why the governing board would appoint Mr. Middleton, who Mr. Wolfe said had "failed miserable [sic] in his capacity as the longtime leader on diversity issues on the MU campus."

In his conversation with *The Chronicle*, Mr. Middleton initially resisted talking about Mr. Wolfe’s letter, saying "I don’t want to dignify that with a response." Pressed on
the issue, however, the interim president said that Mr. Wolfe’s comments represent a "vestige" of the very racism that protesters have identified at Missouri.

Inherent in Mr. Wolfe’s argument, Mr. Middleton said, is a presumption that "you hire a black guy," give him insufficient resources to effect diversity, and then blame him when nothing changes.

In his letter, Mr. Wolfe also suggested that Mr. Middleton had the power to stop the protests because he had a relationship with Jonathan Butler, the hunger-striking student. That argument, Mr. Middleton said, suggests that the job of a black university administrator is to "keep those people quiet and happy."

"I think that’s how Tim perceived me," Mr. Middleton said. "I was supposed to keep those people out of his business."

Mr. Wolfe did not immediately respond on Monday to an email asking for a response.

Past Diversity Efforts Lacking

During his three decades at Missouri, Mr. Middleton said, there had been "no concerted, consistent effort" to make diversity a real systemwide priority. There have been efforts to increase the number of minority students, he said, but no real work to bring those students into the "mainstream" of the university.

"I suppose my inability to get that done is a failure," Mr. Middleton said.

In his interim role, Mr. Middleton is carrying out a series of recommendations set forth by the Board of Curators to respond to concerns about race. The university expects to name a system-level chief diversity officer in the coming weeks, Mr. Middleton said, and a task force has been formed to conduct "a serious review of best practices."
More trying than those steps, however, is what Mr. Middleton described as a much-needed statewide conversation about the history of the African-American experience in Missouri. He envisions a series of lectures that, at least in the near term, "might cause more tension."

"That’s one step, is to put the facts on the table," he said.

Mr. Middleton said he looks forward to the day when his job is not so consumed by race relations, but new challenges have persisted on that front.

In the past week, two members of the system’s board, both black, resigned, leaving the board without a single African-American member.

Last Wednesday, the board voted to suspend Melissa A. Click, a Missouri communications professor, pending an investigation into whether her attempt to bar student journalists from the protests in November warranted "additional discipline."

Ms. Click was widely criticized after a video showed her appearing to grab a student journalist’s camera and asking for "some muscle" to help her clear him from the area. She apologized for her behavior, but last week, days before the board vote, she was charged with assault.

The board’s decision to investigate and suspend Ms. Click, however, drew pushback from the Faculty Council at Columbia, whose executive committee said the board’s actions circumvented established university procedures.

Mr. Middleton said the board had the authority to order the investigation and to suspend Ms. Click. He expressed empathy, however, for the professor, who on Friday reached a deal to avoid prosecution.

"She lost control," he said. "But everybody loses control at some point."
The broader issue at hand for the university, Mr. Middleton said, is to try to get beyond the defensiveness that tough conversations about race tend to engender. Progress is unlikely to be made until then, he said.

"We’ve got to stop trying to fix blame," Mr. Middleton said, "and start trying to fix the problem."

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Restoring Stability to an Institution Rocked by Protests


Michael A. Middleton says the University of Missouri system, like most higher-education institutions, has never effectively dealt with the "serious scars" of systemic racism and discrimination against African-Americans. Now Mr. Middleton, the system's interim president, hopes to help Missouri grapple with those issues after the university became the birthplace of a surge of racial tensions across college campuses last fall.

Mr. Middleton's role is, in part, to bring stability to a system rocked by student protests at its flagship campus, in Columbia; the resignation of two top administrators; and widespread debate and criticism nationwide. Mr. Middleton has spent most of his adult life on the Columbia campus — as an undergraduate, a law student, a faculty member, and deputy chancellor. He retired last year but was tapped to lead the system after Timothy M. Wolfe stepped down under pressure in November.

Mr. Middleton spoke with The Chronicle about his observations of race relations at Missouri over the years and how he plans to lead in a time of turmoil.
KANSAS CITY, MO. - As the University of Missouri’s Columbia campus tries to rebound from racial unrest, the system’s governing board is without minority representation after two black members resigned last week — leaving one-third of the nine seats vacant.

All three departures happened after the Nov. 9 resignations of the university system's president, Tim Wolfe, and the Columbia campus' chancellor, R. Bowen Loftin, in the wake of protests over what some saw as university leadership's indifference to racial issues.

It was not immediately clear Monday how quickly Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon, who is on a weeklong trade mission to South America, planned to address the vacancies. Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard said his chamber won't approve any appointments to the board of curators until next January at the earliest. The remaining board members still will be able to do business and vote as long as they have a quorum of five members, university system spokesman John Fougere told The Associated Press in an email.

On Friday, David Steward explained in his resignation letter to Nixon that he was leaving the board because his business, World Wide Technology, based near St. Louis, was "blessed with substantial opportunities to continue to expand our business globally."

"It has been an enlightening experience and I pray and hope the very best for the University of Missouri system and the board of curators moving forward," said Steward, who was appointed in 2011 and whose term was to expire in January 2017. "Our students are important and will continue to have a vital role in our future."
Steward did not return messages left by the AP seeking comment Monday.

His immediate departure from the board, which is scheduled to meet Thursday and Friday, came just two days after Yvonne Sparks, who also is black, quit the panel. Sparks, a Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis executive who was appointed in November after the unrest at Columbia, said she could not devote sufficient time to both positions.

"The board deserves someone who has the time to do both," she said.

Ann Covington left the board in November for personal reasons, including her husband's death and the health of her and her family. Her term was to expire in 2019.

State Sen. Jamilah Nasheed, a black St. Louis Democrat who's on a committee that makes recommendations regarding confirmations of the governor's appointments, urged Nixon to fill at least the Steward and Sparks vacancies with "other minorities who will be qualified and ready, willing and able to serve."

With the school's undergraduate population 79 percent white and 8 percent black, "we have a large amount of African-Americans that attend MU, and they need representation," she said.

Senate Republican leaders declined to say whether future appointees should be minorities.

"I'm not in any hurry appointing until there's a reform-minded, change-oriented group to be sent to the Missouri Senate," Richard said.

Nixon spokeswoman Channing Ansley said the governor will fill the vacancies with people who "reflect the great diversity of our state."

Wolfe, the former president of the four-campus university system, has criticized most officials involved in the turmoil leading to his exodus, insisting to supporters and donors in a Jan. 20 email that the university is "under attack" by the Missouri Legislature, rendering curators and other top administrators "frozen" by the pressure. The letter was made public last week.

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said last week that Columbia's campus needs to heal and that "one way to regard student unrest is a sign that the institution has not kept pace with change, especially with students' and the public's expectations."
Latest resignation leaves University of Missouri system with no African-American curators

Board is down to six voting members, and no African-Americans, after David Steward's resignation

Yvonne Sparks resigned her post on board last week

Gov. Jay Nixon may appoint someone to fill the latest two vacated seats on the board

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
mdwilliams@kcstar.com

The second University of Missouri System curator in less than a week has resigned from the governing board for the four-campus system.

The university system announced on Monday that David Steward, the chairman and founder of World Wide Technology in St. Louis, has resigned from the Board of Curators effective immediately.

Steward was appointed to the board in 2011 by Gov. Jay Nixon, and his term was set to expire in January 2017.

Steward was the only remaining African-American on the board, after Yvonne Sparks resigned last week just two months after her appointment.

A statement from the university said Steward, who represents the 2nd Congressional District on the board, was resigning to concentrate on expanding his business.

“It has been a great honor to serve the four campuses of the University of Missouri System in the role of curator, and I am deeply grateful for the
“opportunity,” Steward said in the statement. “However, we have been blessed with substantial opportunities to continue to expand our business globally. This ultimately will create more jobs for the state of Missouri, and I am choosing to make that my primary focus.”

Sparks’ resignation came the same day that a scathing letter written by former system President Tim Wolfe was made public. In the letter, Wolfe criticized the curators and former University of Missouri chancellor, R. Bowen Loftin, who was reassigned in November the day that Wolfe resigned in the midst of student protests over racial intolerance and inequity on the Columbia campus.

Sparks, an assistant vice president for the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, said she was leaving the board to pay more attention to her job. She said her resignation had nothing to do with the turmoil at the university or Wolfe’s letter in which he made it clear that he wanted curators to pay him more money as part of his separation from the university.

She came on the board to succeed Wayne Goode, whose term expired Jan. 1. Nixon had originally appointed Mary Nelson, general counsel and chief legal officer for the St. Louis Community College District, but she was not confirmed by the Senate.

In November, Ann Covington resigned from the Board of Curators, citing the recent death of her husband, her own hip replacement surgery and an ill grandchild. Covington, a Columbia resident, was appointed to the board in 2013.

The Board of Curators, made up of nine voting members and a student curator, has been reduced to six members. Curators serve six-year terms.

Nixon may appoint a replacement to fill the remaining portion of Steward’s term. In a statement Monday afternoon, Nixon said that, “As the chairman and founder of one of America’s largest and most well-respected companies, David Steward has brought a unique and valuable perspective to the Board of Curators over the past five years. I thank him for his distinguished service and look forward to appointing another strong and dedicated leader to represent the Second District on the Board.”
Second University of Missouri curator steps down in less than a week

7 hours ago  •  By Koran Addo

For the second time in less than a week, a member of the University of Missouri Board of Curators has stepped down.

David L. Steward announced his departure from the Board Monday, citing personal reasons.

In a statement released by the University of Missouri System, Steward said he will be devoting more attention to his professional responsibilities.

He is the co-founder of St. Louis-based World Wide Technology.

“We have been blessed with substantial opportunities to continue to expand our business globally,” Steward said. This ultimately will create more jobs for the state of Missouri, and I’m choosing to make that my primary focus.”

Steward was appointed to the board in 2011 by Gov. Jay Nixon. His term was set to expire Jan. 1, 2017. With his resignation, there are six remaining curators on the nine-member board.

His departure comes just five days after Yvonne Sparks resigned from the Board. She was appointed by Gov. Jay Nixon only two months prior.

Both Steward and Sparks represented the St. Louis area.

Sparks’ resignation came the same day former system President Timothy M. Wolfe released a scathing letter criticizing leaders of the university for events related to his own resignation in November.

With both Steward and Sparks resigning, the board has now lost its two black members, and its only two nonlawyers. A third curator, Anne K. Covington, resigned in November. She represented the Columbia area.

Maurice B. Graham, of Clayton, is the only remaining curator representing the St. Louis region. Cassville, Jefferson City and Rolla each have one board representative. Kansas City has two.

Late Monday morning, the governor praised Steward for his work on the board.
“As the chairman and founder of one of America’s largest and most well-respected companies, David Steward has brought a unique and valuable perspective to the Board of Curators over the past five years,” Nixon said.

Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, R-Joplin, said Monday that he has no plans to fill the vacancies on the University of Missouri board of curators until next January.

“We’re not going to do any appointments to the University of Missouri until January of next year,” Richard said.

Richard said he is looking for “reform-minded” individuals to be nominated for Senate confirmation as curators.

Richard said he has the support of Republicans and Democrats to wait.

The recent resignations on the board follow significant upheaval within the system.

Wolfe, the president of five years, stepped down Nov. 9 following student-led protests on the Columbia campus. Student demonstrators were angered over Wolfe’s perceived indifference to a number of racist incidents on campus.

Black students said they did not feel welcome or safe at Mizzou.

The protests gained national attention when one student went on a hunger strike and members of the Mizzou football team pledged to skip all team activities until Wolfe stepped down.

The same day Wolfe resigned, the board took the chancellor stripped R. Bowen Loftin of his title as chancellor of the Columbia campus and reassigned him to lead some of the university’s research efforts.

**MISSOURIAN**

**UPDATE: UM System Curator David L. Steward resigns**

RACHEL PHILLIPS, Updated 14 hrs ago

**Updated Information:**
This story was updated at about 5 p.m. with a comment from Channing Ansley, a spokeswoman for Gov. Jay Nixon.
COLUMBIA — **David L. Steward has resigned his position as a member of the UM System Board of Curators, effective immediately.**

Steward, who is the founder of World Wide Technology in St. Louis, said in a statement through the Board of Curators that he resigned for personal reasons.

“It has been a great honor to serve the four campuses of the University of Missouri System in the role of curator, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity,” Steward said in the written statement. “However, we have been blessed with substantial opportunities to continue to expand our business globally. This ultimately will create more jobs for the state of Missouri, and I am choosing to make that my primary focus.”

The board, which comprises nine members, oversees and supervises operations at the UM System's four campuses: MU, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Missouri University of Science and Technology. Steward represented District 2, which includes the St. Louis area.

Steward's resignation followed that of Yvonne Sparks, who stepped down from her position Wednesday, two months after being appointed.

Sparks represented District 1, which includes the St. Louis area. She was appointed to the position on Nov. 13 by Gov. Jay Nixon, but she had not been confirmed by the Senate. She serves as an executive for the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and was one of two curators who was not a lawyer by trade.
Steward's resignation was confirmed by Gov. Jay Nixon on Monday. Steward was appointed in 2011, and had a little less than a year remaining in his six-year term.

With Steward's departure, the curators are without a black representative.

The resignation was the third in recent months. Ann Covington of Columbia left the board in November.

Just six curators remain: Donald L. Cupps of Cassville, Maurice B. Graham of Clayton, Pamela Q. Henrickson of Jefferson City, John R. Phillips of Kansas City, Phillip H. Snowden of Kansas City and David L. Steelman of Rolla. The board also includes nonvoting student representative, a position filled most recently by UMSL student Tracy Mulderig.

The board is scheduled to hold its regular meeting Thursday and Friday in Columbia. Although it is down three members, it will still be able to hold votes.

"Five constitutes a quorum, so they will still be able to vote," UM System spokesman John Fougere said in an email.

Steward did not reply to messages seeking comment. Nixon said Steward would be missed on the board.

“As the chairman and founder of one of America’s largest and most well-respected companies, David Steward has brought a unique and valuable perspective to the Board of Curators over the past five years," Nixon said in a written statement. "I thank him for his distinguished service and look forward to appointing another strong and dedicated leader to represent the Second District on the Board.”

Channing Ansley, a spokeswoman for the governor, said in an email that Nixon would “work diligently to appoint highly-qualified Missourians” when asked how Nixon would move forward to fill the vacancies.
The Board of Curators was created in 1839 by the same legislation that created MU, according to MU’s University Archives. The board was originally composed of 15 members, elected by the state Senate and House of Representatives for two-year terms.

According to the Missouri Boards and Commissions website, the governor is responsible for appointing curators to fill open positions on the board. The nine voting curators must represent all eight of Missouri’s Congressional Districts and no more than five may be in the same political party. The state Senate then has to confirm the selections. If confirmed, a curator serves a six-year term.

David Steward resigns from University of Missouri Board of Curators
By Rudi Keller

Monday, February 1, 2016 at 9:58 am

David Steward of St. Louis, a businessman appointed to the University of Missouri Board of Curators in 2011, resigned Monday for personal reasons. He is the third member to leave the board in less than three months.

Steward, a Republican, was appointed to the board in 2011 for a term ending Jan. 1, 2017. He resigned days before the board is scheduled to convene for its first regular meeting of the year.

The board has met twice this year for extraordinary reasons, including last week’s meeting where members voted to suspend MU Assistant Professor Melissa Click pending an investigation of her actions during campus protests on Nov. 9.

Steward, who was the lone black member of the board after the resignation of fellow Curator Yvonne Sparks, said in a news release that he was “deeply grateful for the opportunity” to serve the four UM System campuses.

“However, we have been blessed with substantial opportunities to continue to expand our business globally,” Steward said in the release. “This ultimately will create more jobs for the state of Missouri, and I am choosing to make that my primary focus.”
Steward is the chairman of World Wide Technology, a St. Louis-based provider of technology products.

Steward’s resignation comes less than a week after Sparks resigned from the board Wednesday, about three months after she was appointed to the position by Gov. Jay Nixon.

Sparks, an assistant vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank in St. Louis, cited the time demands of the position for her resignation.

Steward did not respond to emails or telephone messages seeking additional comment. Nixon’s office issued a statement praising him for his work on the board.

“As the chairman and founder of one of America’s largest and most well-respected companies, David Steward has brought a unique and valuable perspective to the Board of Curators over the past five years,” Nixon said in the prepared statement. “I thank him for his distinguished service and look forward to appointing another strong and dedicated leader to represent the Second District on the board.”

Chairwoman Pam Henrickson said Steward’s presence on the board will be missed.

“David’s passion for both the university and higher education in general, and his outstanding personal story of professional excellence, lent an important perspective to the board,” Henrickson said.

The board is scheduled to hold six regular meetings this year, with the first set for Thursday and Friday in Columbia.

The curators have met six times since Sept. 21 for meetings that were not previously scheduled as the board dealt with disagreements between top administrators and the resignations of UM System President Tim Wolfe and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

Ann Covington of Columbia resigned Nov. 19, citing personal reasons that made her unable to serve.

The board has nine members and a student representative. No more than five members can be from the same political party. Sparks is a Democrat, and Covington was appointed as an Independent.

With Steward’s resignation, Nixon has one Democratic seat to fill and two seats that must be filled by Republicans or Independents.
Another resignation means St. Louis area has just one member on UM Board of Curators

Updated at 10:10 a.m. Monday with Steward resignation and statement, Graham still on board:

Now the St. Louis area has just one representative on the University of Missouri Board of Curators. And all of the members are white

Following last week's resignation of Yvonne Sparks from St. Louis, David Steward of St. Louis County, a founder of World Wide Technology, has also resigned from the board. Gov. Jay Nixon's office confirmed the news Monday, releasing this statement:

"As the chairman and founder of one of America’s largest and most well-respected companies, David Steward has brought a unique and valuable perspective to the Board of Curators over the past five years. I thank him for his distinguished service and look forward to appointing another strong and dedicated leader to represent the Second District on the Board."

Later Monday morning, the university released this statement from Steward:

“It has been a great honor to serve the four campuses of the University of Missouri System in the role of curator, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity. However, we have been blessed with substantial opportunities to continue to expand our business globally. This ultimately will create more jobs for the state of Missouri, and I am choosing to make that my primary focus.”

Steward and Sparks had been the only African-American members of the board. With last year's resignation of Ann Covington of Columbia, the board now has three vacancies as it begins its search for a new system president and a new chancellor of the Columbia campus. And the Senate is not expected to take up any more nominations before its adjournment in May.

In the university statement, board chair Pamela Henrickson of Jefferson City said:

“It was a pleasure getting to know David Steward during our time on the board, and he will be greatly missed. David’s passion for both the university and higher education in general, and his
outstanding personal story of professional excellence, lent an important perspective to the board. His contributions to the University of Missouri system are much appreciated. We wish him the best.”

Steward had been one of two members on the board from St. Louis County. Maurice Graham of Clayton remains a board member.

An earlier version of this story incorrectly said no St. Louis area members remain as curators.

Our original story:

At a time when racial issues are a prominent factor in the governance of the University of Missouri, an African-American female candidate from St. Louis has failed to join the Board of Curators for the second straight year.

And that may remain the case until the legislature adjourns in May.

As a result, the board has just seven members, not the usual nine, and one African American, David Steward of St. Louis County. He was joined briefly last month during the board’s meeting on the university’s St. Louis campus by Yvonne Sparks, an official with the Federal Reserve Bank in St. Louis. She was even sworn in as a member of the board.

But before the Missouri Senate could vote to confirm her appointment, Sparks resigned earlier this week. In a letter to Gov. Jay Nixon, who had named her to the board in November, she expressed appreciation for the appointment but said it did not fit into her life at what she called “an important and demanding time” for the University of Missouri system.

“After careful consideration of the demands of my professional obligations and those required to engage in the work of the board at the level that I expect of myself,” she wrote, “I have concluded that it is not possible to do both well.”

Referring to when she was sworn in during the curators’ December meeting, Sparks said:

“The moment of taking the oath of office during the meeting at my alma mater, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, was one of my proudest.”

In response, Nixon said in a statement:

“Yvonne Sparks is a highly accomplished leader with a record of outstanding achievements, and I thank her for her service on the Board of Curators. While I’m disappointed that she will not continue to serve as a curator, I respect her decision and her dedication to her role at the St. Louis Federal Reserve. I look forward to appointing a highly qualified Missourian to represent the First District and serve the university in this vitally important role.”
According to legislative rules, if a nominee does not win confirmation in the Senate within 30 calendar days after its session convenes, that person may not serve in the position to which she or he is named.

State Sen. Jamilah Nasheed, D-St. Louis, sponsored Sparks’ nomination in the Senate and serves on the gubernatorial appointments committee. She noted that a lot of nominations were voted on by the committee this past week, and she did not foresee any opposition to the nomination of Sparks.

“I couldn't see anything wrong with her being on the board,” Nasheed said in an interview Friday. “She just quit.

“I think that she would have served well. She would have been a great addition to the board. I don't think that we would have had a problem with her being confirmed. She probably just decided not to move forward with it, and that's her prerogative.”

**Two members short**

The Board of Curators typically has nine voting members, with at least one from each of the state’s eight congressional districts represented and no more than five members from one political party. They serve staggered six-year terms. It also has a seat for a non-voting student member.

Late last year, a week after Sparks’ nomination was announced, curator Ann Covington of Columbia announced she was leaving the board for personal reasons. That departure, and the resignation of Sparks, leave Pamela Hendrickson of Jefferson City, the board’s current chair, as the only woman on the board.

Missouri’s 1st congressional district takes in all of the city of St. Louis and parts of St. Louis County, primarily in the north. Its last representative on the board was Wayne Goode, a longtime Democratic state lawmaker from Normandy, whose term expired in January 2015 with the nomination of Mary Nelson, a black woman who is general counsel for St. Louis Community College.

A Senate committee rejected her nomination at the same time it approved three others from Nixon, all white men who are also lawyers. State Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, who has clashed frequently with Nixon about university business and is running for attorney general, said he did not want so many lawyers on the board.

He also questioned whether Nelson’s position with the community college would post a conflict of interest.

Nasheed, who sponsored Nelson’s nomination in the Senate just as she did for Sparks this year, said at the time that she saw no conflict of interest. She would not speculate about what role race may have played in the vote against Nelson.
Now, Nasheed said, she will continue to seek an African-American candidate to sit on the Board of Curators, though a spokeswoman for the Senate committee said it is unlikely that any more nominees will be considered this session.

“I'm going to keep doing all I can to push for more minorities,” Nasheed said. “As a committee member, it's incumbent on me to get more minorities on boards and commissions. And that's what I'm going to continue to do. I'm going to continue to push for it.”

**Last black University of Missouri curator steps down**

A second member of the University of Missouri system's governing board has resigned in a week, leaving no black representation on the panel as the Columbia campus tries to mend from racial unrest.

**COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A second black member of the University of Missouri system's governing board has resigned in a week, leaving no minority representation on the panel as the Columbia campus tries to mend from racial unrest.**

Gov. Jay Nixon on Monday confirmed the David Steward's departure, which leaves three vacancies on the nine-member board.

Steward, chairman and founder of World Wide Technology based near St. Louis, didn't return messages seeking comment Monday about this reason for resigning.

Yvonne Sparks, who also is black, stepped down from the board last Wednesday. That Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis executive said she couldn't devote sufficient time to both positions.

The university system's president and the Columbia campus' chancellor resigned in November after protests over what some saw as university leadership's indifference to racial issues.
Um Board of Curators member resigns


COLUMBIA, Mo. - **A member of the University of Missouri Board of Curators announced his resignation Monday morning.**

**David Steward of St. Louis says his decision** to quit the board is due to personal reasons. Gov. Jay Nixon appointed Steward in 2011. His term wasn't set to expire until January 1, 2017.

"Current demands on curators makes it, can make it difficult for people to serve. These are very successful people with lives outside their service on the board," said John Fougere, UM chief communications officer.

Steward is the second board member to resign in less than a week. Curator Yvonne Sparks, also from St. Louis, resigned Wednesday.

"We'll miss having them. They're all great to have on the board, but again, we have to move forward with who we have and continue to move the university forward," said Fougere.

Steward's resignation is effective immediately. The governor may appoint a replacement to fill the remaining portion of his term.

ABC 17 News reached out to Gov. Nixon for a statement on Steward's resignation.

Nixon said: “As the chairman and founder of one of America’s largest and most well-respected companies, David Steward has brought a unique and valuable perspective to the Board of Curators over the past five years. I thank him for his distinguished service and look forward to appointing another strong and dedicated leader to represent the Second District on the Board.”

While on the board, Steward served as chairman of the academic, student and external affairs committee. He also served on the audit and compensation and human resources committees.

Steward is chairman and founder of World Wide Technology in St. Louis, a systems integrator that provides technology products, services and supply chain solutions.

The board of curators is the governing body of the University of Missouri. It consists of nine governor-appointed members who serve six-year terms.
UM Curator David Steward resigns due to personal reasons

COLUMBIA - A member of the UM Board of Curators resigned Monday, the third since November. David Steward cited personal reasons.

“It has been a great honor to serve the four campuses of the University of Missouri System in the role of curator, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity,” he said.

Steward is the third curator to leave, following Ann Covington, who resigned Nov. 19 and Yvonne Sparks, who resigned Jan. 28.

Steward's departure leaves the Board of Curators with no minority representation.

Steward is chairman and founder of World Wide Technology of St. Louis as well as president and owner of Transport Administrative Services and Transportation Business Specialists.

“We have been blessed with substantial opportunities to continue to expand our business globally. This ultimately will create more jobs for the state of Missouri, and I am choosing to make that my primary focus,” he said.

Gov. Jay Nixon may appoint a replacement to fill the remaining portion of Steward’s term.

He said, “As the chairman and founder of one of America’s largest and most well-respected companies, David Steward has brought a unique and valuable perspective to the Board of Curators over the past five years. I thank him for his distinguished service and look forward to appointing another strong and dedicated leader to represent the Second District on the Board.
The UM System Board of Curators announced the resignation of Curator David Steward because of personal reasons, effective immediately on Feb. 1.

“It has been a great honor to serve the four campuses of the University of Missouri System in the role of curator, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity,” Steward said in a written statement.

Steward has served on the Board of Curators since 2011 where he represented the 2nd Congressional District which includes the St. Louis area. His term was set to expire on Jan. 1, 2017.

“We have been blessed with substantial opportunities to continue to expand our business globally,” Steward said in a written statement. “This ultimately will create more jobs for the state of Missouri, and I am choosing to make that my primary focus.”

The Board of Curators is the governing body of MU, which consists of nine members who serve for six-year terms. They are each appointed by the governor with the Senate’s consent.

Steward’s resignation is the third Board of Curator’s resignation within the past three months. Ann Covington resigned Nov. 19, 2015, and Yvonne Sparks resigned last week. This leaves the board with only six curators and no minority representation.

“It was a pleasure getting to know David Steward during our time on the board, and he will be greatly missed,” current board chairwoman Pam Henrickson said in a written statement. “David’s passion for both the university and higher education in general, and his outstanding personal story of professional excellence, lent an important perspective to the board. His contributions to the University of Missouri system are much appreciated. We wish him the best.”

The governor may appoint a new curator to carry out the remaining duration of Steward’s term.
JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — A Missouri lawmaker is touting a bill he said will protect the state's student journalists from censorship, written in part as a response to a recent confrontation between a University of Missouri assistant professor and a student videographer during protests on campus.

The measure by Republican Rep. Elijah Haahr, of Springfield, would prohibit public K-12 schools and colleges from blocking articles or other content created by students, with some standard exceptions — content that’s slanderous, libelous, breaks laws or is an invasion of privacy.

"I think it’s time that Missouri becomes known as a state that values free speech, especially for student journalists," Haahr said before a Monday House hearing on the legislation.

The bill is partly a means of addressing the confrontations that received widespread attention, Haahr said, although he first was prompted by a college journalism professor from his alma mater.

On Nov. 9, there were protests on the Columbia campus over what some saw as university leadership’s indifference to racial issues. Video shot by student Mark Schierbecker showed Janna Basler, who works in the university's office of Greek life, telling photographer Tim Tai, a student freelancing for ESPN, to "leave these students alone" in their "personal space." Moments later, Melissa Click, an assistant communications professor, confronted Schierbecker and called for "muscle" to help remove him.

Click was suspended and reached a deal with prosecutors to do community service instead of facing charges. Basler was placed on administrative leave for more than a month before returning to work in December.

Tai said while the measure would not have applied to his interaction with Basler, he's backing the bill because "it's about greater rights for student journalists in Missouri."

"What better way for student journalists to learn than when they're responsible for exercising their own editorial judgments and confronting ethical conflicts and taking responsibility for these decisions?" Tai said during the hearing. "But as we have seen at MU and many other schools, not
every administrator or faculty member fully understands the protections enshrined in the First Amendment."

The bill also exempts reporting that "so incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of an unlawful act, the violation of school district policy, or the material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school." Similar rules would apply to student reporting at the state’s colleges, and Haahr said there are differences in case law between how incidents in high school and college are handled.

Haahr said he also was motivated by a 1988 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in a case from Hazelwood, Missouri, that gave public school officials power to censor student newspapers. The court said a high school principal didn't violate students' rights when he barred publication of two articles on teen pregnancy and divorce.

"We weren't given the chance to learn what it's really like to be a journalist because we weren't allowed to print stories that were relevant to an ongoing problem at the school," said Cathy Kuhlmeier Frey, a student plaintiff in the Hazelwood case. "Instead, we were told that the stories were too mature for an immature audience."

She said the case discouraged her from pursuing journalism professionally.

Missouri School Boards’ Association chief of staff Brent Ghan told The Associated Press the measure could "remove the ability of teachers and administrators to do their job in terms of providing education to students." He raised questions about whether the legislation could prevent educators from giving guidance on the content of a story and how it’s written.

"For a teacher to exercise oversight or educational guidance over a school-sponsored publication is not a lot different than an editor or a publisher in a newspaper setting also having that sort of oversight over what's being reported (and) the work that's being done by a reporter," Ghan said.

Haahr’s measure is one of several this session that were proposed in response to turmoil at the Columbia campus. Another bill would require college students to take a class on freedom of speech.
New bill would bar censorship of student journalists; photographer in viral Mizzou video voices support

11 hours ago • By Jack Suntrup

JEFFERSON CITY • Republican Rep. Elijah Haahr of Springfield told a House committee Monday that a bill he's sponsored would right two wrongs in modern Missouri history. The bill would prohibit the outright censorship of student-run publications by administrators.

The first wrong Haahr mentioned was out of Hazelwood East High School in the 1980s. In Hazelwood, students wanted to publish stories on divorce and teenage pregnancy. But the principal resisted. The pages were eliminated.

The students sued the school, saying their First Amendment rights had been violated. The case made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which sided with the administration, saying that the publication was school-sponsored and that the school had a legitimate interest in holding articles that it deemed inappropriate.

The case has been referenced by school administrators ever since as a reason to stop publication of certain articles.

The second case was on Nov. 9 on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus when a student journalist tried to document protests there, but MU assistant communications professor Melissa Click "physically and verbally prevented" the student from doing so, Haahr said. The incident was captured on video and went viral.

"In both instances, as the nation looked toward Missouri, our state was portrayed or perceived as being on the side of restraint, of penalizing and preventing the same speech rights of student journalists that professional journalists enjoy," Haahr told the House Emerging Issues Committee.

But Rep. Mike Colona, D-St. Louis, wondered how schools would be able to satisfy parents who wouldn't want their kids reading about sensitive issues in the school newspaper. He used transgender students seeking to use bathrooms not assigned to their biological sex as an example.

"If you support the First Amendment, if you support the freedom of students to discuss those issues, but yet you want to be respectful to parents who are are sensitive to those issues, how do you answer
that question?" he asked Frank LoMonte, the executive director of the Student Press Law Center in Washington, D.C.

"We know that censorship doesn't stop the discussion about transgender students from taking place," LoMonte said. "It just relocates that discussion. It relocates that from the accountable, adult-supervised pages of student media to the unaccountable, anything-goes pages of Twitter."

He added that civil rights such as freedom of speech shouldn't be left to local authorities.

Colona also raised concerns about students being able to publish whatever they deemed appropriate without teacher oversight. But LoMonte said protections are written into the bill, and that case law has determined which sort of speech is protected and which isn't.

"A school could step in to stop publication of anything that could incur legal liability," LoMonte said. "If the school is fearful that the student is going to publish libelous material or material that is invasive of privacy, the answer to that is that that is not protected speech today and that won't be protected speech tomorrow."

Also exempted is reporting that, according to the bill, "incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of an unlawful act, the violation of school district policy, or the material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school."

But Tim Tai, the photographer captured defending himself in the same viral video Click was in, told the committee that just because an article may portray a school in an unflattering light doesn't mean that the story should be held, as has been the case numerous times since the Supreme Court's Hazelwood decision.

"There have been countless documented cases in schools of student journalists being stifled under the guise of the Supreme Court's decision in the 1988 case Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier," Tai said. He mentioned examples of a New York principal who barred students from reporting that there were two working bathrooms in a school of 3,600 students and a story out of Indiana where a coach scammed his players out of more than $1,000.

Haahr, the chairman of the Emerging Issues Committee, said he expects a vote on the bill as early as Wednesday.

*Haahr's bill is House Bill 2058.*
Cronkite New Voices Act draws support from Missouri journalists and students

ELLEN CAGLE, 10 hrs ago

JEFFERSON CITY — Student reporters in Missouri are treated as second-class journalists, according to some who offered testimony Monday to a House committee about a bill that would prevent schools from censoring student-produced media.

Ten witnesses testified to the Emerging Issues Committee on the Cronkite New Voices Act, including Tim Tai, an MU journalism student who garnered national attention after university employees tried to block him from photographing campus protests in November. Tai is also a photographer for the Columbia Missourian.

The bill is sponsored by Elijah Haahr, R-Springfield.

If passed, the bill would protect student journalists from censorship, even if the content they produce is for a school-funded publication or uses facilities owned by the school. The bill dictates that schools may only exercise censorship if content is libelous, illegal or an invasion of privacy.

The act would override a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier. In that case, the Supreme Court ruled that St. Louis high school students' freedom of speech rights were not violated when the school's principal prevented two articles, one about teenage pregnancy, from being published in the school newspaper.

Thomas Hanrahan, a former adviser at Missouri Southern State University and Missouri Western State University, said student journalists are no different from professionals.
"These aren't student journalists. They're journalists who happen to be students," he said. "Some of the most important journalism we're seeing today, because of resources and other industry challenges, is not coming from our great papers. It's not coming from our great networks. It's coming out of our high schools and our colleges."

Tai said student journalists contribute as much to national news coverage as professionals.

"For years, student reporters have been treated as second-class journalists, and that's a shame, because they are often the only ones tackling crucial issues in schools and on campuses," he said.

He cited a New York Times article about the resignation of UM System President Tim Wolfe as an example of student contributions to large news events. The first sentence of the article includes a link to a timeline of events published in The Maneater, the MU student newspaper.

"Because these two newspapers had been on the ground reporting for weeks before national news outlets arrived in Columbia, they were able to produce some of the most comprehensive and informative pieces of journalism about the historic series of events at the university," he said.

The Hazelwood case has prompted numerous examples of unnecessary journalistic censorship in schools, he said.

"These cases show how easily a student publication can cease to be an education platform for young journalists and instead be the school's de facto public relations arm," he said.

Several who testified emphasized that the freedom of student journalists is necessary to teach them about the importance of real-world events that take place outside of school.

Mitch Eden, the president of the Missouri Journalism Education Association and an adviser at Kirkwood High School, said many St. Louis schools did not allow student reporters to cover unrest in Ferguson.
"Can you imagine that? Don't cover something as important as Ferguson? This kind of censorship by administrators undermines critical thinking and destroys the quality of student media," he said. "Kirkwood student journalists are modeling civics in action."

Deborah Garner, a retired high school journalism teacher, said her students learned vital skills, not only about accurate reporting, but about the importance of community issues, through high school journalism.

"They learned that issues impacting people need to be covered, and truth is essential," she said. "These are critical skills — higher level learning — that we would like all students to learn, to aid people in every career path and for good citizens in general."

The meeting ended with the testimony from Doug Crews, the executive director of the Missouri Press Association, who said the New Voices act is essential to protect future journalism.

"We think (the bill) would right a terrible wrong in scholastic journalism in Missouri," he said.

University of Missouri protests could lead to lower credit rating

11 hours ago • By Koran Addo

**The University of Missouri System has had the outlook on its AA+ credit rating downgraded from stable to negative by Standard & Poor's.**

In announcing the negative outlook, the credit rating agency reported that, while, the university’s balance sheet has remained stable, the ratio of available resources to debt may not be consistent with the AA+ rating.

A downgraded outlook is generally a precursor to the credit agency lowering an organization’s credit rating.

The S&P report also touched on the recent upheaval at the system office and on the Columbia campus.
“The negative outlook also incorporates recent senior management changes and campus events that could, in our opinion, affect demand and enrollment in the short term,” the report says.

Former President Timothy M. Wolfe resigned Nov. 9 following student protests. Student activists were upset over Wolfe’s perceived indifference to a number of racist incidents on campus.

The protests attracted national attention because of one student’s hunger strike and a pledge from the University of Missouri-Columbia football team to skip all football related activities until Wolfe stepped down.

Hours after Wolfe resigned, the university’s Board of Curators took away former R. Bowen Loftin’s title as chancellor and re-assigned him a role leading some of the university’s research efforts.

Residential Life adjusts housing plans for 2016 as enrollment estimates drop

Expectations of lower enrollment rates in fall 2016 have prompted the Department of Residential Life to make a number of housing changes, including closing Tiger Reserve and offering upperclassmen more on-campus housing.

For the upcoming fall semester, there has been a decrease of 941 applications from this time last year, with that decrease coming entirely from nonresidents, according to a memorandum released by the Office of the Vice Provost for Enrollment Management. There has also been a decrease in deposits, with the highest decrease seen from non-residents, mostly from Illinois, and 30 percent of the decrease in deposits coming from students of color.

Plans for “increased yield activities” are underway in efforts to increase both applications and deposits. For now, Residential Life is making adjustments to account for the decrease in enrollment, such as getting rid of extended-campus housing.

The department will be closing Tiger Reserve, a set of off-campus housing units, when its lease with The Reserve expires at the end of this academic year, Director of Residential Life Frankie Minor said. The purpose of off-campus housing was to accommodate enrollment rates, which were growing faster than housing capacity.

“We’ve got a brand new residence hall, Brooks Hall, opening this coming fall,” Minor said. “In essence, we’re kind of replacing the capacity we needed that we had out at Tiger Reserve with what we have at Brooks Hall.”
George C. Brooks Hall is one of the many new residence halls scheduled to open within the next few years. The new hall will open in fall 2016, with another opening in 2017.

The two residence halls, which will replace the demolished Jones Hall, are going to open on schedule despite dropping enrollment, Minor said. Decisions about whether to delay construction will be made later, when enrollment estimates are more solidified. Residential Life is planning on demolishing Lathrop and Laws halls and building three new residence halls in their place.

“We’re still assuming that we’re going to move forward with the demolition and construction,” Minor said. “I think we’ll look over the next few months as to whether or not that should be delayed at all. Our plans right now are to continue with the design of that, but we’ve got a little bit more time to determine whether or not we’re actually going to do the demolition and new construction.”

The decreased enrollment for the upcoming freshman class will also allow for more on-campus housing for upperclassmen, transfer and international students. Residential Life has removed the cap on the number of returning students who can apply for on-campus housing. Currently, there is a cap of about 100 spaces for transfer students, but the cap could be removed if spaces remain available.

“We always want to make sure that we can accommodate the incoming freshman class, that’s our highest priority, and then as many of the currently enrolled students who are living with us and then the transfer students,” Minor said.

Near the end of 2015, Residential Life was considering modifying the ROAR process to allow for any returning students to apply for single rooms. Currently, acceptance for single room requests depends on the number of semesters a student has lived in the residence halls.

However, the Residence Halls Association voted to keep the process the same. Representatives likely felt that upperclassmen benefited from having a single room in ways that others might not, RHA President Billy Donley said.

“There tends to be a lot of students who, after their first year, get very involved and they see living in the residence halls as the best option for them,” Donley said. “I think that for students who it’s not their first year, they’re looking for different things than a lot of first-year students who will benefit from having a roommate.”

RHA has played a role in many decisions made recently by Residential Life, such as naming George C. Brooks Hall and getting the opportunity to name the second new hall, which will be voted on later in the semester. RHA’s relationship with Residential Life will only continue to grow, Donley said.

“We’ve always had a strong connection, but now RHA is being able to voice a lot more opinions on different matters,” Donely said. “They are a lot more willing to hear that student voice from RHA. That relationship has been great this year, and next year is going to be even better.”
Lewis Diuguid: NAACP awards appropriately honor Concerned Student 1950 and others linked to Black Lives Matter movement

NAACP Chairman’s Award will include Concerned Student 1950

Honors presented at the 47th NAACP Image Awards have links to the 2014 police slaying of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo.

BY LEWIS DIUGUID
ldiuguid@kcstar.com

People at the University of Missouri-Columbia and in the Show-Me State may not be so happy, but the international attention that the Concerned Student 1950 picked up last fall, getting top MU officials to resign over racial tension has merited the group the NAACP Chairman’s Award.

The honor will be presented Friday in Pasadena Civic Auditorium near Los Angeles and will be broadcast live on TV One at 8 p.m. Central time. The award from National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Chair Roslyn M. Brock goes to individuals and organizations that “have used their distinct platforms to be agents of change,” the NAACP said in a written statement.

The other recipients of the Chairman’s Award at the 47th NAACP Image Awards are Justice League NYC, the University of Mississippi NAACP College Chapter, Brittany “Bree” Newsome, Jussie Smollett, the Rev. Dr. Jamal Harrison Bryant, the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III and the Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley.

The NAACP Chairman’s Award is given for special achievement and distinguished public service. Past honorees include former U.S. Attorney General
Eric Holder Jr., U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Michelle Howard, Radio One Founder and Chairperson Cathy Hughes, U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin, singer Aretha Franklin, then-Sen. Barack Obama, and actors Danny Glover and Forest Whitaker.

Many of the awards this year appropriately have ties to Ferguson, Mo., and the Black Lives Matter movement. The NAACP explains that:

▪ The Concerned Student 1950 “stood up to institutional apathy and racial hostility on the campus.” It organized “Racism Lives Here” protests on campus that included MU graduate student Jonathan Butler’s hunger strike and “a pivotal boycott by its football team, the Missouri Tigers, that resulted in the resignations of the University of Missouri system president and the chancellor.” The student activism was inspired by the Aug. 9, 2014, police shooting and protests that followed of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson. It gave rise to the Black Lives Matter movement and national attention to the slayings of unarmed African American males by police.

The group’s name is for the year the University of Missouri admitted its first black student. The NAACP award notes that “the campus activism led by the Concerned Students 1950 Collective inspired similar protests on college campuses across the nation.”

▪ The Justice League NYC was founded by actor and civil rights activist Harry Belafonte in 2005, advocating for reforms in the criminal justice system.

“In April 2015, Justice League NYC led a nine-day, 250-mile march from New York City to Washington, D.C., to deliver to Congress three federal bills to end racial profiling, stop the militarization of police and interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline,” the NAACP said. “Justice League NYC keeps public pressure on high-level city, state and federal officials, by engaging in substantive policy discussions with stakeholders and building power on the streets with strategic community mobilization.”

▪ The University of Mississippi NAACP College Chapter was a catalyst in the student led effort to remove the Mississippi state flag from campus grounds. The flag includes the Confederate battle flag in its upper left corner. Dialogues, rallies and meetings with university administrators resulted in the flag’s removal.
The action on the University of Mississippi campus last year followed South Carolina removing the Confederate battle flag from Statehouse grounds after a white gunman on June 17 entered the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C., and shot to death nine African American members of the historic black church. Dylann Roof, who is white, faces nearly three-dozen charges in the crime. He had appeared in photos, waving Confederate battle flags. Until then, many staunch supporters of the banner said it represented their heritage, not hate.

- Brittany “Bree” Newsome had watched the funeral of Rev. Clementa Pinckney, one of nine persons shot to death at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, and realized the message being communicated by the U.S. flag and the South Carolina state flag at half-staff while the Confederate flag remained fully furled. Newsome scaled the 30-foot flagpole in front of the South Carolina Statehouse and removed the Stars and Bars boldly declaring, “This flag comes down today!”

“The image of Bree with the Confederate flag in hand has become a touchstone of empowerment for disenfranchised people around the globe,” the NAACP said.

- Actor-singer-songwriter Jussie Smollett has actively stood up for civil rights, HIV/AIDS awareness and other social justice causes. Smollett volunteers with the Black AIDS Institute, Artists for a New South Africa and United Negro College Fund. Smollett is an outspoken advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues and extremely active in GLAAD, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

- The Rev. Dr. Jamal Harrison Bryant has served as a National Youth and college director of the NAACP, where he organized a national “Stop the Violence Start the Love” campaign to counter the violence that claimed the lives of thousands of young African Americans.

“As pastor of 10,000 millennials, he has fused spirituality with social responsibility, registering more voters than any church in the state of Maryland,” the NAACP noted. “His on-the-ground social justice commentary and leadership were exhibited during the uprisings in Baltimore in the aftermath of the deaths of Freddie Gray and Trayvon Martin.”

- The Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III is a senior pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago. Moss led a “My Life Matters” curriculum, includes the video “Get Home Safely: 10 Rules of Survival,” created in the aftermath of the police
shooting death in Ferguson, Mo., of Michael Brown. He recently addressed the Congressional Black Caucus at its annual legislative conference prayer breakfast, where he provided a religious framework for the Black Lives Matter movement.

▪ Under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, the “Alfred Street Baptist Church is the first and only faith-based organization to date to donate $1 million to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture,” the NAACP notes. Wesley also led community protests against the New York grand jury’s decision not to indict police in the July 17, 2014, choking death of 43-year-old Eric Garner, though the police arrest and assault was caught on cellphone video.

The NAACP Image Awards celebrates the accomplishment of people of color in television, music, literature and film and honors people or groups for promoting social justice through creative endeavors. The multicultural show is attended many people in the entertainment industry.

#BlackLivesMatter to give talk at MU for Black History Month

RACHEL TREECE, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — The founders of #BlackLivesMatter will give a talk at MU in celebration of Black History Month. Other February events hosted by Columbia and MU will include performances and speeches.

The #BlackLivesMatter talk is among the highlights of the month. It's scheduled for 7 p.m. on Feb. 18 at Jesse Auditorium. Landon Jones, co-chair of the Department of Student Activities Speakers Committee, was in charge of coordinating the event.

The discussion was planned in July, well before the demonstrations and protests happened at MU last fall.
"It's something I felt was important for the student body to learn about," Jones said. "It's more important now than ever."

The event will focus on teaching students to effectively use social media as a tool to share points of view and to promote social change, Jones said.

"It's basically to help people have a voice," he said.

City of Columbia Recreation Specialist Bill Thompson helped coordinate events that will be sponsored by the city. He said his main goal was "to give people a variety of events that highlight what the community is about."

"The biggest thing that we as people — white, black or other — is that we can live together and gain a broader understanding so we can all become better people in society," Thompson said. "I just want the country to grow to the point where we don't have to have a Black History Month."

The month's events began Monday night at the Missouri State Historical Society, where historian Joan Stack was scheduled to talk about the representation of African Americans in the works of Thomas Hart Benton and others at the Missouri State Capitol.

A ZouSoul concert dedicated to the history of popular black music also was scheduled for 8 p.m. Monday at The Shack in the MU Student Center.

Other activities scheduled throughout the month include:

- **Tuesday:** A film followed by a discussion about being a single, African-American mother will be held at 7 p.m. at the Armory Sports and Recreation Center, 701 E. Ash St.

- **Wednesday:** Author Diane Mutti Burke will examine the lives of African-Americans who were enslaved in mid-Missouri then will sign copies of her book, "On Slavery's Border, Missouri's Small-Slaveholding Households." The reception begins at 6 p.m. in Jesse Auditorium at Jesse Hall.
• Friday: The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services will provide free HIV testing for Black AIDS Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the MU Student Center.

• Feb. 10: Scott Brooks will host the second installment of his discussion, Black Culture and Relationships, which he began in November. The discussion will begin at 6 p.m at MU’s Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center.

• Feb. 11: Award-winning jazz bassist and vocalist Meshell Ndegeocello will perform with the MU Jazz Band. A discussion moderated by Stephanie Shonekan will be held with Ndegeocello after the performance. The concert begins at 7 p.m. at the Missouri Theatre.

• Feb. 18: Founders of #BlackLivesMatter will speak about social injustice, systemic racism and effective advocacy. Tickets are free for MU students and $5 for the public. The talk begins at 7 p.m. in Jesse Auditorium at Jesse Hall.

• Feb. 18: A Black History Month talent show will be held at the Douglass High School gymnasium. The show begins at 7 p.m.

• Feb. 19: Hip hop artist and activist Jasiri X will perform at 7 p.m. in the MU Student Center's Leadership Auditorium.

• Feb. 23: The city will host a Black History Month discussion of 2016 election issues and politics at 7 p.m. in the Armory Sports and Recreation Center.

• Feb. 28: Local and regional acts will perform gospel music, then a free soul food feast for attendees will be held. Festivities begin at 3 p.m. at St. Luke United Methodist Church, 204 E. Ash St.

For more information on the events listed and a comprehensive list of all events being held throughout February, visit the Parks and Recreation Department's special events page and MU's full Black History Month schedule.

First annual India Day highlights student and faculty achievements

The Vice Provost for International Programs Dr. James Scott: “The Indian community has been so productive for the University of Missouri and helps our reputation in so many ways.”

By Rashi Gupta Feb. 1, 2016
The first-ever India Day, hosted by the Cultural Association of India, celebrated Indian culture and achievements by showcasing talents of MU alumni, students and faculty.

“India has been represented by Bollywood dance and flashy colors and many times it has masked what talent India has,” CAI President Pratham Bandekar said. “We wanted something of that sort to come up, people of Indian origin to be highlighted. We look for people who are highly involved and we want to highlight their work.”

This is the first India Day event since the CAI was founded in 1957. Making this event a reality was not easy, Bandekar said. The organization has hosted India Night before, but the CAI wanted another event that acknowledges, commemorates and celebrates scholarship on MU’s campus, said Smita Aggarwal, the vice president of external affairs for the CAI.

She also said future India Day events will hold the same spirit but have a different theme. Using this criteria, the CAI invited speakers who have made a mark in the Indian community as well as MU.

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley welcomed the guests and James Scott, the Vice Provost for International Programs, gave the opening remarks.

Foley has a lot of Indian doctorate and master’s students who work for him, which is part of the reason that India Day was so important to him, he said.

“The fact that we’re all here raises awareness and cultural appreciation among the Indian community,” Foley said.

The chief guest was Ausaf Sayeed, the consul general of India-Chicago, and the keynote speaker was Surendra Gupta, president and CEO of American Radiolabeled Chemicals, Inc. The CAI also had two distinguished speakers, Meera Chandrasekhar, a curators professor in the department of physics, and Ramesh Khanna, the vice chairman of the department of medicine, along with two postdoctoral fellows, Sangho Bok and Sagar Gupta.

Surendra Gupta talked about his journey to becoming the President and CEO of ARC Inc. in St. Louis. Gupta’s company is one of the largest suppliers of radiochemicals in the world and has won multiple awards for his achievements. His company works closely with the UM System, and he has a scholarship fund for Indian students who want to attend the UM-St. Louis.

Meera Chandrasekhar was recognized for her achievement in increasing the rate of high school students taking physics before they took chemistry or biology by 10 percent in Missouri but 20 percent nationwide. She accomplished this through her curriculum that trains high school teachers in physics, so that they’re able to make physics more appealing to students.

Ramesh Khanna, who worked closely with Karl Nolph, the MD chairman in nephrology at MU, has made great breakthroughs in peritoneal dialysis. This has been especially beneficial for those with severe kidney problems. The two also established the Annual Dialysis Conference, which
has come to be the biggest conference for nephrologists and others interested in this field. This will be the conference’s 36th year.

To increase the MU-India connection, Scott plans to document all interactions with the Indian community and encourage the university to do so as well.

“The Indian community has been so productive for the University of Missouri and helps our reputation in so many ways,” Scott said. “I just wanted to make sure that everyone knows about this.”

In future India Day events, Scott hopes to add more visibility to this event and highlight more student work, along with faculty achievements.

“I’d like to see more people participate next year who are not Indian so that we have more mixing of cultures,” Foley said. “We need to do a better job of advertising these kinds of cultural affairs and events.”

**MISSOURIAN**

**UPDATED: City Council approves utility maintenance plan, offers support to UM System**

ERIKA STARK, 8 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Here's what the Columbia City Council did and considered on Monday night during its first regular meeting of February.

This article was updated as the meeting unfolded and is organized in reverse chronological order.

Closing comments

Second Ward Councilman Michael Trapp discussed Columbia's homeless community. He brought up the idea of “tiny houses” as a possible remedy to homelessness in Columbia and said “fundamentally we need a day center” and an “inclement weather shelter.”
"If we take care of those folks with the most struggles, then others will get a lift."

North 763 Community Improvement District

The council accepted a report from the North 763 Community Improvement District summarizing its expenses and revenue for fiscal 2015. The report shows the district raised $33,432 and spent $39,159 during the year.

Supporting the UM System

**Mayor Bob McDavid read a resolution in support of the University of Missouri System, citing the 4-campus system's importance to Missouri's economy and requesting that state lawmakers recognize the system's value and "continue to adequately fund this component of the great state of Missouri."**

The City Council unanimously supported the resolution.

The resolution expressed several points favoring MU specifically, including the university's status as the system's flagship campus and an employer of 13,000 people.

McDavid said the resolution was written by Boone County Presiding Commissioner Dan Atwill. The Boone County Commission is scheduled to consider a similar resolution at its meeting Tuesday morning.

Third Ward Councilman Karl Skala said that despite recent tension between the city and the county, "there can be no question that there is no tension" with regard to supporting the UM System.

"The university is why a lot of us came here, and it’s facing a lot of funding reductions," Skala said. "Anything that we can do to support this is something that I will certainly subscribe to."
Fifth Ward Councilwoman Laura Nauser said MU was important to not only Columbia but to the state and the country. Nauser urged state legislators against "punishing any person at the University of Missouri" as a result of "the unfortunate events that came about."

“I fully support the University of Missouri and ask the state legislators to stay out of the fray,” Nauser said.

Lynn Street land trust

The council took steps to create a community land trust that will own property on Lynn Street that is targeted for development as affordable housing. The council agreed to transfer $19,000 from its reserve account to the Community Development Department, which will use the money to contract with consultant Burlington Associates in Community Development for creation of the trust.

A city staff report to the council estimated that construction of the housing and creation of the trust should be complete by early 2017. The idea is for the trust to continue owning the Lynn Street land even after the houses that sit on it have been sold, making them more affordable.

First Ward Councilman Clyde Ruffin and McDavid also endorsed the bill.

In council discussion, Trapp supported the trust and said, “The real key element of a housing trust is that it locks in affordable housing.”

Trapp said he believes affordability will “become more and more of an issue” as land prices continue to rise and that the “beauty of a land trust is it builds affordability in to perpetuity.”

First Ward Councilman Clyde Ruffin and McDavid also endorsed the trust. Nauser, however, said she was “still on the fence about the issue” because she was concerned the trust wouldn’t create enough affordable housing to solve the majority of the issue.

Consent agenda
The council passed a resolution scheduling a Feb. 15 public hearing on proposed improvements at Douglass Park that would include two new shelters, a skate spot, walkway work intended to address requirements of the Americans with the Disabilities Act, new playground equipment and additional lighting. The total cost of the projects is estimated to be $225,000.

New police station

The council authorized the city staff to buy 8.55 acres owned by Callaway Bank in the Auburn Hills Subdivision, where it plans to build a northside police station. The land will cost $484,170, and the city has budgeted $8.7 million in fiscal 2018 for construction of the building.

Skala requested this be removed from the consent agenda to ensure the public that the money to fund the project could not be used to hire more police officers, as it came from the city's capital improvement sales tax.

The planned location for the station is in the city's Second Ward, which is represented by Trapp.

“If I could put a police station anywhere on planet Earth, I would put it right there,” he said.

Utility plan

The council unanimously approved an ordinance that calls for paying HDR of Columbia $817,300 to develop an integrated maintenance plan for the city's sanitary and stormwater utilities. The project is intended to solve sanitary sewer overflows and discharge violations in order to meet city, EPA and Missouri Department of Natural Resources requirements by developing long-term plans to improve water quality while keeping utility fees affordable.

“This is a plan placed on EPA’s guidelines; there’s eight elements that you have to meet. This is a regulatory process,” Deputy City Manager John Glascock said. “It’s not that we didn’t have a plan — it’s that we didn’t have the plan that met the requirements.”

Glascock said this new plan will give the city what it needs to meet requirements as efficiently as possible.
"You do not want to be on the wrong side of an EPA mandate," McDavid said.

Public hearing

The council held a public hearing on projects at Nifong Memorial Park then unanimously approved the work, which will include two new shelters, a playground, parking lot work and lighting. The total budget is $375,000. The city will use $250,000 from its parks sales tax and the $125,000 donation from the Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club to pay for the project.

McDavid said city surveys pointed to a need for more parking and walkways in the park.

Scheduled public comment

Columbia resident and Race Matters representative Rachel Taylor talked about the Columbia Police Department's progress in meeting the goals outlined by the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. Taylor said she’d like to see Columbia police “represent themselves as co-learners” when it comes to increasing diversity.

"Cosmo Corner"

The Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club donated $125,000 for projects the city is planning at Nifong Park in southeast Columbia. The city will recognize a section of the park as "Cosmo Corner."

Jim Loveless, a member of the club, presented a ceremonial check to McDavid, who thanked the club for its contribution. The club has "made Columbia a better place and a better place for many generations to come," McDavid said.

Fourth Ward Councilman Ian Thomas was absent.
Boone commissioners to vote on MU resolution

BOONE CO., Mo. - Boone County Commissioners are scheduled to vote Tuesday on a resolution in support of the University of Missouri.

Presiding Commissioner Dan Atwill said the resolution was drawn up with the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, the city, and Columbia Public Schools.

Atwill is concerned about possible legislative cuts to MU and the entire UM System.

Atwill said the resolution urges all MO lawmakers to consider the financial impact of the university on the state and on Mid-Missouri.

Op Ed: Professors stick up for mob rule

BY GLENN GARVIN

ggarvin@miamiherald.com

Newspapers hardly run obituaries unless somebody pays for them, so you probably didn’t see the official death notice of the English language a couple of weeks ago. When the University of Missouri released a letter from 115 faculty members supporting their colleague Melissa Click and demanding that the school “defend her First Amendment rights of protest and freedom to act as a private citizen,” words lost all meaning.

“First Amendment rights,” in this case, are Click’s rights to order a mob attack on a student journalist who was covering a protest on the Missouri campus last November. Notice the absence of words like “allegedly” or “accused of” in that sentence. The entire incident was captured on video.

It shows a videographer from Missouri’s student newspaper approaching one of the demonstrators at a campus protest against racism and asking if he can interview her. An angrily scowling Click immediately intervenes. “You need to get out, you need to get out,” she demands, shoving the reporter, although the demonstration was taking place in a public area of the campus.
“I actually don’t,” replies the reporter. “All right!” snaps Click, turning to the crowd to shout, “Who wants to help me get this reporter out of here? I need some muscle over here!”

Luckily, Missouri students have more sense than their professors (though that’s apparently a low bar) and the demonstrators didn’t respond. But local prosecutors, who along with millions of others saw the video on the Internet, did. They charged Click with assault. She last week avoided jail by agreeing to perform community service and stay out of trouble for a year.

That may be a reasonable outcome for the judicial system, where Click’s case was competing against those of rapists and murderers for prosecutors’ time and the state’s jail cells. Whether a professor who threatens a student with mob violence should retain her teaching job, however, is another matter.

Click lost her teaching appointment in Missouri’s journalism school, where the other professors did not see beating up reporters as a cornerstone of academic freedom. But she still has her appointment in the university’s communication department. And a lot of other professors want her to keep it.

Clark, they wrote, “has been wronged by the media” with all that pesky reporting about her legal troubles. “We believe that her actions on November 9 constitute at most” — at most! — “a regrettable mistake,” they added, in the only line in the letter that comes within a country mile of criticizing her behavior.

Blandly referring to a call for the use of “muscle” against a student journalist as maybe a “regrettable mistake” that is excused by the First Amendment is preposterous on its face. But considered in the context of academic rhetoric these days, it goes well beyond Orwellian.

These are the same professors who talk incessantly of creating “safe spaces” on campus, by which they mean refuges where students won’t have to hear anything that displeases them. Seriously.

At Harvard, this went as far as equipping a room with cookies, coloring books Play-Doh and cute-puppy videos (but none of those sinister kittens!) on the night that libertarian feminist Wendy McElroy was on campus to deliver a speech criticizing the term “rape culture.”

One anguished student told the New York Times that she retreated to the safe space after trying to listen to McElroy’s speech and discovering that, “I was feeling bombarded by a lot of viewpoints that really go against my dearly and closely held beliefs.”

And not far from the Missouri campus, at the University of Kansas, a professor is under investigation by the university for using the N-word — during a classroom discussion of race relations — she said she had never seen it spray-painted on a campus wall. Several students in the class promptly warned the college administration that the professor’s observation “creates an unsafe learning space” and was even “terroristic.”
So, that’s the state of linguistics in higher education these days: Speak the wrong idea, or even just the wrong word in a classroom, and you’re guilty of making students feel unsafe. Threaten them with attack by an angry rabble and you’re engaging in a laudable civic demonstration of the First Amendment.

RIP, English.

MISSOURIAN

With bill, Kendrick hopes to curtail student loan 'repayment crisis'

ZACHARY REGER, 14 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — State Rep. Kip Kendrick, D-Columbia, is on a mission to shatter student debt.

Kendrick spoke Monday morning to a crowd at the MU Student Center about HB 2432, also called the “Student Debt Relief Act.” The bill calls for additional measures to help college graduates repay loans.

“Rather than a debt crisis, we have a repayment crisis,” said Kendrick, a first-term representative. “This bill is a safe bet for Missouri.”

In 2012, 63 percent of Missouri students graduated with an average debt load of about $23,000, according to previous Missourian reporting.

The bill, which Kendrick filed Thursday, would grant power to the Department of Higher Education to refinance student loans through consolidation, reducing interest rates, extending repayment periods and creating a cap for monthly payments in proportion to each graduate’s level of discretionary income.

“The current repayment structure puts an unnecessary burden on many Missouri residents,” Kendrick said in a statement released Thursday. “It forces students to pay the bulk of the debt when earnings are lowest and job security is least.”
Co-hosts of the news conference included student groups such as the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, the Graduate Professional Council, the Missouri Student Association and Tigers Advancing Political Participation.

About 40 people stood around the area where Kendrick held the conference, which lasted less than 30 minutes.

The event kicked off with various student speakers, some sharing their personal experience with debt.

“Twenty thousand dollars in debt and I feel lucky,” said Steven Chaffin, legislative director for the Associated Students of the University of Missouri.

Kendrick said student debt affects the entire Missouri economy because it prompts an overall decrease in spending, which can be harmful to state businesses.

At the conference, Kendrick said he intended to file a companion bill to the Student Relief Act. The other bill would establish “loan navigators,” or people who would assist students and graduates with the process.

Christopher Dade, vice president for education for Tigers Advancing Political Participation, also chimed in on the issue.

“This is an issue that affects a lot of students, not only on this campus but others as well,” said Dade, an undergraduate student at MU.

Kendrick, who is pursuing a master’s degree in higher education administration at MU while representing Columbia in the House, closed the conference by invoking the past.

“The great Missouri President Harry Truman once said, ‘The buck stops here,’” Kendrick said. “It does with me.”
MU health study finds blood pressure drug may improve autism

COLUMBIA – University of Missouri researchers found a common medicine used to treat high blood pressure and irregular heartbeats may help individuals with autism with social and conversational skills.

In a study by the MU Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment Disorders, 20 individuals with autism were given either a 40 milligram dose of propranolol, a drug intended to treat high blood pressure, or a placebo pill.

According to researchers, the individuals who took propranolol scored noticeably higher on six social skills an hour later. David Beversdorf, associate professor in the departments of radiology, neurology and psychological sciences at MU said one dose of propranolol showed significant increases in communication and conversational skills.

The high blood pressure drug was first tested on individuals with autism in 1987. While the results showed some improvement in language and social skills, the trials were not controlled or randomized.

“Though more research is needed to study its effects after more than one dose, these preliminary results show a potential benefit of propranolol to improve the conversational and nonverbal skills of individuals with autism,” Beversdorf said.

“Additional studies could lead the way for improved treatments for individuals with autism,” Beversdorf said.

In the United States, approximately one in 68 children has autism. It can be treated with medications and behavioral therapies, but there is no cure currently.
Steve Kraske: The Donald Trump bandwagon lurches to a halt in Iowa

BY STEVE KRASKE
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Put the Donald Trump coronation on hold.
Do the same for Hillary Clinton.

Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas defied the polls Monday night to defeat the real-estate mogul in a tense Republican showdown that portends a lengthy duel between the two — and maybe with Marco Rubio.

Rubio, the fresh-faced, 44-year-old senator from Florida who had downplayed expectations about his prospects for days, finished a strong third with 23 percent, just 1 point behind Trump and 5 points behind Cruz. That suggests he’s ready to emerge if Republicans weary of the bombastic Trump and the far-right conservatism of Cruz.

The strong showings by Cruz and Rubio combined to puncture the aura of invincibility that has surrounded Trump for weeks.

The GOP race remains a scramble, and a mad one at that, but the field should narrow, and maybe narrow considerably, following New Hampshire’s first-in-the-nation primary next week.

Democrat Hillary Clinton, meantime, fought to a dead heat with Bernie Sanders. With 90 percent of the precincts reporting, she was winning, but by less than one-half of 1 percent.

In the short run, the close result does little to clarify the Democratic scrum, but in surviving, Clinton absorbed Sanders’ best shot. The senator from Vermont still
faces a swirl of questions about where he can turn to knock off the front-running Democrat.

Sanders is in good shape to win New Hampshire next week, but that win would carry an asterisk because Sanders hails from the state next door.

After that, Clinton’s strength should be evident. She is expected to win South Carolina later this month with its heavy African-American population and Nevada with its large number of Latinos. Sanders has struggled to make inroads with either group.

“I think she’s set up even if she loses New Hampshire,” University of Missouri political scientist Peverill Squire said of Clinton. “The next slate of events are probably going to go her way.”

She also is considered strong in the Deep South states that vote in early March. That remains largely foreign territory to Sanders.

Clinton also proved she could take a punch. A continuous drip, drip of stories about her emails and role in the Benghazi embassy attack clearly slowed her, though not enough for Sanders to pull away.

But it was the GOP nomination race that continued to fascinate, mainly because of Trump’s huge, bombastic personality that has dominated the race for months.

In winning, Cruz demonstrated an old axiom of Iowa politics, and that is organization comes first. Cruz, whose campaign is managed by Kansas City’s Jeff Roe, was described as having easily the best get-out-the-vote campaign of any Republican. That appeared to carry the day as Cruz eked out his win.

But it was significant nonetheless. Trump played hard in Iowa, hoping to put a quick end to the nomination race. He entered Monday night with big leads in New Hampshire and South Carolina, as well as in Iowa polls. An early trifecta of wins might have given him unstoppable momentum.

That didn’t happen, with Cruz relying on the same social conservative, evangelical voter base that propelled Mike Huckabee to his Iowa caucus win in 2008 and Rick Santorum in 2012. Cruz needed an early win to survive until the campaign turns to the South, and he got it.
Fully 60 percent of Iowa Republicans self-identified as evangelicals, according to caucus day polling.

“I think the whole evangelical side of the party will now rally around him,” Burdett Loomis, a University of Kansas political scientist, said of Cruz. “How can you see Santorum or Huckabee or even Ben Carson surviving?”

Cruz also showed resilience, fending off accusations that he had broke faith with some voters through a controversial “voter violation” mailers that compared the number of times recipients had voted to their neighbors’ voting record.

Trump and Rubio had blasted the tactic.

“It’s kind of an unusual way to end your campaign in a state,” Rubio said.

In the days head, Cruz will probably argue that his share of the vote can expand dramatically if other conservatives, such as Ben Carson and Santorum, abandon the race. Huckabee did Monday night. Cruz has already argued that Trump’s ability to expand his base is limited.

How the GOP establishment responds to Iowa’s results will be fascinating. Notables such as former Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas and long-time Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad have been clear that they think Cruz is bad for the party. Some notable Republicans have predicted that a Cruz nomination would result in a landslide drubbing to Clinton similar to the 1964 Lyndon Johnson triumph over Barry Goldwater.

How will the Republican establishment proceed? Does it rally behind Trump, who continues to be a burr in the saddle to many? Does it get behind the fresh-faced Rubio, who polls well against Clinton or Sanders but whose nationwide appeal is untested?

That such tough questions loom suggests that a unified course of action will be tough to find.

“I suspect they (the GOP establishment) will be more comfortable with Rubio than either Trump or Cruz,” Squire said. “It will depend on whether Rubio can perform well again next week and do better than he appears to be doing at the moment in New Hampshire.”
Meantime, the pressure on also-ran establishment candidates, such as Jeb Bush and Chris Christie, to abandon the race to allow Republicans time to unite behind an alternative to Cruz and possibly Trump will mount.

“There will be a rising chorus to cull the field that starts after Iowa, gets louder after New Hampshire and hits full throttle after South Carolina with the objective of giving us our best chance to beat Hillary,” Haley Barbour, the influential Republican National Committee member from Mississippi, told Politico.

Former University of Missouri President Tim Wolfe Selling His Columbia Home

Former University of Missouri system President Tim Wolfe, who stepped down from his position in November 2015, is now in the process of stepping away from his home.

His resignation capped a fall filled with furor after a series of on-campus racial incidents spurred students (including the football team) into acts of protest. In a recently released private email, Wolfe said his ouster "affected my family and me in ways that are indescribable."

One obvious way is the "for sale" sign now in front of his Columbia, MO, property. Listed for $750,000, the traditional-style house measures 5,600 square feet and features six bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, a living room, a dining room, a rec room with wet bar, and a gym.

The open-concept kitchen comes with stainless-steel appliances, a large island, granite counters, and a breakfast nook. There's also a casual family room with a fireplace.

The home's generous floor plan, with separate formal and casual spaces, seems perfect for hosting faculty parties. In addition, the home built in 2008 has been recently spruced up with "fresh paint and flooring," according to the listing.