University of Missouri curators set to begin presidential search

By Rudi Keller

Monday, February 22, 2016 at 2:00 pm

The University of Missouri Board of Curators will meet Wednesday in Kansas City to select members of a presidential search committee and the consulting firm that will recruit and screen potential candidates.

The meeting, set to begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Marriott Kansas City Airport Hotel, will begin with an open session and vote on the composition of the search committee and the additional members, UM System spokesman John Fougere wrote in an email. The board will then go into closed session to interview and select a search firm.

Curators Chair Pamela Henrickson told the Joint Committee on Education last week that she expects the selection to be made that day.

“The different proposing firms have differing timelines, but they all expect us to have a permanent president by the fall,” Henrickson said.

The request for proposals was issued Jan. 22 and sent to 37 firms. One missing from the list was Greenwood/Asher Associates, the firm that was paid about $120,000 to conduct the 2011 search that resulted in the hiring of Tim Wolfe, a former executive with Novell who had no experience as an academic administrator.

Wolfe resigned Nov. 9 as protests by Concerned Student 1950, backed by the MU Tigers football team, brought international scrutiny to campus race issues. Former MU campus Vice Chancellor Mike Middleton was named interim president three days later, but he has so far said he has no interest in the permanent job.

The request drew 10 responses, Fougere wrote. The names of the firms that responded will be made public after a selection is made, he wrote.

The board voted Feb. 4 to form a search committee that included the curators, the student representative on the board, two faculty representatives, an additional student representative and
a staff member. Candidates for the noncurator roles were to be nominated by student, faculty and staff groups on each campus.

In the bid documents, the university said it wants the search completed within a year. The firms were to be scored on 18 criteria, including how many searches the firms have conducted and whether they can provide a confidential list of “‘off-limit’ candidates” who could not be considered because of previous placements by that firm.

Wolfe succeeded Gary Forsee, who also had a business rather than academic background when he was hired. During the committee hearing last week, Henrickson was asked if the board will be looking for an academic administrator or a candidate from other fields.

“We want to see who the search firm brings forward,” she said. “We have no prejudice as to what field they will come from.”

UM Board of Curators to meet in Kansas City

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri Board of Curators are meeting this week in Kansas City.

The group is set to discuss efforts on finding the next University of Missouri System President.

On Monday, officials released Wednesday's agenda, which includes approval of the presidential search committee.

Tim Wolfe resigned in November after calls from protesters.
MU has taken few steps toward providing new graduate student housing and child care since a walkway in the University Village housing complex collapsed, and graduate students want the university to recognize their needs.

Leaky windows, cracked ceilings and roof and deck instability were just a few ongoing concerns for University Village.

The graduate student housing complex, built in 1956, wasn’t meant to last more than 25 or 30 years, Director of Residential Life Frankie Minor told The Maneater in 2009.

Architectural firm Mackey Mitchell stated that University Village was in poor condition and should be demolished in its 2008 Graduate and Family Housing Master Plan.

But MU deemed the demolition — estimated to cost $1.6 million — too expensive.

So instead, the university made repairs. Reporting by KOMU showed that between 2009 and 2014, MU poured over $1 million into fixing up the dilapidated complex.

In the early morning hours of Feb. 22, 2014, University Village, which also housed the Student Parent Center, was evacuated after reports of a roof collapse in one of the units. During the evacuation process, a walkway gave way, killing Columbia firefighter Lt. Bruce Britt.

Monday is the two-year anniversary of the collapse.

In the time following University Village’s shutdown and demolition, MU has provided no new child care or housing options to replace those at University Village.

Matt McCune, Graduate Professional Council director of communications, said that the closure of the Student Parent Center heavily affected student parents.

“Closing the child center was a big deal,” McCune said. “I mean, there were people who came here for that center, and for them to close it and have no alternative … I mean, (former Chancellor R. Bowen) Loftin even went on the news (in 2014) and proclaimed, ‘We’re going to build a new daycare center.’ And then nothing happened.”

The lack of new housing and child care support from MU highlights an ongoing conflict between graduate students and the university related to graduate student and graduate worker rights.
GPC President Hallie Thompson believes progress is being made for shared governance, but that the university often does not prioritize graduate students’ needs.

“Graduate students aren’t a revenue stream so it’s different, our relationship with the university, as compared to other students,” Thompson said.

She said the collapse of University Village was a “perfect storm” to the detriment of graduate students that coincided with GPC working to improve its internal structure. Following the incident, GPC became more vocal in its demands for new housing and child care along with other needs.

In August 2015, graduate student workers received 13-hour advance notice that the university would not renew their health insurance due to an IRS interpretation of the Affordable Care Act.

In response, graduate students formed the Forum on Graduate Rights and the Coalition of Graduate Workers, which issued a list of demands calling for affordable child care and housing, guaranteed health insurance and salaries above the poverty line. “Just the sheer obviousness of how little we were taken into consideration when these decisions were being made that had really drastic effects on our lives, I think it got us all to stand together and say, ‘No, we’re not going to take that,’” CGW Co-Chairman Eric Scott said.

**Unionization**

Since late October, FGR and CGW have collected signatures to hold a union election. While they now have a plurality of graduate worker signatures, CGW faces a new problem.

“What the university is saying is they don’t know if we are employees with standing to unionize, or if we are students who do not have this standing to unionize,” Scott said. “And, there is no clear legal affirmant one way or the other about that in Missouri, so they’re saying we need to take this to court to get a legal determination.”

In a news release on Feb. 10, interim UM System President Mike Middleton cited the ambiguity of the Missouri Constitution as basis for needing “clarity on the graduate students’ legal right to organize.”

Scott said CGW is “very, very confident this is going to come down as a ruling that yes, we are employees with a standing to unionize.” CGW hoped to reach an amicable agreement in regard to the terms of the union election, but they were also prepared for the possibility of the university making it a legal battle.

In February, GPC unanimously passed a resolution supporting the graduate student workers’ right to hold a union election, but GPC does not have an official position on whether graduate workers should unionize.

McCune sees the university looking to the courts about graduate student workers’ unionization rights as a facade.
“This is all a game that the UM System is playing to appease state legislators,” McCune said. “So, the university, knowing that they’re wrong, has chosen not to label us as employees to make state legislators happy.”

The Missouri Constitution does not have a legal precedent for graduate worker unionization, and no graduate worker unions exist in the state; however, other universities in the Midwest have unions, as well as about 30 universities across the country.

“We’ve also been told they know that they will lose this court case,” McCune said. “They’re doing it anyway. They will likely spend millions of dollars of student tuition money and state taxpayer dollars to keep a certain number of state legislators happy. So I guess if our politicians’ goal is to just take a whole bunch of money and put it through a shredder, then they’ve gotten what they wanted.”

After the formation of FGR and CGW, the university has been more proactive in addressing graduate student concerns despite hesitation to allow a union election.

In response to graduate student backlash about health insurance in August, the university temporarily re-established graduate student health insurance, and Loftin established a task force to investigate comparable methods of coverage under ACA.

FGR issued a statement in response to the health insurance task force report in December, concluding the three solutions proposed “would leave graduate students materially worse off than under our current subsidy plan.”

On Feb. 19, interim Chancellor Hank Foley guaranteed comparable health insurance coverage for graduate students for another academic year, but some graduate student workers are wary of the promise.

“There’s a lot of insecurity out there,” McCune said. “An interim person telling us that, that means nothing. We have no contract telling us we’re going to get a pay increase, we have no contract that says we’re actually going to have health insurance in the fall.”

The university also plans to increase graduate student workers’ stipends by $6,000 over the next two years. While this change will put graduate worker salaries in a more competitive position compared to other institutions, Scott believes it should have happened long ago.

“That’s two decades of negligence, basically, that necessitated this big, impressive raise,” Scott said. “If we had been getting actual standard of living raises all this time, there’d be no need to have this big splashy raise.”

A Feb. 18 MU News article cited in the chancellor’s February letter highlighted the stipend increase and promise of another year of health insurance as ways the university was improving relations with students.

“We need you, beloved graduate students,” the article read. “You are essential.”
The demise of University Village

University Village was popular for graduate students because of its child care facility, affordable rent and proximity to campus, despite its problems with structural stability over the years.

Emails obtained by KOMU in 2014 showed university officials were aware of structural deficiencies for at least five years.

According to previous Maneater reporting, the complex’s problems started even before the 21st century. In 1999, residents complained about the living conditions, with one resident comparing University Village to "downtown Beirut."

"Residents feel they don't have other options,” another resident told The Maneater in 1999. “If we did, we would have used them. We are a skeleton in MU's closet."

The 8-year-old son of a graduate student was teased for living in what his bullies called “the projects.”

Minor said that the Department of Residential Life was working to improve conditions.

"We offer very competitive rent," Minor told The Maneater in 1999. "We're trying to find a median between renovating and raising rates. We want to keep the rent affordable."

But conditions didn’t improve.

In 2013, MU spent $3,840 to repair concrete on the walkway in building 707, the same walkway that collapsed and killed Lt. Bruce Britt. In 2006, MU declared that building 706 was unsafe to live in, but students continued to reside there for six more months, according to KOMU.

In its 2008 master plan, Mackey Mitchell found that it was not a “reasonable alternative” to renovate the housing complex, nor was it a desirable location to rebuild on because of costs associated with its location on a floodway. They recommended demolition.

“There is significant structural damage and deterioration in all buildings except 702 and 703, which have been rebuilt,” the report read. “There are other significant problem areas, but the need to replace the structural framing means essentially the entire building needs replacement.”

The proposed costs for demolishing and rebuilding were $1.6 million and more than $15 million, respectively, and MU chose not to follow through with the demolition because of the costs.

On Feb. 22, 2014, the Columbia Fire Department responded to a 911 call regarding a structural collapse. Britt was one of the firefighters who responded. As he was walking across a partially collapsed walkway on the second floor of building 707, an onlooker told investigators that the walkway buckled completely and Britt fell.
Britt was pronounced dead at the hospital.

His wife and daughter filed a wrongful death suit against the UM System Board of Curators, seeking a minimum of $25,000 in compensation. Per online court records, the lawyers are deposing witnesses and no hearings have been scheduled.

The curators denied the allegations, claiming they did not improperly maintain University Village and did not have knowledge of the “dangerous condition in sufficient time prior to Decedent’s death to have taken measures to protect against the dangerous condition.”

The following month, MU announced it would demolish University Village. In May 2014, Loftin announced the university would be issuing a “request for proposals” from private contractors to replace the Student Parent Center, which would close in June.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said in an email last week no proposals were ever received.

“We hoped that by offering the land at a very low cost, it would keep the costs of child care low,” Basi said. “We have not received any proposals since the RFP was issued.”

Current child care options

Following GPC resolutions and FGR demands for affordable child care and housing, Vice Chancellor for Operations Gary Ward announced at the December Board of Curators meeting that MU would be issuing a request for proposals for a new housing complex at the site of the former University Village.

“We also will be exploring the possibility of adding child care space to this project,” Ward said at the meeting.

In 2014, the MU Child Care Needs Assessment Survey found that 67 percent of student parents struggled to find child care and 60 percent were willing to pay more for affordable child care close to campus.

Thompson said she feels child care is something that could make or break a person’s decision to attend MU for graduate school.

“We have X number of grad students … with children, but maybe we have fewer because we don’t provide the facilities and the ability for them to feel comfortable here,” Thompson said. “We might be able to recruit more had we had the ability to say, ‘Hey, we will welcome you with your family.’”

Basi said that while the Student Parent Center is no longer open, there are other on-campus options such as the Cub Hub and Child Development Lab, run by the colleges of Education and Human Environmental Sciences, respectively.

Thompson believes many student parents aren’t aware of those options.
“One thing we need to do and haven't been able to facilitate with our current bandwidth is to try to communicate those better and to try to ensure they’re filled with as many needy grad-professional students as they can be,” Thompson said.

Even with increased communication, she said the current facilities are still insufficient to accommodate the number of graduate students’ children, and the facilities’ hours did not offer adequate flexibility. This flexibility, Thompson said, doesn’t solely benefit the student parents.

“Very flexible hours for students that are doing research, who have to be on campus at absurd hours to take care of their plants, or take care of their bacteria, or whatever it may be,” Thompson said. “That’s really important to the research engine that the university is and that’s something that’s really in the benefit of the university to provide for graduate students with families.”

Housing

Thompson said she understands why University Village needed to be demolished and why, financially, MU deemed it too expensive to rebuild, but she felt the university could have had a better contingency plan.

“There should be a long-term plan for grad housing because it’s so important for recruitment of those students, particularly for students that don’t have vehicles, especially the international population,” Thompson said.

Before the walkway collapse and complex demolition, conversations about housing were brought up at GPC meetings out of habit, but following the events of 2014, the university has been more receptive to what graduate students have to say, Thompson said. She believes by next fall, there will have been “significant progress” made on the housing front.

McCune was skeptical about the likelihood of new housing or child care being built any time soon.

“Until it starts to be built, it’s not likely,” McCune said. “People can talk about it all they want. They can have all the meetings in the world. It doesn’t change a thing until construction begins. Or until the university dedicates the funding.”

Still, Thompson said GPC’s advocacy has allowed administrators to hear graduate students’ concerns better. Attending meetings, having appointments on the Chancellor’s Standing Committees and having general knowledge of how the university works has allowed them to be persistent with communicating their needs.

One of the overarching recommendations of the Task Force on the Graduate Student Experience was to improve support structures for graduate students, including improving access to housing and child care. McCune and Thompson were members of the task force.
The 2015 MU Graduate Housing Market Study, cited by the task force, found that 20 percent of graduate students living in MU housing would not have attended MU if there was no housing; 19 percent said they would leave if housing was gone. Over 75 percent of all graduate students said university-provided housing is either “extremely important” or “somewhat important.”

“There is a clear need for safe, quiet and reasonably priced graduate housing that is close to campus,” the report read. “Even though MU offers 335 units of apartment housing for graduate students, family students and undergrad students over 21, listening sessions revealed several cases where students thought those facilities were not well-maintained.”

Thompson said she is pleased that the request for proposals is being made, but she wants to know more about it.

“If it’s not within that (affordable) price range, I have very little confidence in its ability to do what it needs to do,” Thompson said.

Director of Residential Life Frankie Minor declined to comment other than to refer The Maneater to a news release about the request for proposals issued by the UM System.

Ward’s office was unable to be reached for comment after multiple attempts.

Basi said that MU had no current timeline for the project and could not speculate on a potential location or other details.

“Our first goal is to finish the RFP and distribute it,” Basi said. “After we receive the proposals, we’ll evaluate and make a decision about how to move forward from there.”

For Scott, beyond meeting the current needs of graduate students and graduate workers, the end goal is shared governance.

“Nothing should be done about us without us,” he said. “That’s my dream … In general, I’m looking for a more democratic institution. That’s what I want.”
Living, child care options unchanged after University Village

Two years after the walkway collapse that killed Columbia firefighter Bruce Britt, facilities for graduate student living and childcare remain lost.


COLUMBIA, Mo. - Two years after the walkway collapse that killed Columbia firefighter Bruce Britt, facilities for graduate student living and childcare remain lost in the wake of University Village's demolition.

Lt. Britt, 48, died while he and other firefighters responded to a report of a collapsed roof at the school-owned apartment complex on Providence Road on February 22, 2014. A report from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health released last year said that the second-story concrete walkway Lt. Britt walked on broke from underneath him, sending him to the sidewalk. The walkway detached from the wall moments later, crushing him beneath it.

The University announced less than a month later it would shut down and demolish University Village, and the attached Student Parent Center daycare. The apartment complex had a history of structural concerns, dating back as early as a 2008 architect's inspection. The school helped relocate the residents, including moving into vacancies in other school-sponsored housing off-campus, but has so far not re-opened a child care center for students with children.

Eric Scott, an English PhD candidate at MU, and co-chair of the Graduate Student Labor Union, remembered hearing about the walkway collapse at University Village during his second semester at the school. He called what happened to Lt. Britt a "tragedy," and told ABC 17 News the loss of hundreds of affordable living options for working graduate students remained a burden.

"We've been down an entire apartment complex for two years now, and as of right now, we still have no concrete idea of when we might expect a replacement for University Village to be built," Scott said.
A school spokesman said there was no updates to any potential developments of new off-campus student housing or child care. The school still runs Tara Apartments, Manor House and University Heights.

Scott said housing for graduate students can sometimes need specific tailoring for success. Proximity to campus, where many graduate students are also employed, helps students who may come to Columbia without a car. While apartment complexes continue to rise downtown, located just north of the campus, Scott said rent can often exceed the stipends graduate students receive.

"We have to be sure that whatever gets built [in place of University Village] for graduate workers and graduate students that it's affordable to people making the amount of money that they have."

University of Missouri libraries face cuts to academic journals because of budget shortfalls

Students voted down fee plan.

By Rudi Keller

Monday, February 22, 2016 at 2:00 pm

The failure of a proposed student library fee and a potential decline in enrollment means University of Missouri libraries will have to cut back on subscriptions to academic journals and databases, Rabia Gregory, chairwoman of the Campus Library Committee, wrote Friday in a memo to campus department heads.

The libraries have worked to find temporary solutions to a $1.3 million shortfall this year and anticipate another $1 million gap in the fiscal year that begins July 1, Gregory wrote. Because final budget figures will not be available until late April or May at the earliest, she wrote, departments are being asked to rank their priorities for retaining subscriptions before the summer break.

Students defeated a library fee of $15 per credit hour in November. When fully phased in by the 2021-22 school year, it was expected to add $13 million to the annual libraries budget of $17.7 million. MU libraries spend about $8 million annually on journal and database subscriptions.
The university expects to enroll 900 fewer students in the fall, which would reduce tuition revenue by about $20 million, and it is uncertain whether MU will receive any increase in state support.

“We are working with the provost’s office to try to find funding solutions to avoid disruptions,” Gregory said Monday. “I am not sure we are going to be able to pull it off.”

About half of this year’s shortfall was replaced by $650,000 from the student information technology fee, but that was a one-time solution, said Ann Riley, acting director of MU libraries.

“We are trying to pursue every possible avenue we can,” Riley said. “We are also ramping up development efforts” to raise money to cover the gap. “The challenge is the number is so big.”

The increasing cost of subscriptions is an issue facing academic libraries. The two major publishers, Elsevier and Wiley-Blackwell, bundle their offerings like cable television companies, requiring purchasers to take many journals they might not use heavily to obtain those they do, Riley said.

“We negotiate very heavily with these vendors,” she said. “We will try to do some bundle busting to pay for only what we really want. We may pay more for what we want and lose something, but that may be necessary if our total expense goes down.”

The decision about which journals to retain will not be based entirely on use, Riley said.

“We will also look at the role of that title in the scholarship of that area,” she said.

Most journal and database subscriptions must be renewed by Jan. 1, which means the final negotiations about packages and pricing will occur this fall. Discussions need to start now so departments can make sure no essential journals are cut, Gregory said. Also, it will give departments time to raise money for subscriptions they want to keep, she said.

The English Department, for example, raised $75,000 several years ago to maintain access to an online collection of early English books, she said.

Another student fee election is possible but might not be practical in the current environment on campus, Gregory said.

“Also, personally, I don’t think the students should be paying for this,” she said. “Part of solving this problem is part of solving the campuswide budget problem.”
Candidates hit UM System leadership during debate


JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — **Missouri's GOP gubernatorial candidates said Monday night they wanted UM System curators to take a tougher line on the recent campus unrest.**

Businessman John Brunner called the unrest at MU "a tragedy for Missourians," while former House Speaker and current U.S. District Attorney Catherine Hanaway said it was time to end what she called lawlessness on the campus. Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder singled out former football coach Gary Pinkel for not suspending academic scholarships after football players went on strike. All three said they would appoint curators who reflected those views.

Monday night's debate, sponsored by The Missouri Times and several conservative groups, featured three of the four declared Republican candidates for governor. Former Navy SEAL Eric Greitens was out of the state. The three candidates offered very similar policy proposals. All of them ruled out toll roads, saying the money Missouri needs to fix its roads can be found by cutting costs at MoDOT and elsewhere in the state government. Kinder said Missourians wouldn't support any effort to increase revenue until they determine they can trust the state to spend their money as promised. He accused Gov. Jay Nixon of playing games with the budget. The candidates said they would cut off any funding for embryonic stem cell research. All three endorsed tax cuts, tort reform and right-to-work legislation.

The differences among the candidates became most apparent when they discussed their background. Kinder noted he has already won three statewide races for lieutenant governor, even against opponents who outspent him. Hanaway said her experience as a federal prosecutor makes her uniquely qualified to deal with unrest in Missouri and the threat of terrorism. Brunner pointed out his experience as a Marine Corps platoon leader and as the head of his family's business required a very high level of executive competency.

The gubernatorial primary will be held on Aug. 2.
When I was appointed interim president of the University of Missouri System last
November, after three decades of serving in academic and leadership roles on our
Columbia campus, I was both honored and humbled by the awesome responsibility before
me.

Becoming president has allowed me to reflect on something I always knew to be true, but
perhaps didn’t take the time to truly appreciate: that all 6 million Missourians, in communities
across our state and in all 114 counties, have a connection to the system.

The University of Missouri System is a precious asset to take great pride in, to support and to
strengthen. Arguably, no other institution in our state is more pivotal to our standard of living,
our economic and physical well-being, and our future. Just consider, for example, how the
system affects your community of Joplin, and Jasper and Newton counties, every day.

Currently, we educate more than 77,000 students on our four campuses (the University of
Missouri-Columbia, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Missouri University of Science and
Technology in Rolla and the University of Missouri-St. Louis), providing the talented workforce
that is critical to our state’s employers. Currently, 282 of those students are residents of Jasper
and Newton counties, many of who will return, educated and ready, to join the workforce and
help boost the Joplin-area economy upon graduation.

The people of Joplin benefit from the many research advances discovered on our campuses, from
life-saving medical cures to the powering of some of our state’s most important industries like
agriculture, high-tech manufacturing and aerospace. In 2015 alone, University of
Missouri research brought in more than $295 million in funding to Missouri, further helping to
spur our statewide economy.

Our vast University of Missouri Health Care system provides health services to hundreds of
thousands of Missourians, including in the Joplin area, where 1,366 residents of Jasper and
Newton counties were treated by an MU health care physician in 2015. And the University of
Missouri-Kansas City’s satellite dental school at Joplin’s Missouri Southern State University is
allowing for the training of additional dentists in the area, helping to address the state’s acute
need for dental professionals, especially in rural areas.
We share our expertise in Missouri communities small and large across our state through University of Missouri Extension. Every year, more than 2.5 million Missourians turn to our extension programs and offices in every county to seek greater practical knowledge, learn to solve problems, adapt to change and make informed decisions.

During 2015, the University of Missouri Extension offices in Jasper and Newton counties alone had more than 90,000 contacts. Extension has always been a point of pride for me as my wife, Dr. Julie Middleton, who currently serves as director of organizational development for extension, has dedicated much of her professional career to this invaluable program.

We also touch the Joplin area every day in other ways, including through our Missouri Small Business and Technology Development Centers, sponsored by MU Extension. Small Business and Technology Development Centers are part of a statewide network of business experts uniquely qualified to help local, small businesses develop and thrive. Joplin’s Stronghold Data, 3D4D Imaging Center, Furniture Rescue and I3 Technology Group have all benefited from this expertise.

Another system-affiliated program, the Missouri Research and Education Network, further affects local Missouri communities. MOREnet provides Internet connectivity, technical support, videoconferencing services, network security and training to 800 Missouri schools, public libraries, health care organizations and local government offices. In Jasper and Newton counties, MOREnet provides services to the Joplin, Carthage, East Newton, Neosho and Webb City school districts, Crowder College, MSSU, and the Joplin and Sarcoxie public libraries.

There are far more examples, but the point remains the same. For decades, the University of Missouri System has provided indispensable service in helping our state — and the Joplin area — move forward. We have challenges now, as we have in the past and will certainly face in the future. But our mission of education, research, economic development and service has been making Missourians proud for generations. Our university is as strong as ever and will always be a beacon of hope for our state’s young people.

High-Impact Exercise Strengthens Men's Bones, Researchers Say

MONDAY, Feb. 22, 2016 (HealthDay News) -- Men who engage in high-impact physical activity and resistance training as teens and young adults are likely to have greater bone density by middle age, according to new research.
Over time, high-impact activities -- such as tennis and jogging -- help boost bone mass in the hip and lumbar spine, the researchers said. Greater bone mass can help stave off the bone-thinning disease known as osteoporosis.

"While osteoporosis is commonly associated with only postmenopausal women, it is, in fact, a serious issue for men as well," said study author Pamela Hinton. She is an associate professor in the department of nutrition and exercise physiology at the University of Missouri-Columbia College of Human Environmental Sciences.

"Indeed, research has shown that the consequences of osteoporosis can be much worse for men, as they are less likely to be diagnosed and are at a greater mortality risk from fractures that occur as a result of a fall," Hinton explained in a university news release.

For the study, Hinton's team analyzed medical data compiled on 203 men aged 30 to 65. The participants had various levels of experience with sports and exercise, and engaged in different types of activities.

The men who engaged in bone-loading or weight-bearing exercise as teenagers had more bone density later in life, the investigators found. High-impact activities, in particular, were important for bone health throughout men's lives, according to the report published recently in the American Journal of Men's Health.

"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," Hinton added.

Although the study found an association between high-impact exercise and bone density in men, it didn't prove cause-and-effect.

MISSOURIAN

Dog owners, shelters take precaution over canine influenza

LIZ RAMOS, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — As canine influenza draws increased nationwide attention, experts say dog owners should be cautious but not panic.
With the largest outbreaks of the canine influenza, also known as "dog flu," occurring in Illinois and Georgia, only one out of 115 dogs tested positive for the disease in Missouri in trials conducted between March 2015 and Feb. 2.

Richard Meadows, a veterinarian and an MU professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine, said "pretty much" every dog exposed to the virus will contract the illness, but he said only about 80 percent of the dogs will show symptoms, such as coughing. Within that 80 percent, only about 20 percent will have a significant illness and not feel well, Meadows said.

The Cornell University Animal Health Diagnostic Center reported that no Missouri dogs tested positive between Dec. 19 and Feb. 2.

Like humans, dogs can contract the flu by being sneezed on or through indirect airborne exposure.

Symptoms of dog flu include:

- coughing and sneezing
- loss of appetite
- fever
- lack of interest in playing or interacting with others
- lethargy

A bout with canine influenza can last as long as three weeks, said Leah Cohn, an MU professor of veterinary medicine.

When taking dogs to shelters, kennels, boarding facilities or dog parks, owners should ask if other pups in those facilities showed symptoms, Cohn said. She also encouraged owners to ask their pet's veterinarian if other dogs have come in with canine flu symptoms.
There is no way to tell whether a dog has the dog flu before conducting medical tests, Cohn said. Dog owners should call a veterinarian to determine the likelihood of sickness before bringing a dog in for treatment and possibly putting other animals at risk.

Not all dogs need to be vaccinated against dog flu. Meadows said dogs that have had respiratory problems or those that often interact with other dogs should get vaccinated. Dogs that come in contact with other dogs on a regular basis are “perfect candidates for vaccination,” Cohn said.

The vaccination process involves two injections, the second coming a few weeks after the first. Meadows said he has received several calls from clients and people asking for more information about vaccinations.

“They were motivated by fear to get their dogs vaccinated right now before it dies,” Meadows said. “It is a concern. It is something that I would like people to talk to their veterinarian about with their animal. I want them to know the facts and consider it all and not to buy into scare tactics.”

Although all dogs are equally at risk of contracting canine influenza, short-nosed dogs such as bulldogs and pugs might have a harder time dealing with the illness.

The Central Missouri Humane Society has not reported any influenza cases.

“We are taking extra precautions to make sure that it is not getting into our shelter," said Michelle Casey, assistant director of the society.

The society has also been using disinfectants to prevent and kill that active virus strain, Casey said. Employees have been monitoring the dogs and isolating those showing symptoms.

Casey said the Central Missouri Humane Society has been considering whether it can afford the vaccine.

All Creatures Animal Hospital started providing the canine influenza vaccine Monday for $25 per dose, according to a post on its Facebook page.
The University of Missouri-Columbia has lost about $2 million in donations at least in part due to the recent turmoil on campus mostly centered on race.

Thomas Hiles, vice chancellor for university advancement said between seven and 10 donors have rescinded their pledges to the university in recent weeks.

The university is currently in the middle of the “Mizzou: Our Time to Lead.” fundraising campaign to raise $1.3 billion.

Despite the $2 million loss, Interim-Chancellor Hank Foley told legislators last week that the university is doing “quite well” in securing donations. So far, the university has raised $690 million.

Of the donors who have pulled back on their pledges, at least some have cited the recent troubles on campus, Hiles said.

Race-related protests last fall led to the toppling of top administrators, while legislators have dinged Mizzou for its ties to Planned Parenthood and for the continued employment of assistant communications professor Melissa Click.

Click was captured on video twice last fall protesting with students.

Despite the troubles on campus, Hiles said the university is still raising money at a better pace than in the 2015 fiscal year that ended in June.

As of July 1, the university has raised $98.5 million. In the last five years, Mizzou has raised:

• $85.5 million in 2011
• $129.3 million in 2012
• $137.1 million in 2013
• $164.1 million in 2014
• $147.6 million in 2015
University Health Working To ‘Change The Face Of Health Care’

By Katherine Cummins

Monday, February 22, 2016 at 9:03 am

With more than 50 specialists and 500 physicians, University of Missouri Health Care is the largest health care provider in Mid-Missouri, CEO/COO Mitch Wasden said.

MU Health, a teaching hospital, tends to be the market leader in most service areas — specifically cancer care, orthopedics, women’s health, children’s health, emergency medicine and surgical care, Wasden said. MU Hospital is the only Level I Trauma center in Mid-Missouri, and the system also has the only mental health facility in the area.

Patients can expect to see a lot of growth over the next few years as the hospital works to better meet patient needs.

University of Missouri Health Care is trying to change the face of health care by offering more affordable, accessible options with the new quick care clinics in the Hy-Vee stores and MU Healthe, an online portal through which patients can schedule visits and do video consultations with their physician. Wasden said MU Healthe provides a glimpse at the future of medicine.

MU’s Ellis Fischel Cancer Center recently became the first academic certified member of the MD Anderson Cancer Network, one of the highest-ranked cancer centers in the world.

MU Health is leading the way in orthopedics, with a four-story expansion of the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute, which is home to the Mizzou BioJoint Center, where surgeons have developed a procedure that uses natural tissue to restore joint function.

MU Women’s and Children’s Hospital is the fourth hospital in the state — and the only one in Mid-Missouri — to earn a Baby-Friendly designation from the World Health Organization and the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund. Women’s and Children’s also offers Mid-Missouri’s first low-intervention birth program.

MU Health has earned accolades outside of patient care as well, including being named one of the nation’s “Most Wired” health systems by the American Hospital Association’s “Hospitals & Health Networks” magazine and a “Most Connected Hospital” by U.S. News and World Report.
In October, MU Health received the Healthcare Information Management Systems Society’s Enterprise Nicholas E. Davis Award of Excellence for health care technology innovations that improve patient outcomes as well.

MU medical student heads to D.C. to talk research funding


COLUMBIA, Mo - An MU medical student, and cancer researcher, is headed to Washington D.C. Dan Miller is among a group of researchers walking the halls of the capitol asking lawmakers to pump more funding into medical research. It's personal for Dan, he's been living with thyroid cancer for more than ten years.

"The scariest thing is not knowing the answer to the question of whether or not I have 10 to 15 years, or more to live, or three to four," said Miller.

The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2014 there were 14.5 million U.S. residents living with a history of cancer. However, since 2004, federal money for cancer research is hard to come by.

"People in my situation, that want to continue to do research, that want to ask the big questions, that really want science to drive their inquiry, but a type of science that really tries to improve people's lives. We're at a situation where it's difficult to ask those sorts of questions because there's essentially not enough money," said Miller.

Miller said the U.S. is a leader in biomedical research, but maybe not for long. Federal dollars going to the National Institutes of Health, or NIH, are not keeping pace with inflation, leaving a funding shortage of 21 percent.

"If we continue with this huge discrepancy in the amount of money that's needed and the amount of money that's provided for biomedical research, we're going to lose that leadership role," said Miller.
Congress' 2016 spending bill appropriated $2 billion to the NIH. The National Cancer Institute received $264 million of that funding, but Miller said more is needed. On Tuesday, Miller will head to D.C. to make his case to U.S. Missouri lawmakers.

"Cancer is actually something that we think we can make progress on in terms of increased funding. It's something that everybody can agree on, whether which side of the aisle you're on," said Miller.

The American Association for Cancer Research, the organization Miller will represent in D.C., is asking lawmakers for a 7 percent increase in NIH funding for 2017. It's an increase of about $2.5 billion, which would go to biomedical research.

Academic collaboration spurs media innovation

By Francesco Marconi

A new virtual reality project highlights the benefits of media organizations working with academics to apply research from the classroom and form new and innovative business strategies.

As part of an ongoing collaboration with the Reynolds Journalism Institute at the University of Missouri, we have developed a multimedia feature including virtual reality and 360-degree video that examines the construction of the Second Avenue subway line in New York City, a project first proposed in 1920.

“More than ever, journalism education needs to focus on experiential, project-based learning,” the institute’s futures lab director, Mike McKean, said. “This collaboration with AP in the growing area of virtual reality reporting benefits Missouri’s students and the public’s understanding of complex stories.”

The story provides readers an immersive experience of being inside the subway tunnels and learning about their construction, as well as their economic and social implications on the surrounding communities. The group leveraged different technologies, including a 3-D camera from Matterport, one of AP’s collaborators in virtual reality.

Promoting open discussion between academics and media professionals

Collaborative research projects require open lines of communication between universities and media organizations so they can better address the challenges faced by both parties. For
professors, the goal is to prepare their students to be well-equipped for their post-educational careers.

“Students will be the industry’s future leaders – and consumers – so it’s essential that as news organizations experiment with new formats and techniques, they’re doing so in a way that’s relevant to new generations,” AP Interactives Editor Nathan Griffiths said.

Solutions arise from a mutually beneficial approach to research where incentives and timelines align and projects explore potential high-value concepts (such as virtual reality) still outside the firm’s mainstream activities.

Facilitating partnerships do not require significant investments, especially compared to the addition of a new academic department or a new research lab within a company. Universities gain an avenue to apply insights learned in the classroom while professionals are exposed to new thinking.

“Journalists can learn from students about younger audiences – how they consume news and the best ways to engage them,” Berkeley Lovelace Jr., a Missouri student who worked on the project, said.

A history of collaborations

Innovation, at its core, is often the application of academic insights.

- Samuel Morse pioneered the commercialization of the telegraph inspired by the work of his friend, electromagnetism researcher, Charles Jackson.

- William Paley, the executive responsible for the early success of CBS, saw significant growth of his business with the introduction of color television developed by Peter Carl Goldmark, a scholar at the University of Vienna who later led CBS Laboratories.

- Jonah Peretti, a pioneer of social content, used his research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in tandem with key learnings from the field of network science developed by his friend, former Columbia University professor Duncan Watts, to create BuzzFeed.

Morse, Paley and Peretti tapped into the knowledge hub of academia to disrupt the market, launch new businesses and discover creative solutions to existing challenges. For those of us in today’s media industry, these examples should remind us to not simply look toward Silicon Valley for solving tomorrow’s problems, but rather universities that stay grounded with a longer-term approach.

Today’s successes

Along with The Associated Press, other media organizations are working with faculty and students to form new insights. The New York Times formed a partnership with New York University and the City University of New York to study hyperlocal news. The Hearst
Corporation partnered with students from the Parsons New School of Design to build Glossy.io, a new approach to surfacing archives of digital magazines.

History and present-day initiatives such as these reveal that when academics and professionals work together to analyze data and apply key findings, impactful insights are formed, innovative strategies are implemented and new businesses are catalyzed.

We look forward to continuing our academic collaborations for years to come.

UMSL hires new CFO, campus facing $15 million budget hole

19 hours ago  •  By Koran Addo

No MU Mention

The University of Missouri-St. Louis will have a new chief financial officer effective May 1.

The university announced Monday that Richard Baniak, the current CFO of the Phantom Works Air and Space unit, a research and development division of Boeing is retiring from the company to become UMSL's vice chancellor for administration-CFO.

Baniak, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from UMSL will be joining a university that is expected to lay people off this year to help close a $15 million budget hole.

UMSL has been hurt in recent years by shrinking support from the state and a decline in the number of students transferring to the university.

UMSL Chancellor Thomas George called Baniak's hiring “a real coup” for the university.

“UMSL is in a transition phase to create a sustainable budget and remain focused on educating and graduating outstanding students,” George said."

In his new position, Baniak will make $215,000 a year. He will oversee the university's accounting, budgeting and business functions as well as a range of other services.

He will replace longtime campus vice chancellor and business instructor James Krueger, who announced his retirement last year.
How Many Protests Will It Take to Finally Diversify Our Campuses?

No MU Mention

It may appear to outside observers that colleges and universities have made tremendous progress in regard to racial attitudes and practices over the past several decades. Certainly, their brochures and other public-relations materials would lead to this conclusion, as do the messages on their websites and social-media platforms. But the intensity and frequency of demonstrations conducted by students of color at campuses across the nation during the last few months do not reconcile with the sense of racial harmony that the institutions have attempted to convey. Further, faculty and administrators of color have offered their own testimonies of marginalization and exclusion that echo the students’ expressions of dissatisfaction.

The recent outbursts of discontent may have caught many white academics by surprise, but they result from a prolonged, repetitive litany of mistreatments, insults, slights, and even physical attacks that people of color have endured in predominantly white institutions since the ramping up of higher-education desegregation in the 1970s. Students on campus after campus are assailing the culture of the academy as one that supports and extends white privilege; minimizes the presence and influence of people of color in the student, faculty, and administrative ranks; and presents Eurocentric studies as the only legitimate sources of knowledge, while simultaneously ignoring or minimizing the contributions of nonwhites to the development of American society and world civilizations.

For more than four decades, I have been a member of a select group — academics of color who have spent most of our lives inside predominantly white colleges. From this
vantage point, I recognize the validity of the charges and concerns of the
demonstrating students, and I applaud their actions. During my career, I have
attempted to call attention to the disjunction between what we say and what we do in
the academy on matters of race and racism.

The accusations by student demonstrators that structural racism exists, even thrives,
on their campuses elicit immediate defensive posturing by the institutions. It hardly
seems possible that, in what some academics characterize as a color-blind, postracial
society, this vile heresy could be directed against our most liberal-minded social
institutions. When asked by my white colleagues how we could have come to this, I
sometimes take the admittedly self-serving measure of providing them with quotes
from a column that I wrote for The Chronicle. It reads in part:

"It hardly seems realistic for us to expect, or even hope, that the pattern of social
relations should be any different on a college campus than it is in the ‘real world.’
There is no reason to suppose that the prejudices and shortcomings of the larger
society won’t exist to the same degree at our institutions of higher learning. Yet,
somehow racism seems even uglier on the college campus than in other less idealistic
settings.

"In a youth-oriented culture, there is an implicit expectation that the young will only
mirror the strengths and not the foibles of the world around them. The reality is quite
the opposite — the young learn from their elders, they learn racism from their parents,
and they bring it with them to whatever college or university they choose.

"The past year has seen an outpouring of racial animosity on campuses across the
country. Colleges and universities — large and small, urban and rural, public and
private — have witnessed ugly incidents that only a few years ago would have been
unthinkable. It seems fairly safe to link these activities to the same national climate
that has brought about a resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan, the neo-Nazis, and various
other radical conservative groups.
"While greater numbers of minority-group students are matriculating at colleges and universities than ever before, to a large degree those students find themselves outside the mainstream of campus life. At best, the feeling that many have is that their presence is simply tolerated as a politically expedient maneuver; at worst, they feel they are the victims of subtle — and sometimes not so subtle — racist attitudes and practices on the part of classmates and instructors alike."

What often follows is a nodding of the reader’s head and a statement of affirmation, which is replaced by a look of confusion when I mention that the article that I am quoting from was published in 1981 — 35 years ago. I hasten to point out that what we’re experiencing in higher education is a chronic case of racial déjà vu.

The institutional responses to the calls by people of color for increased representation and participation at predominantly white colleges and universities will tell a great deal about where the higher-education enterprise is heading. It’s possible that a few forward-looking institutions will embrace the demographic reality of a more diverse nation, along with the social-justice expectations that future generations will embody, to align themselves with the prevailing cultural ethos of the 21st century.

But I suspect that most institutions will follow the time-worn academic pattern of delaying response to change by creating committees, task forces, and study groups to analyze the issues, in hopes that students will turn their interests to other matters rather than holding administrators and faculty leaders accountable for their inaction.

No doubt, there will be some institutions that flatly refuse to consider student demands, in which case they should realize that there will be consequences. Social media will be an increasingly important tool for future college students of color (and their parents), and institutional assessments provided by past and current students will be very important to them.
Enrolling, retaining, and graduating students of color must be a central goal of predominantly white institutions, and the effectiveness must be measured to establish a sense of accountability right up to the president. This goal will be demonstrably easier to achieve when there is also a critical mass of faculty members and administrators from the same underserved groups. The current numbers for people of color in such positions are minuscule, and they have not changed appreciably over the past three decades. I wrote another opinion column for The Chronicle back in 1986 with the title "Where Are the Black Faculty Members?" That question still stands.

Today, student demonstrations may help to increase diversity in the academy, but there is also a seldom-discussed factor that could affect the pace of change, and that is African-American student athletes. When the football and basketball players who dominate those sports realize and use their power to enhance diversity and inclusion at their institutions because of the sometimes immense revenues they draw, we will see, figuratively speaking, a whole new ball game. I hope it won’t take another 35 years.