JEFFERSON CITY • In a sign that the chilly relations between state lawmakers and the University of Missouri may be thawing, a plan to require yearly audits of Missouri’s flagship university received tepid reviews Tuesday.

At a hearing in the Capitol, members of a Senate panel expressed skepticism over a proposal to put the university under a fiscal microscope, saying it likely won’t shine a light on some of the complaints they’ve had with operations at the embattled institution.

And, they said it could become an expensive proposition costing taxpayers $500,000 every year.

“I do think there are some legitimate questions about how our money is being spent. I’m not sure this answers it,” said state Sen. Dave Schatz, R-Sullivan.

The comments came during a review of legislation by the Senate Government Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee. With the University of Missouri drawing intense scrutiny from lawmakers after top administrators left last year amid racially motivated student protests, state Sen. Eric Schmitt, R-Glendale, is pushing a bill that would require a yearly audit.

Leaders in the House and Senate also have suggested the university could face financial penalties when it comes time to dole out state funds this spring.

State Sen. Jason Holsman, D-Kansas City, was among those voting against endorsing Schmitt’s legislation Tuesday, saying it could become an expensive proposition.

“Why commit to spending $500,000 forever?” Holsman said.

State Sen. Jeanie Riddle, R-Mokane, expressed only tepid support in voting for the measure.

“I will vote to move it for discussion,” Riddle said.

If the audit proposal fails, it doesn't mean the university will lose outside oversight.

Soon after Schmitt’s legislation was floated, state Auditor Nicole Galloway said she was launching her own review of the University of Missouri System administration.
The time to review UM structure is now

Dual vacancies at top present opportunity.

By ART JAGO and JOHN GAHL

Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 2:00 pm

Hank Waters’ Jan. 29 editorial “UM System: Is it time for dismantling?” suggests it might not be a worthy exercise to have an independent, third-party examination of the University of Missouri System’s organizational structure, the UM/MU relationship and whether the offices of the MU chancellor and UM president might be consolidated. As the authors of the MU Faculty Council proposal to consider these very things, we believe these issues could not be more timely, more appropriate and more deserving of our focused attention.

In the 53-year history of the system, concurrent vacancies in the MU chancellorship and UM presidency have never happened. The absence of alliances and personal loyalties to these offices provides circumstances that surely will not occur for another 50 or more years. We are at a unique place in the history of the institution, and we shouldn’t squander the opportunity.

The primary argument in favor of the status quo is that the UM System prevents duplication across the four campuses. To be sure, economies of scale exist in things like centralized payroll and purchasing/procurement. However, if such scale is advantageous to the current four components (MU, UMSL, UMKC and Missouri S&T) why should these benefits not be extended to all or some of the other nine four-year public colleges in Missouri? Indeed, a 2011 study of six Missouri universities outside of UM revealed that five of those six colleges would save money through volume discounts if they joined UM’s purchasing system. They declined.

Interim UM President Mike Middleton suggested that without the system, operating separate services for each campus would at least double costs. This is a guess, as are the unaudited claims each year of the millions of dollars of cost savings that the system produces.

The editorial’s suggestion that a “multi-campus task force” will save the cost of an independent, external review is unlikely to produce any frank conversations or meaningful change. Indeed, the four campuses have been unable to agree on a common grading scale, fee structure or even a shared course numbering scheme. The system offices are a $75 million-per-year giant. The cost of a third-party review will be money well spent, and, moreover, such a study could be viewed as a fiduciary responsibility of the UM Board of Curators to Missouri taxpayers.
It is important to understand that the faculty council has no preconceived ideas about what should be done after this institutional review. Those of us proposing this examination simply believe there will never be a more appropriate time that these questions be asked and answered. If the proposal is approved by the council and the curators concur, we envision quite productive discussions.

Art Jago is a professor in the Department of Management, MU Trulaske School of Business, and John Gahl is a professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and director of the Nuclear Engineering Program, MU College of Engineering.

Columbia school leaders voice support for MU

Watch story: http://www.abc17news.com/news/columbia-school-leaders-voice-support-for-mu/37906896

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri is receiving new support from leaders at Columbia Public Schools.

The Columbia School board just approved a new resolution supporting MU.

Officials said they felt people just have to realize how important the system is for the region's economy.

"Really talking about how important and valuable the University of Missouri is to our community, not just here in Columbia, but our surrounding community as well. It is an economic driver not only for our area, but for the state of Missouri as a whole. It's an academic driver for us, so we really wanted to express the importance of maintaining funding for the university and what that means for us as a community, and for us as a state.

The district talks to agencies from around several Mid-Missouri several times a year, and Mizzou spoke during their last meeting."
Hal Williamson, who returned in December to the University of Missouri as interim vice chancellor of health affairs, on Tuesday said he would leave again on Feb. 19.

Statements issued by Williamson and Interim Chancellor Hank Foley, who wrote about the change in a letter to MU faculty, gave no reason for the decision. In a message distributed in the MU Health Today newsletter, Williamson wrote that he had mixed emotions about his decision.

“My love for the University of Missouri and MU Health runs deep,” Williamson wrote. “I returned to my former position in December to help bring together the health system during a time of unprecedented change on campus.”

Williamson retired for the first time in March when he took a voluntary buyout of retirement-eligible administrators. Then-Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced he would be eliminating the job as part of a reorganization of reporting structures in the university.

Foley reinstated the position at the same time he hired Williamson as the interim vice chancellor.

“The need for a vice chancellor of health affairs is apparent, however,” Foley wrote. “As health care rapidly evolves and changes in Missouri, having a leader in place that can align our mission as an academic health center is imperative.”

Faculty unrest over Loftin’s changes, which also included the dismissal of School of Medicine Dean Patrick Delafontaine in September, helped force Loftin’s resignation the same day that UM System President Tim Wolfe resigned under pressure from campus demonstrators.

A search is already under way to find a replacement for Williamson, which Foley wrote is “a top-most priority.”

Williamson wrote that he has confidence in the leaders of the health schools and MU Health Care to carry on in his absence.
Williamson stepping down as MU vice chancellor of health affairs

Hal Williamson will resign as interim executive vice chancellor of health affairs at MU effective Feb. 19.

The announcement was made Tuesday afternoon by Interim Chancellor Hank Foley, who said a replacement would be sought.

Williamson came out of retirement briefly on Dec. 14, 2015, following an administrative shakeup. He was appointed vice chancellor of health affairs in 2009 and served as executive vice chancellor of health affairs from 2013 until he retired on June 30, 2015.

He previously held the job from 2009 to 2013.

Before that, Williamson served as a chair of MU’s Curtis W. and Ann H. Long Department of Family and Community Medicine for 10 years.

He has also previously directed MU’s family practice residency program, served as director of the MU Area Health Education Center for 11 years and was a visiting scholar at the University of Washington, where he helped rural communities develop health-care services.

Second high-ranking MU official resigns this week
COLUMBIA - A second MU official announced his resignation Tuesday. The Executive Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs, Dr. Hal Williamson, is leaving his job Feb. 19.

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley announced Williamson's resignation in an email sent to University staff.

Foley said Williamson came out of retirement to fill the position.

"As you may recall, Dr. Williamson returned to the university on an interim basis in mid-December after I re-established the position shortly following my appointment as interim chancellor," Foley said in the email.

Foley said he has already begun reaching out to his colleagues to find a replacement for Williamson and is making the search a "top-most priority."

"I want to thank Dr. Williamson again for his commitment to the university and for taking a hiatus from his retirement to return to us," Foley said.

The College of Education dean announced his resignation Monday.

University of Missouri diversity officer candidate cites family, work history as preparation for post

By Rudi Keller

Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 12:24 pm

Racial issues such as those facing the University of Missouri are not unusual in higher education, but the national media spotlight is, Paulette Granberry Russell, a candidate for chief diversity officer for the UM System, said Tuesday.

Russell is the first of three finalists for the position, officially the chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer, who will visit Columbia in coming days. She is senior adviser for diversity to the president of Michigan State University and director of the Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives at the school.
Russell took part in a forum at the Old Alumni Center. Racial issues in higher education range from recruiting minority students and faculty to creating a campus atmosphere of respect and inclusion, she said.

“What makes this position unique, of course, is that you are in the national spotlight,” Russell said. “But the issues of racial tension are not new. The issues of being an inclusive campus community and system are not new.”

The job was created in response to campus protests in Columbia that led Nov. 9 to the resignation of UM System President Tim Wolfe. The Board of Curators also directed that a diversity officer be hired for each campus, created a systemwide diversity task force and ordered an audit of university policies on student and staff conduct.

“What’s your understanding of how we have come to this place where we are still dealing with these issues and coming up with this position that you or somebody else might be stepping into?” Associate Professor Stephanie Shonekan, chair of the Department of Black Studies, asked.

Part of the problem is that people think the issues were solved by court rulings and laws that ban discrimination, Russell said, and part is that schools think they have done their job by creating offices to deal with race issues.

“The belief is that as we have been doing our work, we are addressing the continuing concerns,” she said. “But I think there are different points at which we forget to listen.”

Russell is an attorney who worked on labor and employment law before taking her current job in 1998. She also is one of two finalists for a similar position at Clemson University.

Her background, both professionally and personally, have prepared her for the UM job, she said. Her grandmother was a community activist, raised in the South by former slaves, she said.

“I know that history of my family,” she said. “I understand the history facing marginalized communities.”

During her tenure at Michigan State, the proportion of black students has remained about half that of black residents in the Michigan population. Obstacles to higher enrollment include declining high school graduation rates among black students in Michigan and loss of population from black communities.

“What we are also seeing is declining, or steady but low, standardized test scores,” Russell said. “Those are often used as vehicles for determining who is best prepared for our campuses.”

Michigan’s constitution bars affirmative action, and a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2014 upheld that restriction. Michigan State uses focused recruiting that leans on ZIP codes and family economic status to boost minority enrollment, she said.
Russell’s office at Michigan State was responsible for Title IX enforcement until November, when the school separated the duties in a new office after a report from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights criticized how sexual harassment and assault at the Michigan State campus were handled.

Students who complained waited months, and in some cases almost a year, for a resolution, including one student who was told to drop a class or listen to recorded lectures rather than attend class with her harasser.

The new office has a better focus and a bigger budget, Russell said. “We started with an office that had two investigators to an office that is now clearly more robust.”

The next forum will be at 1:30 p.m. Thursday at the Old Alumni Center with Kevin McDonald, vice president and associate provost for Diversity and Inclusion at Rochester Institute of Technology. The final forum will be 9:30 a.m. next Tuesday with G. Christine Taylor, former vice provost for diversity and inclusion and chief diversity officer at Purdue University.

MU holds forum for first Diversity Officer candidate

COLUMBIA — Paulette Granberry Russell told a small audience in the Old Alumni Center on Tuesday that she would promote open conversations on campus, initiatives to raise high school graduation rates for students of color and a focus on mending a lack of diversity in certain academic fields, such as the sciences, if chosen as the UM System's diversity chief.

She was the first of three candidates to speak on her qualifications for the new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer position created Nov. 9 following racially charged protests on the MU campus.

Granberry Russell began by emphasizing her list of credentials, including 18 years as an advisor for diversity and director of the Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives and 17 years coordinating Title IX and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance at Michigan State University.

Then she answered questions from the audience and several submitted via email.
Stephanie Shonekan, chairwoman for the Department of Black Studies, asked Granberry Russell how she thought MU and the country had reached the current racial climate. Granberry Russell said she thought discrimination results from a community's apathy and unwillingness to listen to problems that don't affect them.

"We have to create opportunities for listening," she said.

The importance of listening was repeated throughout the forum and Granberry Russell said getting and applying input from students, faculty and staff would be essential for whoever gets the position.

"What it takes is the ability to be a collaborator, the ability to be a partner," she said.

Granberry Russell said she wants to ensure students are able to engage with other across their differences. One way to do that would be opening fields to women and students of color where they're heavily underrepresented.

Granberry Russell also mentioned wanting to see what the system could do to help raise declining rates of high school graduation in the state.

Michigan State's student population has a lower percentage of African-American students than the state of Michigan, but Granberry Russell said fixing that deficit requires growing the pool of eligible college applicants.

She also mentioned looking at new ways of predicting student success aside from standardized testing.

The last question, which came from an email, asked how Granberry Russell would measure the success of her plans.

She said she's already seen a big change in her time at Michigan State. When she arrived in 1998, no one would call her office, but now she's consulted on nearly everything at the East Lansing campus.

She said surveys and data would play a key role in her tenure and noted she has experience implementing various forms of online and face-to-face diversity training that helps faculty and staff better understand students.

Granberry Russell plans to visit other campuses within the MU System Tuesday.

The remaining candidates will speak at forums on Feb. 11 and Feb. 16. A link to the live audio and video stream will be available for those who cannot attend, and an evaluation form is open online for comments following each forum. Community members are also encouraged to submit questions for candidates online.
More top positions open up at the University of Missouri

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Leaders at the University of Missouri are working to fill more open positions Tuesday.

ABC 17 News confirmed the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs is now leaving MU. Dr. Hal Williamson stepped in to fill the role in December, but officially resigns in 10 days.

The dean for the College of Education also announced this week his decision to leave MU by July 1.

He has accepted the same job at the University of Iowa.

MU interviewing candidates for diversity position


COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri is interviewing candidates for a brand new position designed to help foster a more inclusive university system.

Paulette Granberry Russell is the first candidate to have a public forum for the position.

Granberry Russell said creating an atmosphere for listening will help MU work toward change.
Kevin McDonald and G. Christine Taylor are also up for the position.

The university is set to hear from the remaining two candidates this week and next week.

**Five things you missed at last week’s Board of Curators meeting**

The curators discussed campus diversity and the upcoming search for the next UM System president.

**The UM System Board of Curators met last Thursday and Friday at MU to discuss the future of the UM System.**

**Presidential Search Update**

The curators approved the composition of the presidential search committee, which will include board members, two students (one of which will be the board’s student representative), two faculty members and two staff members. The board plans to select the committee and choose the search firm by the end of February.

**Middleton Addresses Board**

Interim UM System President Mike Middleton spoke to the curators about the future of the UM System and acknowledged that improving relations with state legislators will take time. “Patience is a virtue in situations like this,” he said. “Just as these problems didn’t evolve overnight, your solutions will not come quickly.”

**Student Diversity Panel**

Four MU students discussed diversity and improving campus climate in a panel with the board. They spoke about their own experiences with discrimination on campus, the proposed diversity course requirement and communication between students and the board.

“Perhaps it’s time to change your job description and go above and beyond what you’ve always done,” doctoral student Timothy Love said. “If there are still no policies in place after all these months, then we have the right to be angry.”

**Room and Board Updates**
The curators approved a $380 increase for MU’s room and board rates for the 2016-17 school year. The increase also includes a proposed laundry fee from the Department of Residential Life, which would replace charges for individual loads of laundry.

Campus Renovations

The curators also approved renovations to Stewart and McKee halls that will create more STEM learning spaces for students, as well as a new “applied learning center” for the Trulaske College of Business.

Bill looks to add professional diversity to UM Board of Curators


JEFFERSON CITY - Following the resignation of three UM Board of Curators since November, lawmakers at the state capital hope to add more professional diversity to the board.

Rep. Don Rone, R-Portageville, said a proposed bill would only allow two board members from a single occupation on all higher education boards appointed by the governor.

"I'm not picking out lawyers, but you take Mizzou right now. They've got six curators, all six are lawyers," Rone said.

Three other universities have more than two lawyers on the governing board. Missouri State University has four lawyers, Missouri Southern State University has three lawyers, and Lincoln University has three lawyers on their boards.

The UM System said it has no position on Rone's bill.
Rone said, "It doesn't matter if it's education, what board it is needs more diversification because if you have one group and they control the thinking of that board, you don't need but one member. I know for a fact that a person from southeast Missouri farmer would think different than a St. Louis lawyer."

KOMU 8 News looked into the higher education governing boards in surrounding states to see how the UM Board of Curators compared. The Kansas Board of Regents and the Illinois Board of Trustees each have three lawyers on the board. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees has four lawyers on its board and the Board of Regents for the state of Iowa has one lawyer on its board.

Rone said changing the professional diversity of the board might not change the board's final decisions, but it will better represent the people of Missouri.

"It's about diversity of the people of Missouri on those boards. It's about not one occupation controlling one whole board as large as Missouri, or Southeast Missouri State," Rone said. "We don't need one occupation controlling the board of a whole university."

Rode said no one spoke for or against the bill in Tuesday's public hearing. He said the bill will move to executive session next week.

Bill would target greater diversity among college leaders


Diversity requirement begins for new students, but is subject to change
Obstacles still stand in the way of a permanent diversity course requirement at MU, but the university has held diversity training sessions for new students and implemented required trainings for administrators.

Former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced last semester that diversity and inclusion training would become mandatory for students, faculty and staff in January 2016. All admitted students would have to go through a diversity training session before they register for classes. However, since Loftin’s resignation in November, there has been little news concerning these proposed diversity requirements.

These all-encompassing diversity initiatives made headway at the beginning of this semester. Black studies professor Stephanie Shonekan and women’s and gender studies professor Joan Hermsen led three Diversity@Mizzou sessions in mid-January. All incoming undergraduate students for this spring semester, including transfer students, had to attend at least one two-hour session.

Last semester, multiple student organizations, including Concerned Student 1950 and the Legion of Black Collegians, voiced concerns about the lack of diversity education and training at the university. These concerns led to campuswide protests over institutional racism in the UM System and the resignation of system President Tim Wolfe.

Shonekan and Hermsen were approached late last semester by Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor for student affairs, and Chuck Henson, interim vice chancellor for diversity, inclusion and equity, to attempt to draft a plan for some kind of diversity training for new students that would be starting at MU in the spring 2016 semester.

“We had this perspective that we should try and focus on what it is that students come to school for, and that’s an education and to focus, then, on what are the ways that diversity issues might come up in a classroom,” Hermsen said.

They settled on three sessions that would introduce the types of diverse courses at the university. Different faculty members showcased how diversity is interconnected between all fields of studies while encouraging conversation between students and with faculty.

“We want to see students engaging with the material and bringing their personal life experiences to the kinds of questions that are raised in courses,” Hermsen said. “When we talk about diversity … we’re not just talking about race, so we’re doing the whole spectrum to encourage students to think more broadly about the student body at MU and the diverse kinds of background that people have.”
Before the sessions began, Shonekan and Hermsen met with various student organizations on campus to discuss the events that happened last semester. The professors went over what concepts they wanted to discuss for these first three sessions to make sure the content and approach was not problematic for students.

“We wanted to help … our campus move in a positive direction, so we decided that it was important for us to put the concept in front of a number of people,” Shonekan said.

The sessions might change in following semesters as the kinks are worked out of the program, Shonekan and Hermsen said. Henson and Scroggs could even decide to go in a completely different direction depending on what they think is best for incoming students. Shonekan and Hermsen presented their sessions for a couple hundred students this semester, but there are thousands of incoming freshman that will have to complete the training this fall.

The decisions on how to move forward will be made when final evaluations submitted by students in attendance are reviewed. However, early evaluations suggest that students appreciated the experience, Shonekan and Hermsen said.

“I hope we can give a way for new students to converse on new ideas so that they go away curious and inquisitive about what is possible in the intellectual space that is the University of Missouri,” Shonekan said.

The university is also attempting to implement a diversity course requirement, which would be different from diversity training for incoming students.

The MU Faculty Council Diversity Enhancement Committee released an update on the diversity course requirement Nov. 20, 2015. The committee is looking to enforce a three-credit-hour course requirement that would count toward the 45 hours of general education credit hours for undergraduate students.

The courses that would fall under this diversity course requirement would come from all departments and colleges. If it is needed, the university would consider establishing more courses to fit this description.

“To be accepted into the list of cultural competency courses, courses must address one dimension of marginalization deeply, with a clearly specified approach as well as how the deeply studied perspective intersects with other marginalized groups,” according to the MU Transparency website.

A standing committee made up of faculty from across the university is set to be formed to decide which existing courses already meet the requirements and what courses need to be implemented.
Training for administrators

The UM System Board of Curators has also proposed diversity and education training for administration that will be required for the board, system president and administrative leadership. UM System spokesman John Fougere said in an email this initiative is close to being finalized, but it is dependent on two factors the board is still working on.

The first component is the appointment of a Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer for the UM System. The search has been narrowed down to three finalists, who will be speaking in public forums during the next week.

“The person that fills this role will be responsible for helping develop and leading the system training, while campus diversity, equity and inclusion officers will customize their own training program for leadership on their respective UM System campus,” Fougere said.

The training initiative is set to be announced when the funding for the program, the second factor, is finalized as well. Fougere said the numbers will be confirmed soon.

Through the new requirements for faculty and students, MU hopes to bring different perspectives concerning diversity to light.

“I don’t think you can expect someone who comes in with a preconception about a certain group of people to change in three hours, but I do think somebody with a certain preconception can start thinking about the fact that he or she has a preconception and maybe that there are other preconceptions out there,” Shonekan said.

Talking Politics - The African American Experience in Missouri

Listen to story: http://kbia.org/post/talking-politics-african-american-experience-missouri

Keona Ervin, an MU history professor, said the series was created in response to the race-related events that took place on the university’s campus last fall.
“In late November early December, we started to talk about ways to really promote the rich history that is the African American experience in the state, as a way to kind of respond to the campus protests of 2015 and Ferguson in 2014. And really use all of our resources here on campus, kind of toward the effort of building a kind of historical consciousness, a collective historical consciousness of what this state was really about,” Ervin said.

The series is comprised of 12 lectures given by top scholars in the field of African American Studies. It was created by MU’s Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity in collaboration with the state Historical Society of Missouri.

Diane Mutti Burke, an associate professor of history at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, gave the first lecture of the series, called Contesting Slavery: Enslaved Missourian’s Enduring Struggle for Self-Determination.

Burke’s lecture will serve as a base line of knowledge about what enslaved Missourians had to endure; from which the rest of the series will build.

In her lecture, Burke said a crucial component in the university’s efforts to move forward, is to understand the history of African Americans in the state of Missouri.

“It is very important to try and understand this history. The often troubling race relations in the state, and I think it is also important to gain a greater appreciation for the resiliency and the accomplishments of African Americans. So in order for us to move forward I think we need to understand this history as so many people have said her tonight,” Burke said.

Ervin said if there has been an upside to the race-related events that occurred on campus last fall, is that they have made the topic of racism a more welcomed conversation.

“The event’s happening on campus here, and really just across the country, the wave of campus protests, the rise of the black lives matter movement, all of that is really encouraging a kind of national dialogue about matters of race. And what is exciting for me is that, people are thinking historically and wanting to know the kind of history behind these questions, so that is exciting, “Ervin said.

Ervin added that with the start of the lecture series the university can begin taking the necessary steps needs in order to move forward past last semester’s struggles.

“That is the work, right? Our work is to provide a kind of foundation for thinking about this history in very complex ways and learned ways. And then, in a sense, kind of grapple together with what that means. What barring does history have on present? I think that’s something….that’s the next endeavor,” Ervin said.

University of Missouri graduate student, Andrew Olden, was also in attendance at the university’s lecture series. He said only time will be able to tell what impact the series has on the university’s campus.
“I think that they are attempting to make progress and that they are definitely showing steadfast improvements but only time will tell,” Olden said.

The next lecture will be on March 23rd.

Martha S. Jones, a professor of history at the University of Michigan will give a lecture that will look at the role violence had on enslaved women, in a presentation called #SayHerName: Black Women and State Violence in the case of Missouri versus Celia, A Slave.

Princeton opens dialogue on alumnus Woodrow Wilson, racism

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — How do you apply 21st-century sensibilities to the legacy of a man raised in the 19th-century South who achieved greatness in the early 20th century at an institution that didn't begin admitting blacks until the late 1940s and women until 1969?

That is the question faced by a Princeton University committee that has started examining the legacy of alumnus and former President Woodrow Wilson as part of an agreement with students who staged a sit-in to protest his views on race and segregation and urge the Ivy League institution to rename buildings and programs carrying his name.

Wilson was president of Princeton from 1902 to 1910 and served as New Jersey's governor from 1911 to 1913, when he entered the White House. The Democrat was a leading progressive, credited with creating the Federal Reserve system, guiding the U.S. into World War I and trying to preserve a lasting peace with his "Fourteen Points" and the League of Nations, which won him the 1919 Nobel Peace Prize. But Wilson also supported segregation and appointed Cabinet members who segregated federal departments.

The protesters, both black and white, wanted the school to acknowledge what they said is Wilson's racist legacy and to rename buildings and programs named for him.

Scholars see some room for interpretation in what critics cite as instances of Wilson's bias. For example, was he being racist when he denied a black student admission or was he shielding the student from an environment where he would be ignored by classmates?

The Wilson Legacy Review Committee has established a website where the public can comment and read essays about Wilson by nine scholars. It also is holding small group discussions with students,
alumni and the public. The next session will take place Feb. 18-20 when the school marks Alumni Day.

"The goal is not how many people attend," said Bob Durkee, Princeton's vice president and secretary. "They want to try to get as many perspectives on the table as possible about Wilson and what should be done."

In one of the essays, Paula Giddings, a professor of Afro-American studies at Smith College, wrote, "In my opinion, his segregationist and racially exclusive policies as president of Princeton University and as the 28th President of the United States are sufficient grounds for the refusal to honor his name in an institution that values diversity and the standards of a liberal arts education."

Kendrick Clements of the University of South Carolina wrote, "Woodrow Wilson exemplified aspects of the racism that has permeated American history, but he also proposed that students and faculty confront all of the nation's problems in their classrooms and seek solutions for them."

The Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum in Staunton, Virginia, where Wilson was born, has been following the review. Chief executive officer Robin von Seldeneck thought the essays were written by a well-rounded group of scholars who appreciate the different aspects of Wilson's life.

The museum, she said, doesn't excuse Wilson's racism but tries to understand why it was there.

"We have to consider the entirety," von Seldeneck said. "I cringe how I'd be judged 100 years from now."

About 30 black and white Princeton students, from a group called the Black Justice League, in November demanded changes to improve the social and academic experience of black students.

They want Wilson's name removed from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy and International Affairs and one of the school's residential colleges. They also want a large photo of him in a dining hall taken down.

Princeton's protest followed demonstrations on the University of Missouri's flagship campus over what some saw as the university leadership's indifference to racial issues. The university system's president and the Columbia campus' chancellor resigned.

"Most of the content in the letters was compelling," said junior Asanni York of Black Justice League of the essays. "But some downplayed Wilson's prejudice."

York predicted the school will not move quickly, and there is no firm deadline for when the Princeton committee will finish its examination. Change in institutions like Princeton, which students and
alumni refer to as "the bubble," can seem glacial. But committee members believe dialogue is important.

"They are listening, hearing and becoming more informed," Durkee said. "They'll deliberate, make recommendations and then issue a report to the Board of Trustees."

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**MISSOURIAN**

**STEVE SPELLMAN: Ugly student behavior represents a larger issue**

Happy New Year! That is, the Chinese New Year, which was Feb. 8 by our calendar.

I attended a Chinese New Year performance put on by Columbia Public Schools and MU Confucius Institute, which is a partnership with Shanghai Normal University. Columbia public schools offer Chinese language courses for numerous grade levels these days, so many students and their teachers from China put on a bilingual cultural experience on the Battle High School theater stage.

Afterward, I had a chance to chat with some of the instructors about how their classes go. First, there is the caveat that native Chinese speakers find English difficult to pick up, and vice versa.

Teachers and students start each class with call-and-response formal greetings, to convey mutual respect. But then, concerning my inquiry into how American students behave, there is a very diplomatic pause and honest effort to come up with some nice terms. Many are very good, but …

I feel some embarrassment, because many typical American school kids do lack discipline. A lot of that has to start at home.

On a different level, I am reminded of the eye-opening front-page article in the Columbia Missourian last week: "MU’s Asian students reluctant to report episodes of discrimination, racism."

Just as MU has been trying in recent months to get its collective mind around similar reports from black students, this was a saddening look at how students of Asian ethnicity are often treated.

A student from South Korea had a white peer yell profanity at her and then "spat on her foot." Someone else made fun of her accent while she ordered in a restaurant.
A journalism undergraduate from China recalled in the article how during his first week of class, some female white students called him "yellow" and "chink."

What kind of moron, in this day and age, calls somebody "yellow" and "chink"? We have to admit that not everyone on campus represents Missouri’s best and brightest.

How did this happen? Well, the deterioration of American civilization, for one.

But maybe there’s insight from Interim Chancellor Hank Foley’s recent State of the University speech. He gave a history of how after World War II, students were so plentiful that the stated administrative goal was to "weed out" those who were not up to grade.

But later, increasing student counts, and those corresponding "tuition" dollars, gained priority.

I guess that opening the floodgates has to mean reaching farther down the academic ladder — and in this era without a shared moral code — there is a logical risk of getting more bigots on campus who end up yelling stupid crap at minority students.

I am sorry, but all the diversity and inclusion classes in the world face an uphill battle when confronting a deep-seated culture of ignorance.

More wide-reaching changes to society, as well as to MU’s organization itself, can raise the bar for student behavior on campus.

In the words of a traditional Sunday School children’s song:

"Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world."

**COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE**

**Graduate students' union efforts commendable**

By KATHY STEINHOFF

Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 2:00 pm
I was pleased to read Hank Waters’ Jan. 22 editorial, in which he suggested the structure and processes provided by union organization might best serve the purposes of both the graduate employees at the University of Missouri and the university’s leaders.

As president of the Columbia Missouri National Education Association (CMNEA), I have been watching closely the developments at the university. I’m sympathetic to the cause and concerns of those graduate employees who found themselves in the unfortunate position of losing health insurance benefits without warning as they began the 2015-2016 school year.

Although the details of their circumstance are different, the principles on which they stand today are the same principles that led Columbia Public Schools teachers to vote to engage in collective bargaining only a few years ago. I’m excited and hopeful for the graduate employees who are taking their own steps toward union organization.

I believe they will find collective action builds skills and strength that they will use individually and jointly throughout their careers. When educators at all levels work together, they achieve more for themselves, their students and their professions. In this work, they will find that the whole is more than the sum of many parts.

Already, their work is bearing fruit. Simply by taking initial steps toward organizing themselves publicly, the graduate employees have had their health insurance subsidies restored and won much-needed pay increases. Imagine what can be accomplished with a collective bargaining agreement, which would further strengthen them, their successors and the university as a whole.

Through these trials and victories, graduate employees are finding what CPS educators learned during the past decade. By uniting to advocate collectively for ourselves and our students, we empower ourselves and our successors in the profession. By improving the working conditions of all educators we improve the learning conditions of our students.

In one important way, CPS educators and the university’s graduate employees are alike: Their mission is as much about the students they serve as about their own salaries and benefits. Missourians deserve high-quality public schools for their students, whether in K-12 schools or post-secondary environments. They deserve schools they can be proud of — which means supporting them at the state and local level. Schools that don’t adequately pay their educators make it tough to find pride in them. Low compensation and long hours have several repercussions that take attention away from educating students.

Collective bargaining for graduate employees can play a key role in making the University of Missouri an institution we can be proud of, and it can improve the lives of graduate employees and their families. On behalf of CMNEA, I applaud the efforts of the graduate employees and look forward to seeing them exercise their constitutional rights to organize and to bargain collectively.

Kathy Steinhoff, who teaches math at Hickman High School, is president of Columbia Missouri National Education Association.
United Way has first uptick in donations in five years

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 2:00 pm

When Heart of Missouri United Way shifted its funding focus three years ago to a “community impact” model — geared toward programs for children and families — United Way officials said they hoped to move the needle on poverty.

The shift also created a significant donation drop in reaction to discontinued funding for some long-established United Way agencies such as the Boy Scouts and the Red Cross.

The donation needle appears to be moving back in a positive direction.

The 2015 Heart of Missouri United Way campaign raised $2,927,520, an increase of 4.6 percent over the 2014 campaign. The increase marked the group’s first fundraising increase since 2011. United Way had a $3 million goal for the 2015 campaign.

Executive Director Andrew Grabau said the campaign highlights included a 50 percent increase in gifts of $10,000 and higher; a 10 percent increase in dollars raised by 44 “pacesetter” companies and organizations; and a 5 percent increase in $1,000 gifts. The University of Missouri campaign also raised about $562,000, an increase over last year.

United Way hasn’t scrapped the emphasis on kids, Grabau said, but its “safety net” funds are now cast more broadly. United Way also funds programs focused on education, health and income.

“We are very happy, understanding that there is work that still needs to be done” for “re-establishing trust in the community,” he said.

And there’s reason to believe the donations are making a positive difference in the community. The 2015 funding report card won’t be available until late spring or early summer, but Grabau said some programs already are pointing to “multiple success stories,” including homeless shelters that offer temporary quarters, early learning centers that are getting kids better prepared for school and young moms graduating from high school. Specifically, he said, funding to Job Point is providing skill training to help older youths get better jobs.
“Without our community’s support, who knows what would happen,” Grabau said.

Monday’s fundraising announcement came on the heels of a report Thursday by the Missourians to End Poverty Coalition that showed poverty in Boone County actually increased from 18 percent of individuals living at or below the federal poverty level in 2014 to 19.5 percent in 2015.

“The need exceeds what we raise,” Grabau said. “We address it as best we can.”

When United Way completed a needs assessment in 2012 before changing to the “community impact” focus, 31 local agencies proposed more than $6 million in programs to address the problems.

The total fundraising the year afterward barely reached $3 million and “didn’t come close” to meeting the need, Grabau said. He took over as executive director of the organization last summer.

Jan Swaney, president of the Heart of Missouri United Way board, said the fundraising response is proof that Columbia is “a caring community.”

“I am extremely pleased that we have regained forward momentum and that the 2015 campaign pledges grew over last year,” she said in a news release.

Grabau said the $2.9 million fundraising total does not represent cash in hand. The tally included pledges, in-kind donations, grants and other gifts and factors in a roughly 5 percent “uncollectible” rate. He said the total will allow the board to fund its agencies without the cuts that were necessary last spring.

MU seeks input on campus parking and transportation

COLUMBIA — MU’s Parking and Transportation Services will host an open forum Wednesday to hear what students, faculty and staff have to say about parking and transportation on campus.

The forum is from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the MU Student Center's Leadership Auditorium.
"We just wanted to step back and have professionals come in, look at the system that we have and give us recommendations as to how we can do our job better," Mike Sokoff, MU’s Director of Parking and Transportation Services, said.

MU hired Walker Parking Consultants to help devise a parking and transportation master plan for MU that is scheduled to be done in May.

Sokoff said the master plan will look at the overall parking and transportation scheme in place now and how it serves MU as well as the future needs of the campus within the next two, five and 10 years. They also will be looking at how to fund any changes in parking or transportation that might be necessary.

"I don’t know yet exactly what they’re going to recommend," Sokoff said. "That’s why we are doing this. We are not so far into the process that they’ve made actual recommendations yet."

Sokoff said there's no guarantee MU will follow all of the consultants' suggestions.

To get more input, Parking and Transportation Services sent an email survey to students, faculty and staff last week. The survey closes at 11:59 p.m. on Friday.

As of Monday morning, 3,565 students, 4,445 staff members and 1,010 faculty members had responded.

"We are hoping that at least 7,000 students at a minimum respond to the survey," Sokoff said. "We would like to see upwards of 20 percent."

Some questions included asking people to rank their motivations for using buses, such as availability, cost, convenience, sustainability, physical abilities or disabilities and desire for exercise. The survey also asks whether people would be interested in bicycle storage facilities or bike share program privileges associated with a parking permit.

Another question asked what would best encourage carpooling. Ideas included a reduced permit fee, a preferred parking space, a reward or prize, departmental recognition, or a limited number of one-day parking passes.

Walker Parking Consultants was hired in January and will be paid no more than $100,000.
What are we to think of them?

By Henry J. Waters III

Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 2:00 pm

Last week we learned Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield have given another $2 million to the University of Missouri School of Music for an endeavor they call the Mizzou New Music Initiative. This latest gift brings to about $4.5 million the total they have given to bolster programs for high school and college composers and the Mizzou New Music Ensemble. They also have given $10 million to build a new $45 million building for the School of Music.

The New Music programs are projecting the MU School of Music into prominence around the nation. When Jeanne Sinquefield received thanks for the latest gift, she said, “We’re in the pros now. We are the best.”

Jeanne deserves to be proud. New Music stems primarily from her passion. She plays with local orchestras and often sponsors events at which MU musicians perform. My wife and I attended a lovely farewell recognition event for retiring director Peter Raven of the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, put on by Jeanne and featuring special music composed for the occasion and played beautifully by a member of the MU faculty.

It’s almost enough to make one forget the passion of husband Rex, the most prolific financial supporter of conservative causes and candidates in Missouri. He’s the father of the Show-Me Institute, a conservative think tank. This electoral cycle he is among the largest donors to the campaigns of Catherine Hanaway for governor, Bev Randles for lieutenant governor, Kurt Schaefer for attorney general, Eric Schmitt for treasurer and Will Kraus for secretary of state, all Republicans running for the conservative vote.

But think of this: The more than $15 million the Sinquefields have given to MU music dwarfs the amount they are currently spending to achieve conservative political goals. And remember that Rex Sinquefield has brought international chess to St. Louis, where he has paid for facilities and prizes to attract the world’s pre-eminent players for the world’s top competitions.

So Rex and Jeanne are enigmas. We have to love their generosity for programs that otherwise would not exist while some bemoan their largesse in behalf of right-wing politics.

I know the Sinquefields and like them. They are sincere and open in their interests. We know we are not often on the same page politically, but we have learned how to abide each other’s openly held beliefs. Each of us has heard and ignored the other’s entreaties. We’ll never agree on politics, but I welcome their friendship.

Maybe there is room in this world for people of varying beliefs, after all.
MU student accused of burglary

COLUMBIA - The Columbia Police Department accused an MU Student Tuesday of first degree burglary and armed criminal action.

Police said Romell Dewayne Rainey went into a home on Tessa Way in November. They said the victim caught him escaping the scene, and tried to wrestle him. Police said Rainey pulled out a small pistol from his pocket and the victim let him go.

Police said Rainey has been arrested in the past for forgery, possession of a controlled substance and unlawful use of drug paraphernalia.