MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

February 19, 2016
University of Missouri leaders face tough questioning in legislative hearing

By Rudi Keller

Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 9:23 am

JEFFERSON CITY — A formal complaint against Assistant Professor Melissa Click for violating University of Missouri rules for faculty conduct capped Wednesday evening’s two-hour hearing of the Joint Committee on Education.

Sen. Paul Wieland, R-Imperial, led interim Chancellor Hank Foley through a series of questions establishing who is covered by university rules, the procedure for initiating complaints and which officer receives them.

Told by Foley that lawmakers likely had standing to make complaints, which go to the provost, Wieland asked another question: “Do you see the provost on a regular basis?”


“Well, would you do me a favor? I’m going to send my staffer down,” Wieland said. “I am giving you a complaint tonight that you can pass on to the provost, that basically files a complaint under the rules ... and I have the dates in there and what the offenses were for.”

Foley, interim President Mike Middleton and Board of Curators Chairwoman Pamela Henrickson of Jefferson City were called before the panel of House and Senate members to convince the skeptical lawmakers that the university can recover from the battering its public image has taken since its leadership was overturned Nov. 9.

“It seems this wound has a scab that just keeps getting picked off and won’t heal,” Chairman David Wood, R-Versailles, said.

The questioning ranged from internal university policies to reactions of boosters. Foley told the committee that donations have not declined but student applications are off, about 900 below expectations.
Filing the complaint begins a formal process that starts in a faculty member’s department and continues up the chain of command to a decision by the chancellor. Foley said he had seen none and that such complaints were rare in the history of the university.

“The number of faculty who have ever been brought up on grievance procedures in the last 30 years is smaller than you can count on one hand,” Foley said.

Before he finished, Wieland threatened to send another complaint as well, about Coach Gary Pinkel. “Because what he did, in my view, did discredit to the university,” Wieland said.

Middleton’s and Foley’s predecessors, President Tim Wolfe and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, both resigned Nov. 9 as national and international attention on the Concerned Student 1950 protests reached a crescendo.

Wolfe became the target of demands for his resignation after he remained silent and sitting in his car when the group blockaded the Homecoming parade Oct. 10.

Loftin’s short tenure was ended by faculty rebellion, personal animosity from Wolfe and a loss of confidence among deans.

Foley, Middleton and Henrickson’s task was to show that the university had strong leadership despite Middleton and Foley’s interim status and the shorthanded Board of Curators, which has only six of nine members. Henrickson said the board will meet Wednesday to interview presidential search firms and hopes to make a selection that day.

Middleton sought to reassure lawmakers that the students were not running the university while being careful to give the strongest support he could to student protesters who demanded a safer, more welcoming environment for black students. State Rep. Mike Lair, R-Chillicothe, said about halfway through the hearing that it sounded like Middleton was promising to meet every demand made by the Concerned Student 1950 group.

“We have a significant group of our students, who, in my view, were making what I would call requests — requests that would satisfy their feelings of marginalization and discomfort on our campuses,” Middleton said.

Middleton, who was a founding member of the Legion of Black Collegians, said the discomfort is legitimate and must be addressed to the fullest extent possible.

“It is not a promise that all those demands will be met,” he said. “There is a promise we will listen to our students, consider their concerns. And do everything we can to meet ... their desire as far as climate and culture on our campuses.”

It is important to listen to students, Lair said.
“President Wolfe getting out of the car and talking to them during the Homecoming parade may have stopped the whole thing ...” Lair said. “But you understand what it looks like out here in the provinces.”

State Rep. Courtney Curtis, D-Ferguson, said black students have long felt unwelcome on the Columbia campus and that as a student, he participated in a campus climate study that made several recommendations 11 years ago. A new study will be done this spring, he noted.

“We have been waiting at least for the last 11 years for some of these ‘requests’ to be met,” Curtis said.

Since December, many Republican lawmakers have made the continued employment of Click, a faculty member of the Department of Communication, a litmus test for leadership at the university. Click is on paid suspension while her actions at the Nov. 9 protests are investigated.

A video shot that day captured images of Click shouting at journalists and calling for “some muscle” to remove student Mark Schierbecker while he was inside the Carnahan Quadrangle area claimed as off-limits to reporters. A Columbia police video from the Homecoming parade shows Click yelling “get your f---ing hands off me” at officers.

Click was the only person acting unreasonably in the police video, state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, said.

“Then you had professor Click jump in and just try to blow up that entire situation,” Schaefer said. “There is no other way to interpret that video.”

Republicans aren’t alone in being upset with Click. State Rep. Bonnaye Mims, D-Kansas City, said she was concerned about the safety of the students.

Foley tried to forestall a complaint, reminding the committee that an investigation is underway. Henrickson said the investigation is nearing an end.

Middleton, speaking after the hearing, said a legislator initiating a complaint sets a bad precedent. He said has not reviewed the rules recently so he is uncertain whether anyone not directly connected to the university can initiate a complaint.

Further, he said, “the idea of anyone in the general public having standing to file complaints against any faculty member based on their perception that the faculty did something that was inconsistent with responsible behavior by faculty, and having that start the cumbersome process that is contemplated by the rules to resolve that complaint, that is an ominous proposition. But if the rules allow it, we have to live with it until we change the rules.”
Lawmaker targets Gary Pinkel as source of University of Missouri troubles

By Rudi Keller

Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 11:47 am

JEFFERSON CITY — Several lawmakers on the Joint Committee on Education on Wednesday identified who they believe is the real author of the University of Missouri’s woes — former football Coach Gary Pinkel.

Sen. Paul Wieland, R-Imperial, led the charge, threatening to file a complaint that would launch a formal university investigation into Pinkel’s support of a team boycott in solidarity with the Concerned Student 1950 protests. Wieland and others also questioned Pinkel’s new job, negotiated after he announced he would resign as coach because he had been diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

Wieland told interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley “my constituents were kind of concerned that in their minds he had held the university hostage and as a reward the university gave him a contract for a million dollars over three years.”

Foley defended the package that will pay Pinkel $950,000 over three years but left the impression it was a buyout for Pinkel to step aside. Pinkel’s final coaching contract guaranteed him $4.02 million a year.

“In a sense you could argue that he was kind of bought out of his contract for what is comparatively much, much less than he could have had if he had just stayed in the job,” Foley said.

Pinkel stepped aside Nov. 13, four days after system President Tim Wolfe resigned. Wolfe’s departure came roughly 37 hours after about 32 black members of MU’s football team said via social media they would not participate in “football related activities” until Wolfe was no longer in office.

Pinkel could not be reached for comment Thursday. Athletic Director Mack Rhoades declined to comment on the hearing.
“I didn’t look at consequences,” Pinkel said in November. “That wasn’t about it at the time. It was about helping my players and supporting my players when they needed me, and I did the right thing, and I would do it again.”

Under questioning from Chairman David Wood, R-Versailles, Foley said no team will be allowed to repeat the boycott threat.

“I feel very confident that the situation that developed last fall won’t happen again, and if it does there will be a very different response,” Foley said.

Asked afterward what that meant, Foley said a clear warning was given to the athletes. “I wouldn’t want to go into specifics of hypothetically what we might do or not do. But it just can’t happen again the way it happened.”

Pinkel was the Tigers’ second-longest serving and winningest coach, compiling a record of 118-73 over 15 seasons that included two SEC East championships and 10 bowl appearances. Over the previous 16 seasons, the Tigers were 69-115.

In his new role, Pinkel will be an athletic department ambassador. Foley said he will be involved with fundraising for the athletic department.

Wieland reminded Foley that he had denied signing the deal for Pinkel in their private meeting Jan. 26. Foley apologized and said he had forgotten.

Pinkel does not have a formal contract, and Foley said he signed a “terms sheet” outlining the agreement. “Technically, I was called in from a day off to come in and sign it by ... general counsel” Steve Owens, Foley said.

“Wow,” Wieland said. “And you forgot. That just amazes me. Here is the most high-profile coach in Missouri history, and you forgot that you signed his contract, and now you tell me they called you in on your day off.”

State Rep. Steve Cookson, R-Poplar Bluff, questioned why Pinkel received any deal at all after saying he would quit as coach.

Respected coaches in major athletic conferences typically receive an exit contract to maintain their relationship with the school. The salary seems large to most people but it represents a huge pay cut for Pinkel, Foley said. Intercollegiate athletics “operate in a very different sort of salary sphere,” he said.

During the hearing, Wieland gave Foley a complaint against Assistant Professor Melissa Click, whose confrontation with a student during a Nov. 9 demonstration made national headlines.

“I will probably be preparing a complaint to forward to the provost on” Pinkel’s “behalf as well,” Wieland said. “Because what he did, in my view, did discredit to the university.”
Missouri senator mulling complaint against football coach

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — A Missouri senator is considering whether to file a complaint against former University of Missouri football coach Gary Pinkel over his involvement in last year's campus protests.

Sen. Paul Wieland told reporters Thursday that his constituents think Pinkel's support for the players' game boycott amounted to extortion. He said he'll spend the next two weeks reviewing Pinkel's actions and whether they violate the university system’s rules.

Wieland filed a complaint Wednesday against Melissa Click, an assistant professor who tried to remove a student journalist from a protest.

Pinkel announced his retirement after November's protests, though he will remain with the university for the next three years. Wieland said it's inappropriate he's still drawing a salary.

University officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Missouri legislators blame former coach Gary Pinkel for university troubles

Senator threatens to file complaint to investigate coach’s support of team boycott

Interim chancellor talks about Pinkel’s much-reduced final contract

BY STEVE ROSEN

srosen@kcstar.com
**Former University of Missouri football coach Gary Pinkel came under scrutiny from several state legislators Wednesday over his role in November’s unrest on the university campus.**

According to a report Thursday in the Columbia Daily Tribune, several lawmakers on the Joint Committee on Education on Wednesday questioned Pinkel’s role in the campus turmoil that ultimately led to the resignation of University System President Tim Wolfe.

At a committee hearing Wednesday with top university officials, Sen. Paul Wieland, a Republican from Imperial, threatened to file a complaint that would launch a formal university investigation into Pinkel’s support of a team boycott in solidarity with the Concerned Student 1950 protests.

Pinkel stepped down as coach at the end of last season because he was dealing with non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Hank Foley at the hearing “that my constituents were kind of concerned that, in their minds, he had held the university hostage and as a reward the university gave him a contract for a million dollars over three years.”

Foley, according to the Tribune, responded by saying “the situation that developed last fall (referring to the football team boycott) won’t happen again ... it just can’t happen again the way it happened.”

The Tribune said Foley defended the package that will pay Pinkel $950,000 over three years. Pinkel’s final coaching contract guaranteed him $4.02 million.

“In a sense, you could argue that he was kind of bought out of his contract for what is comparatively much, much less than he could have had if he had just stayed on the job,” Foley said in the Tribune’s report.

Pinkel was unavailable for comment Thursday.

Meanwhile, Melissa Click, the assistant University of Missouri professor caught on video calling for “muscle” to remove a student journalist from a campus protest last November, said Thursday in an interview with “CBS This Morning” that she was embarrassed by her behavior.
“I believe it doesn’t represent who I am as a person,” Click said in an interview with CBS News correspondent Anna Werner. “It doesn’t represent the good I was doing there that day, and you know, certainly I wish I could do it over again.”

Click, Pinkel target of scrutiny for state senator


JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - A Missouri state senator wants to see quicker action by the University of Missouri to address two people who "discredited" the school, and the state, last fall.

 Senator Paul Wieland, R-Imperial, filed a formal complaint with interim MU chancellor Hank Foley Wednesday night against Dr. Melissa Click, the assistant communications professor involved in two tense protests in October and November. Columbia police body camera video shows Click cursing at a police officer as they tried moving protestors off the street during the Homecoming parade. A journalist also recorded Click trying to call for "muscle" to remove him from the Carnahan Quad on November 9, the height of campus protests in Columbia. Click told ABC 17 News she was trying to defend the students participating in the protests.

Wieland said people living in his district, made up primarily of Jefferson County, thought former Mizzou football coach Gary Pinkel embarrassed the school when he supported the team’s November holdout in solidarity with the November protests. While Pinkel distanced himself later from the demands of the student group Concerned Student 1950, he said he wanted to support his team in an issue important to them.

Wieland filed his formal complaint with MU chancellor Hank Foley at Wednesday night's Joint Committee on Education hearing. The senator told ABC 17 News once the committee learned the process set out in the UM System's Collected Rules and Regulations, he wanted to get to work right away on starting that process for Click. Foley told the committee that the school had not taken disciplinary action against Click, despite a third-degree assault charge filed last month, because no one had filed a formal complaint.
"I think it's cumbersome," Wieland said of the school's process. "I think it's typical of government bureaucracy."

Under the rules for complaints against faculty, it's up to the provost of academic affairs to field the charges and forward them to the faculty member's department if deemed worthy of investigation. The complaint then goes a lengthy process, involving several different committees and interviews with the "accused" and the "accuser," ultimately ending up on the chancellor's desk for a final decision.

The rules, however, stipulate that complaints can only be brought "by a person or group of persons associated with the University, such as a student, faculty member, teacher, administrator, or board member." The statute does not specify if members of the legislature, a funding source for the public university, had any recourse to file a complaint. Wieland said he would not be surprised if the university turned the complaint away, but wanted to test the rarely-used system of punishment.

"They can say like they did last night, 'We appreciate that letter from 100 members of the body, or from the legislature, but technically, no one's filed a complaint yet,'" Wieland said. "So, to me, that is totally using this whole bureaucratic system to their advantage to say we don't have to do anything."

"Until I see an action, that's all talk."

Wieland said he would continue to investigate whether Pinkel had actually done anything wrong to warrant a complaint in the same manner as Click's. He said many of his constituents wanted to see Pinkel "held accountable" for "holding the school hostage" by supporting the team's boycott.

"And now they're going to 'reward' him for his behavior by giving him a three-year, million dollar contract," Wieland said. "That makes my constituents furious."

Wieland said while the situation was clear to him that Click "discredited" the school, he felt Pinkel's actions were more of a "gray area."

"As I read through the rules and regulations, I may file a complaint on him for doing that."

Missouri senator files complaint against MU professor Melissa Click
JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - A Missouri Senator has filed a complaint against a MU professor who has been captured on video confronting police officers in one instance, and a student journalist in another.

Senator Paul Wieland's complaint with the UM System Collected Rules and Regulations is against Dr. Melissa Click.

In the written complaint, Wieland said Click violated section 500/505 on October 10 by yelling profanities at police officers and on November 9 in her confrontation with student photographer Tim Tai.

The complaint said "Section 505 states that the personal conduct at all times of any employees of the University shall be of such a nature as not to bring discredit upon the institution. Contrary conduct to this policy will result in termination or other disciplinary action."

The University of Missouri-Columbia has reinstated the medical school dean, who resigned abruptly last year

COLUMBIA, Missouri — The University of Missouri-Columbia has reinstated the medical school dean who resigned abruptly last year.

Patrick Delafontaine was reinstated as the medical school dean Thursday morning. Delafontaine resigned as dean in September, although he continued to teach and conduct research at the school.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports that in announcing the reinstatement, Missouri's interim-Chancellor Hank Foley spoke of Delafontaine's track record of "building great medical education."

His reinstatement is effective immediately.
The University of Missouri-Columbia reinstated Patrick Delafontaine as the medical school dean on Thursday morning, about five months after he abruptly resigned the position, presumably over personality clashes with former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

Delafontaine’s resignation in September after less than a year on the job was widely seen as one more strike the university's Board of Curators used to re-assign Loftin from his role as chancellor to a lesser administrative role dealing with research.

Loftin had previously drawn the ire of graduate assistants when they were stripped of their health insurance subsidies right before fall classes started.

Later, Loftin was accused of capitulating to the Legislature when Mizzou cut ties with Planned Parenthood.

The final strike came when the deans sent a letter to the board describing Loftin's leadership as a failure.

In announcing the reinstatement, Mizzou's interim-Chancellor Hank Foley spoke about Delafontaine's track record of “building great medical education.”

“This is exactly what MU needs to move forward,” Foley said.

Before arriving in Columbia, Delafontaine was a chief of cardiology at Tulane University in New Orleans.

His reinstatement is effective immediately. He will assume the role in place of interim Dean James Stannard.
University of Missouri reinstates dean of medical school

Faculty had said Patrice Delafontaine was forced out last fall

Interim chancellor says he will do a lot to improve diversity and inclusion

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
mdwilliams@kcstar.com

The University of Missouri has reinstated Patrice Delafontaine as the dean of the School of Medicine, effective immediately.

Interim chancellor Hank Foley and provost Garnett Stokes made the announcement Thursday, five months after Delafontaine resigned from the position without explanation.

Delafontaine first became the school’s dean in December 2014.

His exit became an issue among faculty, who cited “the forced resignation” of Delafontaine in a letter last fall to then-university system president Tim Wolfe announcing a vote of no confidence in then-chancellor R. Bowen Loftin. Twenty-six English department faculty members signed the letter.

The letter surfaced in the midst of ongoing turmoil on the Columbia campus, where graduate student assistants were protesting low pay, a predominantly black student group was leading protests against racial oppression that led to a student hunger strike, and Mizzou football players were refusing to play until Wolfe resigned. Less than a week later, both the system president and the chancellor stepped down.

In a statement Thursday, Stokes said Delafontaine “has demonstrated a commitment to creating a more inclusive and diverse community, which is essential for the success of the MU health enterprise and for the entire Mizzou campus. We know his leadership will strengthen our reputation as a leading public research university that provides excellent clinical, educational and research opportunities for our students.”
Foley said that reinstating Delafontaine, a native of South Africa who served as chief of cardiology at Tulane University in New Orleans prior to coming to MU, “is exactly what MU needs to move forward.”

He said, “As the state’s flagship, public research institution, and a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, it is imperative that we have a leader in the School of Medicine who understands our responsibility to our students and the citizens of Missouri who rely on us to discover new information and invent new technologies to improve their lives.”

**UPDATE: Delafontaine is back as dean of the MU School of Medicine**

ALLEN FENNEWALD, Updated 16 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Patrice "Patrick" Delafontaine will again be dean of the MU School of Medicine, Interim Chancellor Hank Foley announced in an email just before noon Thursday.

Delafontaine resigned from the position Sept. 14, 10 months after coming to MU from Tulane University, where he was chief of cardiology. No explanation was given for his sudden resignation.

In an email, he said the future of the Medical School is bright, despite "recent events at the university" and will continue to focus on diversity and inclusion.

"Over the last year, the Medical School has recruited outstanding physician leaders," Delafontaine said. "Through our strategic plan, we will continue to recruit additional academic faculty. I anticipate we will be able to increase our clinical footprint and grow clinical and translational research, which is an important focus of academic centers nationally."

Delafontaine said the school will also continue working with the university and community to make diversity and inclusion a major focus in all its programs.
"We have approved a number of initiatives at the Medical School, including the establishment of an external advisory board of prominent national leaders in the area of diversity," Delafontaine said.

The Faculty Affairs Council, which represents the Medical School in matters of governance, sent a letter to the UM System Board of Curators on Nov. 12 requesting Delafontaine's reinstatement after a unanimous vote.

The reinstatement comes after Hal Williamson announced Feb. 9 he would step down as MU's interim executive vice chancellor of health affairs on Friday. Williamson previously held the position before retiring at the end of June. Then-Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said he would not fill the position, but he changed his mind after receiving a recommendation from a consulting group. Foley asked Williamson in December to take the job on an interim basis.

Julia Crim, a professor of clinical radiology, said she was pleased to see Delafontaine return.

"I'm delighted to have him return to the helm of the medical school," Crim said. "I think he is a great leader with the wisdom, experience and personality to lead us through.

"I'm especially pleased that he understands how important it is that we have an atmosphere where diversity is valued and we include everyone in the medical school."

Crim helped draft a survey last fall asking for faculty opinions about Delafontaine. Sixty percent of respondents said Loftin should ask Delafontaine to reconsider his resignation, according to previous Missourian reporting. The Nov. 12 letter to the curators requesting reinstatement was based on the survey results.

Crim said everyone she encountered Thursday in the Medical School has been happy with Delafontaine's return. She said she would be celebrating with her husband over Champagne on Thursday night.

"I'm much more excited about the future now that we have a leader with great values and great priorities at the helm," Crim said.
She said she thought the survey played a small role in Delafontaine's return and credits MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley and UM Interim President Mike Middleton for re-evaluating the situation and making the correct decision.

She also credited James Stannard, who has served as interim dean of the MU School of Medicine, "who took on a very difficult job and did a very good job as interim dean."

Crim said she thought a conflict between Delafontaine and Loftin led to the dean's September resignation.

"Things went badly wrong with our former chancellor, and I think we are just glad to be back on the right track," Crim said.

Delafontaine's research focuses on cardiovascular disease and mechanisms of heart attacks and muscle weakness in chronic congestive heart failure, a condition in which the heart can't pump enough blood and fluid builds up in the limbs and internal organs.

His university bio's selected publications include 22 articles on topics including from bioelectrical impedance analysis to whole-muscle dysfunction.

**THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

U. of Missouri Reinstates a Dean Whose Departure Helped Oust a Chancellor

February 19, 2016 by [Charles Huckabee](mailto:Charles.Huckabee@chronicle.com)

The University of Missouri at Columbia announced on Thursday that it had reinstated Patrice Delafontaine as dean of the School of Medicine, effective immediately. Dr. Delafontaine’s sudden resignation in September was among the incidents that contributed to a loss of confidence among other deans in the campus’s chancellor at the time, R. Bowen Loftin.
When Mr. Loftin himself resigned two months later, his departure was seen as a consequence of student protests over race relations that had roiled the Columbia campus. But a group of nine deans, speaking collectively by email with The Chronicle in November, said his departure had also been the culmination of their efforts to force out a chancellor whom they viewed as autocratic and vindictive.

While a number of incidents contributed to their sense of alienation from Mr. Loftin, the deans described the apparently forced resignation of Dr. Delafontaine as a tipping point. They all felt that the medical dean was doing a good job, they said. “To see his efforts dismissed and undermined, when added to our other concerns, led us to conclude that our relationship with the chancellor was irrevocably broken.”

In the university’s announcement on Thursday, the flagship’s interim chancellor, Henry C. (Hank) Foley, praised Dr. Delafontaine as an outstanding leader who “has a track record of building great medical education, clinical, and research programs while simultaneously taking action to improve diversity.” He added: “This is exactly what MU needs to move forward.”

**COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE**

Delafontaine reinstated as University of Missouri medical school dean

By Rudi Keller

Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 12:18 pm

Patrick Delafontaine was reinstated Thursday morning as dean of the University of Missouri School of Medicine, undoing a resignation that caused faculty and administrative resentment of former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

The decision to put Delafontaine back into the position he left in September after less than a year on the job was announced in internal emails sent to MU faculty and staff.
“Dr. Delafontaine has been recognized by his peers as an outstanding leader and has a track record of building great medical education, clinical and research programs while simultaneously taking action to improve diversity,” interim Chancellor Hank Foley said in a news release. “This is exactly what MU needs to move forward.”

Delafontaine will take over the role from interim Dean James Stannard immediately.

Delafontaine’s resignation became a focus of faculty and administrative discontent that led to Loftin’s resignation Nov. 9. Delafontaine’s supporters actively sought his reinstatement.

The move settles the issue and allows the medical school to move ahead, said Ben Trachtenberg, an associate professor of law and MU Faculty Council chairman.

“At a minimum, there is some benefit to knowing a decision has been made and the folks at the medical school can get back to their business,” Trachtenberg said.

Before he came to MU, Delafontaine served as chief of cardiology at Tulane University in New Orleans. He initially took the job on Dec. 1, 2014.

Delafontaine returns to MU as School of Medicine dean

COLUMBIA – MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley and Provost Garnett Stokes announced Thursday Patrice Delafontaine was reappointed as dean of the School of Medicine.

School of Medicine faculty group requested to the UM System's Board of Curators to get Patrice Delafontaine reinstated as dean in November, 2015.

Delafontaine, who was raised in South Africa during apartheid, worked as chief of cardiology at Tulane University in New Orleans prior to coming to MU. His research on cardiovascular health has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health for approximately 20 years.
Delafontaine has also served as associate director of Clinical Services, Cardiology Division, at Emory University Hospital, and Chef de Clinique at the University Cantonal Hospital in Geneva, Switzerland.

At MU, Delafontaine approved several initiatives aimed at underrepresented students, including:

- A post-baccalaureate program for underrepresented students in the biomedical sciences;
- A clinic to address health disparities;
- A lecture series for clinicians and scientists who could serve as mentors to students;
- An external advisory board of nationally renowned minority professionals in health care.

“I am delighted to be returning as dean of the School of Medicine,” Delafontaine said. “I look forward to advancing our missions of patient care, education and research and to improve our diversity and inclusivity, working with our partners in the community and throughout the state.”

Chuck Henson, interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity, said, “Patrice Delafontaine’s unique background – growing up in a community of severe racial discord – has helped him understand some of the struggles that individuals of color experience on a regular basis. His work in the medical school will add to what we are doing on campus as we move forward toward better relationships among students, faculty, staff and the broader Columbia community.”

MU staff members take responsibility for mixed messages attributed to Foley

By RUDI KELLER

Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 2:00 pm Comments (19)

The internal email that removed the harshest language from University of Missouri interim Chancellor Hank Foley’s statement about Columbia police body camera images showing Assistant Professor Melissa Click yelling at officers was edited without his knowledge, Foley said Wednesday.

Speaking after he appeared before the Joint Committee on Education, Foley said he had taken steps to make sure there is no difference between his public statements and the messages sent through university internal channels.
“I have been very clear with my faculty and staff today and yesterday: When Hank Foley says this is his statement, this is his statement,” Foley said. “And I am happy to take input, and if people want to give me input and suggest I do this or do that, I am happy to take it. But at the end of the day, once I’ve heard that input, it is my statement. That’s No. 1.”

Earlier Wednesday, Jennifer Hollingshead, interim vice chancellor for marketing and communications, and Mary Jo Banken, executive director of the MU News Bureau, conducted a joint interview to explain what happened Sunday evening when Foley issued his statement.

Hollingshead forwarded the statement Foley had crafted during the afternoon to Banken, they said. She reviewed it, suggested some editing and sent it back.

“I edited the first statement originally written by the chancellor,” Banken said. “I shortened it, made it more succinct and concise.”

That was the version that was sent also to the chancellor’s staff member responsible for sending out emails to faculty and others on the internal news list, Banken said.

The opening and closing sentences of Foley’s statement are identical in both versions. He opened by writing that he had seen the video depicting Click “directing a verbal assault against members of the Columbia Police Department” during the Oct. 10 Homecoming parade.

Foley wrote in closing that the university has high expectations for behavior and that he would forward the new information to the Board of Curators.

The public version has two sentences in the middle: “Her conduct and behavior are appalling, and I am not only disappointed, I am angry, that a member of our faculty acted this way. Her actions caught on camera last October, are just another example of a pattern of misconduct by Dr. Click — most notably, her assault on one of our students while seeking ‘muscle’ during a highly volatile situation on Carnahan Quadrangle in November.”

The internal version has a single sentence: “To MU Faculty: Her conduct and behavior on this video as well as the video from the events on Nov. 9 are not consistent with that which is expected of a faculty member.”

Foley said he was upset that his statement was changed and he was not informed. “That’s what happened in this case. And that’s just not appropriate.”
Hollingshead and Banken said they both had to explain and apologize for the dual messages.

“It was never the chancellor’s intention to send two different statements,” Hollingshead said.
“Obviously we would all prefer to have the same message to both of our important constituencies.”

U. of Missouri: $2 million in donations lost after unrest

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — **About $2 million in donations to the University of Missouri have been lost in fallout from the unrest at the campus in Columbia, a top university official said Thursday.**

Vice Chancellor for Advancement Tom Hiles said several donors who had pledged money to the university have pulled back their pledges, though the vast majority of lost money was from seven to 10 big donors.

Simmering tensions over what student activists saw as administrators’ indifference to racial problems at the Columbia campus came to a head in the November protests. Demonstrators were backed by some members of the football team, who threatened to refuse to play. University system President Tim Wolfe and Columbia campus chancellor R. Bowen Loftin both resigned at the height of the unrest.

The protests themselves angered some donors, including many who felt the university ceded too much power to students, Hiles said. Others who pulled their money cited the actions of Melissa Click, an assistant professor who called for "some muscle" to remove a student videographer from a public protest area. She has since been suspended, but some alumni and donors are angry she hasn’t been fired.

Still others were upset about other issues, including the university’s affiliation with Planned Parenthood.

Despite the lost donations, the current fiscal year that ends June 30 is on track to be the second-best ever for donations, Hiles said. He expects the university to reach its $1.3 billion fundraising goal in its "Our Time to Lead" campaign to fund scholarships for students, among other things.
"It’s a challenging environment, I’m not trying to gloss over it," Hiles said. "We don’t like to lose any gifts, but most of our donors have stayed with us."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Cuts in funding for university will hurt Missouri's economy

W. Dudley McCarter  •  Clayton, Past president, Mizzou Alumni Association

If the Missouri Legislature cuts funding for the University of Missouri, as several senators and representatives have threatened, that would only harm Missouri students and their families.

Each year, more students from the state of Missouri go to the University of Missouri than to any other university in the state. Last year, it awarded over 55 percent of the degrees that were awarded from Missouri’s public universities. The tuition paid by Missouri residents to attend the University of Missouri is one of the lowest in the nation. Moreover, in 2015, more than 58,500 of its 77,800 students received financial aid.

The research revenues the University of Missouri attracts from outside the state exceed $200 million per year, with over 95 percent of the federal research funding given to public universities in the state. This creates jobs, attracts new business and strengthens the Missouri economy.

The University of Missouri has educated more teachers, doctors, health care professionals, engineers, dentists, scientists, researchers, veterinarians, optometrists and business executives in the state than any other university has. Each year, University Hospital treats nearly 200,000 patients and provides over $50 million of unreimbursed health care to Missouri residents. MU Extension serves Missourians in every county of the state and provides training to over 11,000 firefighters and first responders each year.

If state funding for the University of Missouri is reduced, tuition will have to increase, financial aid to students will drop and fewer Missouri students will be able to attend. More of our best and brightest students will leave the state to never come back. People will lose their jobs, research revenues coming from outside Missouri will drop and the entire economy of the state will suffer. I hope and pray that these reductions do not become a reality.
COLUMBIA — Columbia police arrested three MU students Tuesday night on suspicion of selling controlled substances after finding five different kinds of drugs and several thousand dollars in their south Columbia residence.

Officers found Jimmy David Blundell, Boston Meyer Dickerson and Ethan R. Myers around 9 p.m. Tuesday while responding to a drug sale in the 5000 block of Commercial Drive, according to a Columbia Police Department news release.

When officers searched the house the men were sharing, they found 200 grams of marijuana, 91 anti-anxiety pills, Ecstasy, LSD and the painkiller hydrocodone. They also found money throughout the residence.

Blundell, a junior general studies major, was arrested on suspicion of four counts of distribution, manufacturing or possession of a controlled substance. Dickerson, a junior biochemistry major, and Myers, a sophomore biochemistry major, were arrested on suspicion of one count of the same charge, and Dickerson was also arrested on suspicion of possession.

All three were released on bail Wednesday.
Sleepy kids with autism act out during the day

Children with autism spectrum disorder often have trouble sleeping at night, which in turn makes it hard for them to control their behavior during the day.

“Past research has found that children with ASD often have trouble sleeping at night. Many children with ASD also struggle with regulating their behavior during the day,” says Micah Mazurek, assistant professor of health psychology at the University of Missouri.

“Research on children without ASD has found that lack of sleep can contribute to these behavioral problems. In this study, we were specifically interested in whether sleep is related to challenging behavior in children with ASD.”

To study the connection between sleep and behavioral problems, researchers surveyed parents of 81 children with ASD. They examined common sleep problems including trouble falling asleep, trouble staying asleep, and other specific sleep issues. They then examined whether these problems were related to common behavioral problems in children with ASD, including aggression, irritability, inattention, and hyperactivity.

The findings, published in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, show that sleep difficulties are highly related to daytime behavioral problems. Children who weren’t sleeping well had greater problems with aggression, irritability, and paying attention during the day. They found that children who awakened frequently throughout the night had the most trouble regulating their behavior.

“The research on sleep and behavior in children with ASD is ongoing, and future research will examine what may be causing these difficulties and which treatments may work best. In the meantime, they encourage parents to talk to their doctors about their children’s sleep.

“If parents are noticing that their children are having behavioral problems, it may be helpful to make sure they are sleeping well at night,” Mazurek says. “For all children with ASD, it is important that parents and professionals routinely screen for sleep problems. Addressing these issues will help children be at their best during the day.”

The research was funded by Autism Speaks.
Communication is a big component in the health of mother-daughter relationships. In today’s Academic Minute, the University of Missouri’s Haley Kranstuber Horstman details how telling their stories to their mothers can help daughters through rough periods in their lives. Horstman is an assistant professor of interpersonal and family communication at Missouri.

Communication is a big component in the health of mother-daughter relationship.

Haley Horstman, assistant professor of interpersonal and family communication at the University of Missouri, details how telling their story to their mothers can help daughters through rough periods in their lives.

Dr. Haley Kranstuber Horstman researches communicated sense-making in the context of family diversity and difficulty. She grounds much of her work in narrative theorizing and methodology. Dr. Horstman often studies diverse families as a context ripe with sense-making, including adoptive families, foster families, and married couples struggling with miscarriage, as well as mother-daughter and parent-child contexts.

Currently, Haley is exploring mothers and daughters’ narrative sense-making, storytelling in foster families, family communication patterns, and adoptees’ identity work. She is also working on several grant-funded projects studying married couples’ communication following miscarriage, communication in open adoptive families, and the perceptions of doulas in American births. Haley’s work has been published in major peer-reviewed journals such as Communication Monographs, Journal of Applied Communication Research, Health Communication, Journal of Family Communication, Communication Education, Communication Quarterly, and Journal of Social and Personal Relationships. She has worked under several community grants as a consultant on family communication issues in public health interventions. Haley currently serves as secretary for the Family Communication division at National Communication Association (NCA), Media Contact on parent-child communication for NCA, and a board member for Journal of Family Communication.

During her graduate work at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Dr. Horstman was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award, Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, Phyllis Japp Scholar Award, Centennial Fellowship from the Department of Communication Studies, and an Honorable Mention for the UNL Office of Graduate Studies Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant Award. She has also received several Top Paper Awards for her work at NCA and Central States Communication Association Conferences. Along with Dr. Colleen Colaner, Haley is a founder and co-director of the Institute of Family Diversity and Communication (www.ifdc.missouri.edu), an interdisciplinary working group of researcher examining issues facing modern families.
When faced with adversity, humans make meaning of their experiences through storytelling. This is especially true when it comes to mothers and daughters. Our research found that daughters “re-story” their difficult situations over time, often increasing the positivity of those stories through conversations with their mother. We believe these changes in difficult stories can improve the well-being of the daughters and their mothers.

The goal of our study was to understand how communication can change the way daughters make sense of their experiences. When dealing with difficult situations from death to problems in school, how a daughter communicates with her mother will impact her overall well-being. We wanted to learn how aspects of interpersonal communication such as perspective-taking, coherence and taking turns impact how we make sense of adversity.

We had 62 daughters write out a story of a difficult experience and complete a well-being survey. The daughters then met with their mothers to tell their stories. Two days later, the daughters completed another written survey with the story-writing prompt and measures of well-being.

When we analyzed the results, we found that the daughters’ stories changed over time and with respect to qualities of the mother-daughter conversation. We also found that when mothers and daughters took turns sharing their perspectives, daughters tended to write their stories more positively.

The takeaway is that our narratives matter and that communication has the power to change the way we make sense of our lives. If mothers can foster warmth and affection in their conversations, and if daughters listen to their mother’s perspective, the conversations they share can help daughters work through negative emotions associated with stress.

Jolting exercises now may prevent broken hip later, MU researcher says

The jolting movement of jogging or hiking down a trail or slamming a tennis ball for an ace just might prevent a broken hip later in life.

That's the finding of a University of Missouri researcher who recently published a paper that concludes high-impact activity and heavy resistance training can make bones denser and less likely to result in disabling hip fractures.

"Anything that involves running or jumping or forcing your bones to jolt helps build bone density," said Pamela Hinton, associate professor in the Department of Nutrition and
Exercise Physiology in the MU College of Human Environmental Sciences. "Like muscles, bone is a very responsive tissue and grows denser when high-impact forces are applied."

Hinton said her study focused on bone density in men because they are less likely to be diagnosed with osteoporosis (bone loss) than women and are at a greater mortality risk from fractures that occur from falls later in life.

"While osteoporosis is commonly associated with only post-menopausal women, it is, in fact, a serious issue for men as well," she said.

The study found that individuals who continuously participated in high-impact activities, such as jogging and tennis, during adolescence and young adulthood, had greater hip and lumbar spine bone mineral density than those who did not.

"But one of the take-aways from this study is that it's never too late to do something specifically targeted to improve bone strength," she said. "No matter what your age, it's better to start than not do anything."

The key is doing a high-impact activity that will stress the bone, she added. "Swimming and bicycling, while you can get a great cardiovascular workout, you're not going to get that weight-bearing force and jolting impact that builds bone."

The good news: It doesn't take very much high-impact exercise each day to get the bone-building process going.

"Bone stops being responsive to loading fairly quickly," Hinton said. "You're looking at 40 to 100 loading cycles — jumps or foot strikes — to build bone density. Bone needs to rest eight hours and then it will be responsive to high-impact exercise again."

Although the study was focused on men, Hinton said the same bone-building processes work with women.

And if your youngster or teenager is a couch potato, they are missing out on a key time in their life to build strong bones.

Her study aimed to understand the connection between bone-loading exercise during adolescence and young adulthood, when the skeleton is still growing, and bone mass in middle age.

In the study, Hinton analyzed data from the physical histories of 203 males aged 30-65 years. Participants' sports and exercise histories varied, both in type and level of activity, and the length of time spent doing various physical activities also differed.

She found that exercise-associated bone loading during adolescence and young adulthood improved bone density in adulthood. Moreover, she found that high-impact activity during growth and adulthood is an important determinant for bone health later in life.
"The most important take-away is that if you are healthy, it is never too late to begin high-impact activities or resistance training to improve bone mineral density," Hinton said. "While activity during skeletal growth is significant, we also saw positive associations between such physical activity and bone density at all ages. So even middle-aged men who spent their teenage years sitting on the couch could see benefits from beginning a bone-strengthening exercise program." Staying active with high-impact exercises is particularly important because Hinton said there aren't many tell-tale indicators that bone loss is occurring, short of doing a full-body bone scan or worse, discovering you've developed osteoporosis when you break a hip.

The study was published in the American Journal of Men’s Health. The National Institutes of Health, the University of Missouri Research Board, and the Department of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology Summer Research Internship provided funds for the study.

MU releases video about how to survive a campus shooting

By Alan Burdziak

Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 2:00 pm

There are three ways to survive an active-shooter incident: run, hide or fight.

The University of Missouri’s Facility Operations Department commissioned a video released Wednesday to provide students, faculty and staff with a guide for how to survive in the unlikely event of a gunman on campus. The roughly five-minute video begins with a series of short news clips about active-shooter events and an address from MU police Chief Doug Schwandt. Then footage shot on campus at Jesse Hall and the MU Student Center is spliced with directions from MU police Maj. Brian Weimer on what to do if such an event occurs and a closing message from MU police Lt. April Colvin.

Weimer first instructs viewers to run if they hear gunshots or see a shooter, then goes over ways to conceal oneself before talking about the tactic of last resort, fighting a shooter with any means available. Several groups on campus came together to produce the video, Weimer said, including MU police, operations, marketing and communications. Mizzou Video Production at the Academic Support Center shot, produced, edited and directed the video. Weimer said inspiration came from similar videos that Ohio State University and the Department of Homeland Security have done. Officials wanted to offer a proactive means of addressing the possibility of violence.
on campus, Weimer said, after hearing people talk about the MU Alert system and how it sends alerts after the fact.

“This is getting people to start thinking about things before an incident occurs,” he said. “So if you hear a shot, see someone with a weapon, you can have a plan in place.”

Fifty-five students were extras in the video. Most attend school at the Columbia campus, but the video included students from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Missouri University of Science & Technology and Moberly Area Community College, said Karlan Seville, MU operations spokeswoman, in an email. The YouTube page on which the video was posted counted about 1,600 views Thursday morning.

Some students were paid to participate, Seville said, with a total of $2,500 going to extras. Five faculty and staff members are in the video. Susan Cameron, manager of Mizzou Video Production at the Academic Support Center, said her colleague Jeremy Jardine directed the video.

The total cost of the video is not yet calculated, she said, because her department has not billed operations yet, a standard procedure for interdepartmental work.

“We hope it will be an effective tool for staff, students and faculty,” Cameron said.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

FEBRUARY 18, 2016 11:36 AM

Assistant MU professor Melissa Click vows to fight for her job

Melissa Click said in interview with CBS This Morning that the video doesn't represent the good she was doing

Click said she didn’t know for sure student was a real journalist

She said calling for muscle was a mistake

BY ROBERT A. CRONKLETON

bcronkleton@kcstar.com
The assistant University of Missouri professor caught on video calling for “muscle” to remove a student journalist from a campus protest last November said in an interview with CBS This Morning that she was embarrassed by her behavior.

“I believe it doesn’t represent who I am as a person,” Click said in an interview with and CBS News correspondent Anna Werner. “It doesn’t represent the good I was doing there that day, and you know, certainly I wish I could do it over again.”

Click said she didn’t know for sure the student was a real journalist.

“He introduced himself only as media and came at me with a camera,” Click said. Werner pointed out that it was a camera, not a weapon.

“Sure, but it wasn’t a big camera,” Click responded. “It could have been a phone-sized camera .... Again, it didn’t say ‘professional journalist’ to me.”

Many professional news organizations, including The Kansas City Star, have their reporters routinely use iPhones and cellphones to gather news video.

Click said her call for muscle was a mistake.

“I never ever meant that as a call for violence,” she said. “It was just one of those things said in the heat of the moment.

The Board of Curators called for an investigation of Click’s actions in the November video after the Columbia prosecutor charged her with assault. She agreed to a deal late last month to avoid prosecution by doing community service and staying out of trouble for a year. Curators suspended Click pending their investigation.

Werner asked Click about another video that surfaced last week showing her confronting Columbia police during an earlier protest at a homecoming parade last fall.

In the video, an agitated Click confronts police who were moving a group of predominately black protestors off the streets. Click cursed at an officer.

Click said in a statement sent to The Star earlier this week that she was sorry for cursing at the officer.
“You can understand where a lot of people watching those videos are saying, ‘She’s got a problem,’” Werner said in the CBS interview.

“People who know me, don’t feel that way,” Click responded. “People who were there that day don’t feel that way. They know what it was like to be there. They know I was there with the best intentions and they know it was a really tricky situation.”

Saying she felt that the curators and the chancellor have set up an environment where she can’t be fairly evaluated, Click said she plans to fight for her job.

“I love my job,” she said. “I’m good at my job. I made mistakes. I don’t think I should be judged entirely on those mistakes and I’m going to fight for what I think is fair.”

MU student group collects signatures to have Click fired

TAYLOR YSTEBOE, 19 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — The MU chapter of Young Americans for Liberty collected signatures Thursday in Speakers Circle on the MU campus to have Melissa Click, the embattled assistant professor involved in campus protests, fired.

The petition had gathered more than 450 signatures by 2 p.m. Thursday, president of the MU chapter Thomas Bradbury said. The organization plans to deliver the petition to the UM System Board of Curators, which began its own investigation into Click on Jan. 27.

Click has been a focal point since she confronted an independent journalist, who is also an MU student, during a demonstration organized by Concerned Student 1950 on Nov. 9 on MU’s campus. Concerned Student 1950 continues to push for reforms at MU including hiring more black faculty and increasing the retention rate for marginalized students.
"We’re showing that other students on campus have a voice, too, and we’re going to express that with our First Amendment right of petitioning,” Bradbury said.

Click has been suspended with pay, but Bradbury said that keeping her employed gives the university a negative image.

Young Americans for Liberty, a nationwide organization with more than 600 college chapters, also erected a free speech wall on Thursday to encourage passersby to write their thoughts. Juxtaposed on the wall were phrases like "#FireClick" and "I stand with Melissa Click."

“‘We want to give people a voice,” Bradbury said. “They see us as anti-Melissa Click here. And we want students, if they want to, to go up and if they don’t agree, they can write whatever they want on it. We want to give people an outlet for their voice.’”

Freshman Jennifer George signed the petition and wrote "Bye Melissa" on the wall.

"Anyone that acts against a human's rights shouldn't be employed on this campus," George said.

Sophomore Victoria Vitale and junior Neisha Goodson neither signed the petition nor wrote on the wall. Vitale said she noticed that those who support Click remaining at the university write more kindly than those who want her fired.

"People have freedom of speech, but they shouldn't be disrespectful," Goodson said.
MU students voice opinions on possible dismissal of Click


COLUMBIA - **Students on the University of Missouri campus have some strong thoughts when it comes to MU Assistant Professor Melissa Click.**

Click has been the center of a large controversy surrounding first amendment rights, and events related to the #ConcernedStudent1950 movement.

The group Young Americans for Liberty circulated a petition calling for Click's firing on Thursday, as well as setting up a "free speech wall" for anyone to write opinions on.

Many of the comments on the wall were in support of the petition, but others had written messages supporting Click as well.

President of the group Thomas Bradbury said the petition was a way for students to show their frustration in a formal way.

"I think it's important to give students a voice that's beyond barging into a Board of Curators meeting," Bradbury said. "Students need to go through the proper channels to have their voice heard, and a petition like ours is doing that."

Bradbury said the Click controversy has been a black eye for the university.

"To the national spotlight, in the national image, all we are is Melissa Click right now," Bradbury said. "When you look up the University of Missouri, one of the first things that pops up is Melissa Click violating the first amendment."

Many University of Missouri students were in agreement with the group.

"I think the university should take action immediately," MU senior Daniel Sherwood said. "I don't think there's any more review that needs to happen. There's video footage of her taking actions that I think are unacceptable towards police and students and I think they need to do something about that.

However, not all students shared the views of Young Americans for Liberty.

"I didn't sign the petition because I feel like it's her personal decision that she was advocating for the students of 1950," MU student Victoria Vitale said.

Vitale was not the only student present who sided with Click.
"Nobody is talking about the actual issues and what is really going on," MU student Neisha Goodson. "That's completely being ignored to bring up an issue that really isn't that big of a deal, and I don't think she should lose her job."

Bradbury did say the petition had received nearly 700 signatures by Thursday afternoon.

The group said it plans on presenting the petition to the UM Board of Curators.

Mizzou group wants Click fired

Student led group, Young Americans For Liberty, creates petition for the firing of Click

COLUMBIA, Mo- On Thursday, a group of students called the Young Americans For Liberty, were standing at the Speakers Circle on Mizzou's campus to hand out a petition they had created.

The petition has the goal of firing Melissa Click. The group wanted it done without having to barge in to the Curators meeting.

Emotions were high at the Speakers Circle and the president of the organization, Thomas Bradbury, was shocked Melissa Click had not been fired already, "It's appalling that she's not fired yet. How is she getting paid tax dollars right now to sit and have a P.R. team try to rebuild her image."

The organization believes the reason why she has not been fired yet is because she is defending a popular topic.

Mizzou student and member of the Young Americans, Victoria Stroup explains, "If she was standing for a conservative group of students or for a cause that wasn't maybe quite as popular as the CS 1950 protests did get an overwhelmingly amount of support from the student body. If she was standing for something unpopular, I believe she would be fired by now."

New member, Vincent Pizzo, believes initially, Click was not doing any harm, "I think what they stood for and what they did was fine and it was their right to protest but once you assault another person, especially on public ground, I think that's where the line needs to be drawn."
The organization wants to give a voice to students of different perspectives beyond Concerned Student 1950, and the group feels it achieved their goal. Bradbury exclaims, "We've got 400 plus signatures so far and we've only been out here for a few hours."

The students stayed on Speakers Circle until 3 p.m. on Thursday looking for signatures. The next step will be to take it to the curators.

MU student group collects signatures to fire Melissa Click

COLUMBIA, Mo. — A student liberty group at the University of Missouri-Columbia is holding a petition drive aimed at firing the suspended professor Melissa Click.

Click has received national attention after being caught on video confronting a student journalist and Columbia Police.

Students are currently at Mizzou's Speaker's Circle, where they are collecting signatues for their petition.

The group, called Young Americans for Liberty, says Click violated First Amendment rights on their campus, and they are calling on school leaders to fire her.

The Young Americans for Liberty group is the same group that gained attention after burning an ISIS flag on the Mizzou campus last fall.

KRCG 13 reached out to Click for a response to today's petition drive, and expects to hear back from her later in the day.

Currently, the University of Missouri Board of Curators is reviewing Click's case before they make a decision on where she will keep her job.
After a racist incident on his campus, Michael K. Young has, by many accounts, done a lot of things right.

The Texas A&M president has apologized personally, using "I" when saying "I am sorry" for an incident last week in which university students made racially charged remarks to a group of visiting high-school students. He has apologized in person, traveling from the campus, in College Station, to Uplift Hampton Preparatory, the charter school in Dallas from which the students came. He has met with student leaders at his own institution. And he has used the incident as a platform to publicize the efforts his administration has made to improve diversity and inclusion across the university since he took office last year.

But he faces more challenges. Whether to expel the students who verbally harassed the high-school visitors is one of them. Even deeper challenges lie in how a college leader, and everyone on a campus, can confront the troubled campus climate an incident like this exposes, and in what a university community can do to prevent future incidents.

The controversy began when about 60 students from Uplift Hampton, many of whom were black and Latino, visited Texas A&M. The high-school students reported that a white university student asked them what they thought of her Confederate-flag earrings, and that other students told them to "go back where they came from," among other harassing behavior.
The incident inspired Mr. Young to offer public apologies, and to tell the Uplift Hampton students in person that "they are precisely the kinds of students we’d love to see enrolling" at Texas A&M. Meanwhile, university students wrote more than 5,000 letters to the high-schoolers, offering their own apologies.

Since the incident, however, some have called on the president to do more. State Sen. Royce B. West, a Democrat whose district includes parts of Dallas, said that the university must "make sure the students that engaged in this behavior are held responsible for it, and that means expelling them for it."

Mr. Young may also feel pressure to take swift action to avoid making the campus climate worse, as happened at the University of Missouri at Columbia when leaders were criticized for failing to respond to racism and protests mounted.

At the University of Oklahoma, President David L. Boren’s swift expulsion of two students after they were caught on video leading a racist chant provided a high-profile example of zero tolerance toward such behavior.

Mr. Young says that the incident at Texas A&M is the subject of two investigations, one by the campus police and one by the student-disciplinary council, both of which should be concluded within "a matter of days." He adds that any punishment, including expulsion, is "on the table."

The university will take "appropriate action," he says, but he resists the idea that the quick and unilateral expulsion some might like to see would be fair, or productive. If there is any benefit to the incident, he says, it is that it has seized the attention of members of the campus community who might not have been giving much thought to the racial climate. "That’s something we intend to exploit rather shamelessly," he says.
Mr. Harper says research has shown that higher-education leaders are often not attuned to the realities of race on their own campuses — an observation that the past year’s protests demanding that colleges improve their racial climates bear out.

Many of the letters written by Texas A&M students tout the university as a welcoming place, Mr. Harper notes. "Does everyone feel welcome here? How do we know that?" he asks. The campus experience may feel very different to black and Latino students than it does to their white counterparts, he says. And just because students of color aren’t protesting, he adds, doesn’t mean that everybody loves the way it is.

Just as important as building racial diversity is building inclusion — making the rhetoric about everyone feeling welcome a reality. It remains a challenge on most campuses, according to Kathleen Wong(Lau), director of the Southwest Center for Human Relations Studies at the University of Oklahoma. Colleges have to do more than just recruit a more-diverse student body and faculty, she says; they must also work to increase their knowledge about different groups of people "in a way that’s more than token."

Mr. Harper says having a dialogue about issues of race on campuses is important enough that he hopes Mr. Young doesn’t expel the students involved in the incident. "Let’s not shut down the conversation," he says, but continue it, and deepen it.
"People are allowed to have an opinion — it’s a university."

However Texas A&M proceeds, Mr. Young says that ultimately neither he, nor the office of diversity, nor any other single staff member or university unit can head off another racial incident. "We can’t totally control what they do," he says of students. "We can only control our reaction to it, and control what we teach them in light of what they’ve done." Fostering diversity and inclusion is a job for everyone on the campus, he says, and "people are beginning to get that."
Mizzou at a Crossroads Part 3 - Starting the Conversation

Listen to story: [http://kbia.org/post/mizzou-crossroads-part-3-starting-conversation](http://kbia.org/post/mizzou-crossroads-part-3-starting-conversation)

**Student protesters no longer fill the campus, but the demands and dialogue those protests fueled continues to reshape the University of Missouri.** A tumultuous semester of student protests resulted in the resignation of former University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe and the departure of numerous other University leaders. Those that remain now work to answer the question: where do they go from here? In the final installment of our series, “Mizzou at a Crossroads,” KBIA’s Ryan Famuliner tells us how these University’s leaders are fostering a conversation about race and inclusion on campus.

The Vice Chancellor of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity position was created the same day Wolfe and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin resigned in November. Chuck Henson, an Associate Dean in the MU law school, was appointed to the new position on an interim basis the next day.

From his new office in Jesse Hall, Henson knows his job is a tall order, and he’s still shaping it. It’s also only an interim post for him: three finalists are currently interviewing for the full time job. Henson says just in the last few weeks, student groups for Asian students, and Jewish students have reached out to him trying to figure out how they can utilize this new office. But, the events of last semester have created an urgent need to discuss the experience of black students on campus. Henson says, to find a way forward, he looked back to the list of demands Concerned Student 1-9-5-0 made of administrators last semester.

“And I could see three areas, how do we treat each other? Two: what do we know? what are the facts? What should we know? And the third one was, who’s here?” Henson said.

It’s not the first time administrators have tried this kind of thing, far from it. Some recent examples: The Chancellor’s Diversity Initiative was created in 2004 to try to address some of these same issues. It still exists, but now it will report to Henson’s office. The University also created an initiative in 2011 called One Mizzou, following two high profile racist incidents on campus in the two years prior. Then-chancellor Brady Deaton called One Mizzou his proudest...
achievement as chancellor. But the students who helped create it, graduated. Deaton retired in 2013. And by 2015, that initiative had completely dissolved, and instead One Mizzou was used as a promotional slogan.

“I think we learned that we have to maintain an ongoing dialogue about important issues. Staying engaged, demonstrating respect for all segments of the community, there is no alternative to that,” Deaton said.

Henson, and other leaders on campus, are tasked with starting the conversation over again now, and figuring out how to sustain it.

Missourian

Concerned Student 1950 member invited to gather with Obama, civil rights leaders

IDA SOPHIE WINTER, 18 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — MU senior DeShaunya Ware was invited to meet with President Barack Obama and several renowned civil rights activists at the White House on Thursday.

Ware, a black studies major from St. Louis, has been a consistent member of Concerned Student 1950, the group formed to protest a purported lack of administrative action against racial discrimination on campus.

The White House described the gathering as a first-of-its-kind meeting because those invited represent different generations of civil rights leaders. The meeting took place prior to a Black History Month reception hosted by the president and Michelle Obama, scheduled to start at 4:40 p.m. ET.

Other attendees include U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch; National Bar Association president-elect Ben Crump; NAACP president Cornell Brooks; National Urban League President Marc Morial; and representatives of Black Lives Matter, as reported by CNN.
In addition, the Washington Times listed guests as Brittany Packnett, a member of the president’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing and co-founder of We The Protestors and Campaign Zero; Mary Patricia Hector, national youth director of the National Action Network; Rashad Robinson, executive director of Color of Change; and Wade Henderson, president of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

According to the Washington Times, a White House official said Obama will discuss a range of issues, including the administration’s efforts at “building trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.”

Black Lives Matter founders speak at MU


COLUMBIA - It's expected to be a packed house at Jesse Auditorium Thursday night, as the founders of the Black Lives Matter movement are set to speak at the University of Missouri.

The movement’s co-founders, Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi, are scheduled to talk about social injustices, systematic racism and effective advocacy.

Chelsea Fricker, a graduate assistant for the Department of Student Activities, said the event was scheduled back in August and was not the result of recent racial tensions on campus.

“We’ve been wanting to have them for a while now,” Fricker said. “I hope it facilitates a respectful conversation with the people who disagree with the black lives matter event.”

Fricker said MSA sought out the movement’s co-founders because the two women are skilled at starting difficult discussions.
“They focus a lot more on the discussion, and that’s why we pursued these two specifically,” Fricker said.

The speech is open to the public. Garza and Tometi will each take questions from the audience after a short speech. Tickets are $5 for the general public, and the event is free to MU students.

Fricker said the question-and-answer session will provide students with a unique opportunity.

“I think it’s important for marginalized students to be heard, and they need a platform to talk about what they experience,” Fricker said.

Autism evaluation wait times concern parents


COLUMBIA - One in 68 kids has an autism spectrum disorder, according to the Centers for Disease Control. In mid-Missouri, the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders has seen the number of clinical visits per year jump from 500 in 2005 to 10,000 in 2015. Despite having so many more visits, it can still take months for a parent to get his or her child in for an evaluation at the center.

For parents like Tara Arnett, the waiting can be difficult, and there are lots of questions.

"How do we get him evaluated?" she asked when her pediatrician told her she should have her son tested for autism. "How do we get him enrolled in this? How do we start this therapy? How do we pay for it?"

Dr. Kristin Sohl said the average wait time at the Thompson Center is often 8-12 months, which is in line with the national average but still seems long to
many parents.

"You've got all these people wanting evaluations, and you have so few people who can do it. That's where the wait list comes from," Sohl said. "It makes me really sad that we have all these families waiting for an answer. I can only imagine how difficult that is."

Sohl said in a lot of ways, Missouri is doing well compared to other states. Gov. Jay Nixon recently announced millions of dollars will go toward autism services in the 2017 budget. However, she said that alone won't fix the wait list problem.

"I think you could give gobs and gobs of money, and still we may be in the same situation because more people keep coming," Sohl said.

She went on to say there are not enough doctors qualified to evaluate and give an autism diagnosis to meet the demand, which is partly because, compared to other specialties, it doesn't pay well. While the money from the state helps provide essential services, Sohl said there's a big gap between what an evaluation costs and what insurance pays for it. That makes it hard to recruit doctors and in turn, keeps the wait list long. She believes fixing this issue would require changing the healthcare reimbursement system.

There are things she said parents can do while they wait that can make a big difference, including starting speech or occupational therapy. She also recommended parents who think their child might have autism make an appointment with First Steps or their local school district to discuss what services are available to kids with developmental differences. It also could be helpful to treat physical symptoms like sleep or stomach problems as they come up.

"A lot of these things can be managed just like any other kid and certainly can make the quality of life for families much better if those are tackled while you wait," Sohl said.

Sohl doesn't think most families realize how much they can do before they get an official diagnosis. Arnett didn't and said the process was stressful, but she offered this advice to parents starting the autism screening process, "Sometimes it's hard to go ahead and start services when they're young because you're waiting. You
think something is going to change, something is going to happen, and then it doesn't. So it's very important to start that process as early as you can if you or your pediatrician notices there's something not typical."

Sohl said she likes to see kids with potential autism concerns as early as possible, ideally before age 3. Some possible signs she gave that a child might have autism included a child with delayed social skills, a child who doesn't master pointing to direct people's attention or a child who doesn't make eye contact.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommended pediatricians screen all children for autism at their 18 and 24 month check-ups. Sohl said she thinks working with primary care providers to better recognize what signs point to autism and which do not could also decrease the number of referrals, and help make the wait list shorter.